

Sharing Lives

Spring 2021

■ Share Believes Every Person Counts.

As many of you may have read or noticed on our Facebook page or website, Share has a new mission statement: **Share believes every person counts.** Together we pursue a stronger community by building relationships, advocating for equitable access to housing and food stability while empowering every individual to grow and thrive.

The new mission statement is the culmination of work that sought input from dozens of stakeholders, including clients, staff, volunteers and community members. The process was overseen by a committee including Amy Reynolds, deputy director, and Matthew Lennick, Elizabeth Fitzgearld and Pat Nuzzo, all Share board directors.

The committee was focused on full representation in the process, acknowledging that *“the best way to deliver services is to consult the people we want to serve, so the best way to put our mission into words is to have honest and difficult conversations with those same people.”*



“It was important that we made a strong statement about equity and inclusion. That was a key piece we talked about all the way through and heard in every forum where we had the discussion,” said Lennick.

“In light of the social and political environment we find ourselves in, we believed it was our responsibility to reevaluate our reputation and our role in our community. In doing so, we put in intentional language that was affirming our commitment to equity and calling out, especially, the resilience of our clients,” shared Fitzgearld.

“This mission is more inclusive, focusing on who, what, why and how. It takes the whole community, and it benefits the whole community when every person counts,” added Nuzzo.

“We are proud of our 40 years of service to our community, but this is a different time, a different space and we are going to continue to evolve,” said Reynolds.

■ Thank You, Dee Sanders!



February 25 was a bittersweet one at Share, as staff hosted a virtual retirement party for our own Dee Sanders. Dee has been a **compassionate and stalwart advocate** for access to affordable housing for the past 18 years, building relationships—and friendships—with numerous people across social service and government agencies. Her work has truly improved lives, opening the doors of homes to thousands of families and individuals right here in Clark County.

Dee was hired at Share in 2003 as a part-time shelter staff member. She was promoted in 2004 to a full-time case manager with the ASPIRE program (*now called the Affordable Housing & Stability program*) and again in 2006 to the program director.

Under Dee’s leadership, the program experienced more than a decade of tremendous and continuous growth: from three staff members to 10, from serving 30 households each month to 400+, from a budget of \$862,800 to \$6.9 million in 2020 (*more than half of which were funds for COVID eviction prevention*). [Cont. on page 2]

■ Sanders Continued

“Dee has always been a self-starter with a passion for Share’s mission and belief in the dignity of all. Her engaging personal style enabled her to interact effectively with clients, staff and volunteers alike. There’s no question that Dee’s leadership at Share has left a positive legacy, in big ways and small, and our entire community is a better place because of people like her,” said Diane McWithey, Executive Director.

Honored for Her Service: 2021 Iris Award!

We are delighted to announce that our own Dee Sanders was selected as a winner of the 2021 Iris Award. A virtual event announcing this year’s winners was hosted by the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce on March 8. (Hint: You can watch Dee’s acceptance speech on our Facebook page.) For 34 years, the Iris Awards have recognized outstanding achievement and women’s contributions to our community.



Congratulations also to this year’s four additional winners: Bonnie Brasure of Bleu Door Bakery, Jennifer Rhoads of Community Foundation of Southwest Washington, Esther Liu of LSW Architects and Mavis Nickels, past board member of Battle Ground Public Schools.



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■ Share Marks Changes in Leadership

In addition to Dee’s retirement, Share marked changes in staff leadership with the promotions of Katie Louis and Nicky Ferguson and the hiring of Marques Giles.

Katie Louis was promoted to replace Sanders as the director of the Affordable Housing and Stability program. Louis has worked at Share for the past seven years, beginning as a part-time case manager at Share Homestead, then promoted twice; first to assistant supervising director of Family Shelters, and then to director of Share House (*the position is now called Collaborative Housing Program Director*). Louis held this position for the past five years, where she oversaw the daily operations of Share House, the Hot Meals program, and both the family and single men shelters through the Winter Hospitality Overflow program.

Marques Giles was hired to replace Louis as the Collaborative Housing Program Director. Giles recently moved back to the Portland area from Arizona, where he managed a 400-bed shelter. Previous employment also included Morrison Child and Family Services, Black Culture Competency Access, Human Solutions in Portland and MaLaren Youth Correctional Facility.

Nicky Ferguson was promoted as the Family Pathways Program Director where she will oversee the daily operations of Share Homestead and Share Orchards Inn, both of which are shelters for families and single women. Ferguson was promoted from her role as Lead Engagement Specialist for Share’s family shelters, a position she held since 2020.

■ Volunteer Spotlight: Karen Leffel

This issue's Volunteer Spotlight is on Karen Leffel, who has volunteered at Share for the past 14 years. Karen wanted to use this opportunity to highlight an aspect of our Backpack program that is near and dear to her heart: hotel bags. Here's more in Karen's own words:

Hotel Bags are an important part of the Share Backpack program. These bags are made for both families in transition and unaccompanied youth. The families and students are identified by each school's Family Community Resource Center or food and outreach coordinator based on their individual circumstances.

"Hotel" identifies this transitional program by providing food that is easy to prepare and does not necessitate a traditional kitchen. Individual circumstances vary, as not all families or youth live in a hotel; some could be car camping, others could be "couch surfing."

Sometimes special circumstances within the family make it necessary

for the children to prepare food for themselves, so ready-to-eat foods that can be heated in a microwave are a staple for this program.

The types of food* that go into the hotel bags include:

- **Protein:** peanut butter in a plastic jar, tuna with pop-top lids or foil package, or canned meat with pop-top lid
- **Shelf stable milks:** 1 quart or 2 pints
- **Cereal:** 1 large bag/box or 2 small individual packs, cold cereal or instant oatmeal packages
- **Fruit:** 1 16oz pop-top can or 1 juice box & 1 fruit cup
- **Snacks:** Granola bars, individual packages of cookies, nuts, chips, cheese & crackers, or Jell-o/pudding cups
- **Entrée:** 1 large or 2 small, ready-to-eat (with pop-top lids if in a can) shelf stable dinners, soup, chili, Chef Boyardee, stew, mac 'n' cheese cups, or Cup Noodles



Karen in a photo dated from 2019; note that masks are required and worn by all current volunteers in our Backpack program.

The number of families to benefit from this program fluctuates throughout the year, ranging as high as 75 per week (in 2019) and as low as 10. It helps to meet a need within our community that doesn't fit the family circumstances of our regular Backpack Program.

The good news is that all students who benefit from this program are enrolled in school and advocating for their needs. We do our best to meet their needs with dignity, respect, and appropriate accommodations.

* Donations of non-perishable food can be dropped off during our **new Warehouse Open Hours** at the Share Fromhold Service Center, 2306 NE Andresen Road: Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. & Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Volunteer to Feed Our Community!



Share
hot meals
program



We need volunteers to help prepare & serve 9,500+ monthly to-go meals!

Complete Our Volunteer Application Online: sharevancouver.org/volunteer



Our Summer Meals program would not be able to operate without the generosity of dozens of volunteers who prepare meals, host meal sites and deliver the meals to each location. The program will operate **June 21 to August 13 with grab-n-go meals** available at multiple sites.

Visit sharevancouver.org/volunteer to sign up for volunteer shifts + complete an online Volunteer Application

If you can share just a few hours of your week, you can help provide children with free, nutritious meals!

■ Meet Katie Guidotti: Serving Through AmeriCorps



The daily work accomplished at Share is due in large part to the generosity of those who serve—not just from volunteers, but also through federal work-study jobs that help students earn money for college and through AmeriCorps, which sends people, power and funding to communities to address issues such as education and healthy futures.

In honor of all those who serve, we would like to thank Katie Guidotti for her AmeriCorps service at Share. Since September, Katie has been vital in planning and preparing thousands of meals for kids, women and men in our programs. She primarily serves out of Share Orchards Inn, handling all aspects of meal prep—selecting menus, checking inventory, preparing shopping lists and, most importantly, cooking!

With the challenges and continuous program adaptations of 2020, Katie serves in ways above and beyond her original service description. With virtually learning keeping children at the shelter on weekdays instead of at school, Katie prepares special sack lunches and delivers them in between and after live classes. To help shelter staff over the weekends, each Friday she prepares extra meals that only need to be reheated.

“Making lunches for the kiddos at shelter has come to be one of my favorite parts of the day. I love

when I get to throw in little treats or something sweet to make the kids smile. And I now understand more of the difference that having healthy food options available can make on a family,” shared Katie. “My service with Share has been wonderful in ways I never expected. Everyone has welcomed me with open arms and has been so kind to me. All of the staff here make me really interested in this line of work.”

In addition to meal service for both family shelters (Share Orchards Inn & Share Homestead), Katie also prepares meals for the Quarantine & Isolation (called Q&I) program (see article at right for more on Q&I).

Becci Read-Ryan, Share’s Hunger & Nutrition Program manager, regularly sings the praises of Katie’s work ethic, dedication and compassion. *“She really connects with our residents; they are always talking about how great Katie is. And we agree—we consider ourselves very fortunate to have found her.”*

This is Katie’s second term of service; she previously served at an elementary school in San Jose through City Year AmeriCorps, whose members prepare students with the social, emotional and academic skills and mindsets to succeed in school and in life. Learn more about AmeriCorp service at americorps.gov/serve.



It's a Revival!

Riverview Community Bank Presents

THERE'S NO BUSINESS Like Share BUSINESS

Supported by KMR GROUP, Yaculta, ilani

The virtual show starts at 5:30 p.m.—

But tune in at 4:30 p.m. for the red-carpet interviews & to mingle with other guests!

Sponsored by WASTE CONNECTIONS INC.

Individual Ticket: \$25—Tune in, sit back & enjoy the show knowing that 100% of your ticket sale benefits Share!

Sponsored by GINN GROUP

Don't miss out on the chance to win **two different raffles!**

A beautiful piece of jewelry from Rand Jeweler or a week-long getaway at Riverview's condo in Hawaii
Now, picture yourself admiring that stunning piece of jewelry while on vacation in Hawaii. Yes, that could be you!

And bid on **fabulous Silent Auction items:** Open April 16 at 10 a.m. to April 23 at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by ColumbiaBank

'VOTE' FOR ONE (OR MORE) OF OUR *Dynamic Duos!*

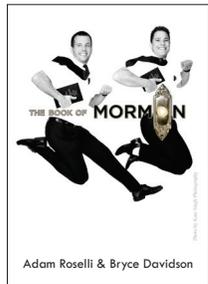
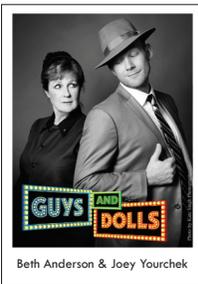
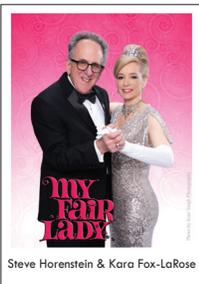


Photo credit & special thanks to *Kate Singh* our Photographer to the Stars!

Thank you to our Dynamic Duo Portrait Sponsor **BOEING**

Each duo will perform at our virtual gala—and we guarantee they'll be worth the price of viewing! You can 'vote' for your favorite before or during the event by making a donation at sharevancouver.org.

Buy your tickets & raffle tickets, 'vote' for your favorite duo (or duos!), peruse our silent auction items & get all the event details at sharevancouver.org (click 'Events')

Q&I Meals For Those in Need

Q&I meals have become an important way in which Share has answered the call for help as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our community. Originally operated by the City of Vancouver, Share took over the daily operation of Q&I meals on December 21. This state funded program provides housing and meals for the isolation of people who are unhoused and are confirmed to have COVID-19 but do not require medical treatment, and quarantine of people who are confirmed to have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19

"The two meals per day that we prepare and deliver allow people to stay in their motel room to recover and to limit the spread of COVID to the community because they do not need to leave to access food. Nutritious meals are also an essential part to recovery from disease, so we strive to make all our meals filling and nutritious by providing fresh fruits and vegetables with every meal," said Becci Read-Ryan.

Share is currently serving three to seven people per week, averaging 244 meals per month; but at the height in January, 25 people per week were served, averaging 980 meals.

Delivering the meals to multiple locations is a labor of love done on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, which covers 190 miles in about three and a half hours.

■ Programs Reimagined With Focus on Our Mission

2020 was filled with many challenges, requiring staff to quickly adapt and adjust programs to continue serving our clients in a safe and healthy manner. It also provided time to reflect, reevaluate and refocus to ensure staff time is dedicated to mission-driven programs and initiatives.

Expect to see changes this year and beyond that will benefit everyone involved with Share: clients, staff, volunteers and donors.



This includes our Holiday Cheer Program. In our warehouse at the Fromhold Service Center, November and December are often filled with 12-hours days, including weekends, to accommodate the generosity of our community, as staff and volunteers accept, sort and prepare to distribute thousands of new gift items.

While our clients are truly grateful for the generosity of the holiday season, the reality is that they have needs throughout the year—new tennis shoes for a growing son, a crock pot to cook nutritious family meals, a new blanket and pillow for warmth at night, and so much more. **Our Holiday Cheer Program will continue, but with a twist to highlight 'Holiday Cheer Throughout the Year.'**



Also expect new and exciting changes to our Soup's On! event. While we anticipate that vaccinations will continue to increase and our daily lives will start to look more 'normal,' it's unlikely we'll be able to host an in-person event this year (*especially for an event that usually draws 750+ people!*). Soup's On! is our most popular and our longest running event (*19 years and originally called Share-a-Bowl*)—and **this year will mark the 10th anniversary of the event's 'Chef Battle!'**

Our development team is flexing their creative juices to bring you a hybrid event to celebrate this exciting milestone. **We'll be inviting back our Golden Ladle and multi-year award winning chefs to prepare the soup recipe that brought them fame.** Those delicious soups will be available to sample and purchase (*and helping support local restaurants, yay!*)—and, as always, you'll vote for the winner!

So stay tuned—we'll be providing updates on our Facebook, Instagram, website and e-communications.



Monthly donations are a year-round reminder of the values donors share with us and to *our belief that every person counts.*

Your monthly donation provides consistent funding for our vital programs. You choose how much to give and for how long, and you can change your amount or cancel at any time. And while we use the word 'monthly' to highlight the program, you can also set a quarterly, biannual or annual contribution as well.

Sign up on-line today! sharevancouver.org

■ Donor Spotlight: Medical Teams International

At Share, we are grateful to the numerous businesses and organizations that step up, year after year, to help support our vital programs. One of those is Medical Team International. Karen Kartes Piatt, Communications Manager, shared with us how and why they support Share.

Medical Teams International is a global disaster response and humanitarian organization founded in 1979. Going where we're needed most, we provide life-saving medical care to people in crisis, saving lives and leaving communities healthier. We mobilize staff and in-country volunteers quickly—entering places of turmoil, disease, and natural disaster. We care for the hurting in frontline clinics, refugee camps, and remote villages. Our goal is to save lives and to care for the whole person—physical, emotional, social, and spiritual.

Medical Teams began working with Share in 2006, after a Share staff member spoke at a Medical Teams chapel event for staff, and the two organizations began discussing how they could work together.

For the past 15 years, Medical Teams has regularly donated requested products to Share such as hygiene supplies, razors, paper goods (toilet paper/paper towels), over-the-counter medications (such as pain relief, cold/flu medicine, and allergy medicine), wound care products, sunscreen and more. This past December, Medical Teams donated 100 personal care kits that were distributed by Share's Outreach team.

Medical Teams considers it very important to give back to the local community and is proud to partner with Share. One of Medical Teams' most important program focuses is to support and encourage frontline caregivers here at home and abroad, and to ensure that they are equipped to provide tangible help to beneficiaries. Working with Share to improve lives and foster hope in our community is a natural extension of our mission, stemming from the common belief between Share and Medical Teams that every person counts.

"The hygiene and first aid supplies provide our clients with the means necessary for them to care for their health and wellbeing, especially during COVID when these resources have been limited."

—Ashley Gaffney, Share Outreach



"Resources that many of us might see simply as 'just the basics' are difficult to come by for many of our houseless neighbors: shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, tooth paste, menstrual products, bandages, and more. We are so thankful for the support from Medical Teams."

—Molly Evjen, Director of Volunteers & Community Resources



New Warehouse Open Hours at the Share Fromhold Service Center

We have new open hours at our warehouse at the Share Fromhold Service Center, 2306 NE Andresen Road:

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. & Thursdays: 1 to 3 p.m.

The warehouse is located on the south-side of the building; ring the doorbell when you arrive (as shown by our own Nicole Hanna at left!).

We are currently accepting NEW ITEMS ONLY.

(see full list at sharevancouver.org/donate-now/donate-resources)

Thanks
for your generosity!



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Changes are happening daily,
 please check our website for the
 most up-to-date information.

Stay healthy & positive!

■ Mark Your Calendar to Support Our Appeal for Meals: Make a Donation June 6 to 12

Donations to Share’s Appeal for Meals support our Fresh Food Pantries, Backpack, Summer Meals and Hot Meals Programs, which collectively serve more than 180,150 nutritious meals each year.

The success of these programs is measured by our ability to meet the growing food needs of the community by providing meals and food supplies at our current capacity.




“I love the homemade chicken pot pie. It reminds me of dinner in my grandma’s kitchen.”—Norman

Donate June 6-12: sharevancouver.org

Your generosity will be matched!



Stock Our Shelves

Organize a food drive (*with safety measures & masks!*)—in your neighborhood, at your office, school or church—in May or June for our Appeal for Meals.

We’ll provide you with a list of most needed items, such as shelf-stable proteins (peanut butter, canned or easy-open meats, canned chili, etc.), cereal, pasta, canned fruits & vegetables, boxed dinners and more.

To organize a food drive, please contact Sara Johnson at (360) 952-8312 or sjohnson@sharevancouver.org.