



Sharing Lives

Fall 2022

RentWell: Stable, Safe & Healthy Housing

Share believes that everyone deserves the right to live well, be well, and Rent Well. This is the mission of Rent Well, a free 15-hour program designed to help people achieve stable, safe and healthy housing. Created by Transition Programs, a Portland-based nonprofit, Rent Well is taught throughout Oregon and Washington by 250+ certified instructors, including our own Rent Well Instructor Guadalupe Aragón.

"Rent Well is an amazing program and we see value in each person that we serve. Recently, as I was explaining the tools and practices of the Rent Well goals, I added that from now on when they sign their name, their name will go up in value. One young man named Damon said 'I have never had my name used in the same sentence with value.' There was not a dry eye in the group," said Guadalupe.*



Many individuals have never been taught about renting and their responsibilities as a tenant. It isn't a high school class. Unfortunately, most of us learn from trial and error. But through the program, a variety of topics are covered: how laws affect your relationship with your landlord, reviewing rental agreements, how to be a good tenant and neighbor, setting goals and actions steps to achieve housing goals and much more.

This year, 34 participants at Share have graduated so far, including Sara who said: *"What I most like is the concept of a housing portfolio, that is brilliant! I can see myself using this tool going forward, for the rest of my life—always keeping my little portfolio up-to-date and ready to go. It's a good feeling to be prepared."*

Upcoming class schedules are available at sharevancouver.org/rent-well-tenant-education-program. To learn more about Rent Well, contact Guadalupe at garagon@sharevancouver.org

* Name changed to preserve anonymity

2022 Staff Awards



This year's staff award theme was Share Superheroes, because we believe that each and every Share staff member is one! The awards recognized key members of each department+ plus stupendous staff members across Share.

Award recipient's received a superhero-themed canvas wall hanging at our celebration on September 27.

A big "Congratulations!" to all this year's winners who are listed below and continued on page 2.

The Kimoyo Beads Award (Shruti, Black Panther) honored staff who are magnificently solution oriented:

Tenly Hall
Becky West
Corinne Brooks
Jaclyn Sizer
Ashley Weaver
Charles DeZort
Carol Jack
Bridgette Mesa
Edward Kearney
Brandy Lemmon
Brianna Kinsey
Maureen Olivier-Bagley
Nicole Hanna
Molly Hamstreet
Dusty Sparks
Thomas Wilbanks
Timothy Kortt
Derek Barkley

■ Staff Awards continued

Our Incognito Hero Award (Superman) honored staff who quietly and reliably support their team:

Maggie Bernetich	Michal McClernon
Tyra Hugan	Jayreen Fredrick
Tina Mann	Dean Cardiff
Thalia McDaid-O'Neill	Lisa Nettles
Joe Sullivan	Joanne Cody
Stephenie Williams	Jeffrey Henderson
Chelsey Brooks	Shandra Palmer
Susan Jimenez-Vargas	Rhonda Henry
Audrey Pratt	Jolyn Fredrick
Edward Ramirez	

Bringing the Thunder Award (Anissa Pierce, Black Lightning) honored staff who exemplify commitment through advocacy, support, and dedication:

Molly Evjen	Kristopher Curtis
Jana Jones	Dawnda Durbin
Brittany Hardaway	Cleo Mayne
Amanda Lancaster	Holley Walhoo
Laurie Russo	Jeremy Freier
Roman Dyachkov	Jillian Provience
Justin Young	Tony Colin
Saoleen Albert	Eileen Jones
Shana Jenkins	



Share Board Directors

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 Penny Harris
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 Erik Selden

For a list of management staff:
sharevancouver.org
facebook.com/ShareVancouver

2306 NE Andresen Road
 Vancouver WA 98661
 (360) 448-2121

Leadership Award (Captain America) honored one loyal leader who is honest, extremely noble, and unfailingly dependable:

- Nicky Ferguson

The Jack-Jack Award ("The Incredibles") honored one outstanding new member of Share who joined the staff during 2021-2022:

- Diana Fabela

The Hammer of Thor Award honored one staff member who harnesses the power of mentoring, wields strength with congeniality and integrity:

- Chris Brox

Armored Avenger Award (Ironman) honored one staff member with great intellect and charisma, who uses their powers to benefit others:

- Julie Henson

Lasso of Truth Award (Wonder Woman) honored one staff member who is courageous at trying new things, a protector of the positive attitude, and captain of inspirational ideas:

- Guadalupe Aragon

+ Departments include: Affordable Housing & Stability, Family Pathways, Community Wellness, Collaborative Housing, Talkin' Trash, On Call & WHO, Meals & Nutrition, Housing Achievement & Enrichment, Administration/Development/Volunteers, Finance



■ Donor Spotlight: Amerigroup Washington

Our Hot Meals program serves more than 90,000 free meals to the public each year—not only to outreach and shelter clients, but also to thousands of individuals and families who work, but do not make enough to consistently put food on the table.

So when earlier this year the walk-in cooler stopped working in our kitchen, faced an emergency. Fortunately, Amerigroup Washington stepped in to pay for costly repairs.

“When the cooler stopped working, it was a true crisis for Share’s Hot Meals program,” shared Holley Walhood, Share’s food service coordinator. “It happened over night, so we had to throw out food that had spoiled, which was just heartbreaking.”

Share House’s cooler was constructed as part of the original building, so it could not be replaced. It had to undergo costly repairs. That is when Amerigroup Washington came forward with a \$10,000 sponsorship to cover the cost of repairs and continue to serve free meals in Clark County.



Anthony E. Woods (left) and LeeAnn O'Neil, Community Engagement Specialist, of Amerigroup (third from left) with Share staff members Becci Read-Ryan, Kim Hash, Holley Walhood and Molly Evjen.

“Amerigroup understands that access to consistent, healthy meals is a driver of health, so we are championing programs like Share’s Hot Meals program in Clark County, to make a positive difference in overall health outcomes and lives,” said Anthony E. Woods, President of Amerigroup Washington. “We are grateful for the opportunity to play a role in helping individuals and families overcome disparities, and we thank Share for its collaboration in the effort to advance health equity.”

In late July, the Amerigroup Washington President and members

of his leadership team joined Share in Vancouver to present a check. They toured Share House, listened to updates about the vitality of the Hot Meals program and discussed opportunities for continued partnership.

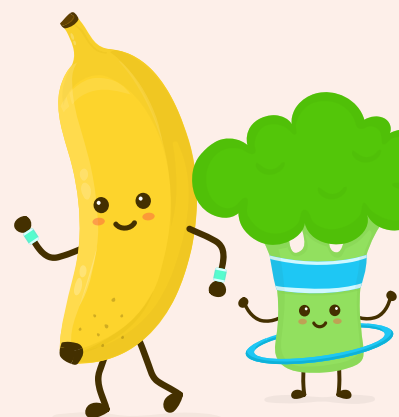
“In the past four years, Amerigroup has sponsored tens of thousands of dollars in support for Share’s meal programs,” said Diane McWithey, Share executive director. “They have proven time and time again to be a dedicated partner in creating healthy communities, and we are truly grateful for their ongoing support.”



Summer Meals Success!

11,285 free meals to local kids @ 14 locations

11,285 volunteers = 1,857 hours of time!



■ Strawberries + Generosity = Food & Friendship

As shared by Maggie Bernetich, Volunteer & Community Resource Coordinator

Holley Walhood, Share's Food Service Coordinator, met Duane by happenstance while she was sharing some surplus strawberry donations with Open House Ministries. She had about a million strawberries; maybe that's an overestimate, but Clark County Food Bank had shared two pallets of strawberries with our Hot Meals program, so Holley was in search of other kitchens that could also benefit from some fresh produce.

Duane's interest was piqued by this woman with an abundance of strawberries, so he chatted with Holley to find that she works for Share's Hot Meals program. **Moved by her words and wanting to do something for her and the program,** Duane asked what Holley and her team could use. Holley said, "Coffee." So, for the last several years, Duane has called Holley every week to see how their coffee supply was faring. If it was low, he'd bring over several containers. Holley credits Duane with caffeinating the Hot Meals Program for years now and those two pallets of strawberries for bring Duane to Share.



Duane's generous nature also branched out last summer during the heatwave. Upon hearing that Share House was not air conditioned, he went to Walmart and bought all the available fans for the gentlemen living upstairs.

Beyond Duane's generous donations and consistency, his charisma led to him building relationships with other volunteers, including one of Share's beloved volunteers, Mickey. Now Mickey was a wonderful woman and could run a little hot and cold. She wasn't afraid to call you out for misdoings, and while that earned respect from all, it could rub folks the wrong way from time to time. But

when Mickey met Duane, an instant friendship was formed. When Mickey got sick and moved into hospice, Duane would visit her and provided comfort until she passed away.

We can't always make the time to volunteer or make large financial donations, but the impact of something as simple as instant coffee is just as valuable, just as worthy, just as impactful. Duane's heart, charisma and friendship to Mickey, Holley and Share is something that, while sparked by curiosity, grew because of Duane's generosity and kindness.

Dare to Share
IT TAKES COURAGE TO MAKE CHANGE.

Help us reach our goal
of 200 Monthly Donors.

sharevancouver.org



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Supported by:



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SUNDAY, THE 16TH OF OCTOBER
4 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
ilani in the Cowlitz Ballroom

Event details at: sharevancouver.org



Our CAULDRONS will be
prepared by:

Accio!



OUR MAGICAL MASTER OF CEREMONIES: ERIC SAWYER!



Stop by the **SORTING HAT STATION** if you'd like to meet our Hogwarts professors and be sorted into your Hogwarts House. **RAFFLE TICKETS** will be available for purchase on-site for the chance to win two round-trip tickets with Alaska Airlines.

WIZARDS & MUGGLES alike can sample each of the delicious cauldrons and vote for the 'Golden Ladle Award' for Best Soup.

Then fill your keepsake, artisan soup bowl with your favorite selection for dinner, along with salad, bread, a selection of beverages and dessert.

We are pleased to also present the **2022 EMILY MARSHALL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS & COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD.**

If you would be so kind as to bring a donation of new bath towels, you will be entered into our door prize drawing for a one night stay at the new ilani hotel, plus dinner for two, access to the VIP lounge, and two tickets to a concert (1 ticket for each new bath towel donated).



Thanks to our Bowl & Volunteer of the Year Sponsors:



■ Upcoming Care for Share Events



Shuffle for
Share 5K

Join us for the 21st Annual Shuffle for Share 5K Run/Walk, a FREE virtual, no-frills event with “leftovers” held November 20 to 28.

A minimum \$10 donation is requested with 100% of donations going directly to Share.

You can participate anywhere/anytime within the time period—a treadmill, a local path, or favorite running or walking route.

In an homage to leftover holiday food, and in order to keep the event FREE and the costs low, participants receive leftover race shirts, medals, and swag.

Register online today at:
whyracingevents.com



If it's October, it's time for Share's annual Seats & Feets drive! We are asking for:

- **New underwear** (all sizes, for men, women & teens). Please keep in mind that a range of sizes is needed, from small to 3XL.
- **New diapers** (newborn to size 6, plus pull-ups) & wipes
- **New socks** (all sizes, for men, women & teens)

Donations can be dropped off during our Warehouse Open House on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Thursdays, 2 to 3 p.m.

Host a 'Seats & Feets' drive at your office, church, school or in your neighborhood. We can provide you with a blue Share barrel in which to collect your donations. Contact Maggie at (564) 888-0821 to get your drive started.



DISCO FEVER

groove at the Share gala!

SAVE THE DATE:
saturday, april 22, 2023
hilton vancouver washington

BE A SPONSOR!
contact tenly hall
thall@sharevancouver.org

■ Connecting Clients with Services to Help Them Succeed

Communication is something people use every day. At Share, we recognize the vital importance in providing our shelter clients with access to ESL classes to help them communicate effectively as they search for housing and employment.

Additionally, computer skills are increasingly required for those searches and application submissions. So, classes to improve our clients' computer skills are equally important. *That's why we are incredibly grateful to the Giving Circle and Umpqua Bank for grant funding to provide access to Clark College's Basic Computer Skills Suite and ESL classes for clients residing in all four of our shelters.*

"I encourage you to ask yourself, how would I apply for housing, gain employment, get to and from work on a bus system when I can't effectively speak or read the language? How do I sign my kids up for school or sign myself up for school to gain skills to navigate and be a productive member of my community?" asked Nicky Ferguson, Family Pathways Program Director.

Nicky shared some examples that are, unfortunately, all too common for clients in our family shelters:

John* is the sole provider for his family which includes his wife and three children. He was fired from a job because he needed to take his sick child to the emergency room for medical attention. Although he called his supervisor to let him know, his inability to communicate clearly that he was calling out led his supervisor to marking John down as a 'no show.' That was two months ago and he is still without a job.

An example that we see often is with the purchase of a vehicle. Many of our Chuukese families have purchased vehicles where the dealership says, "Just sign here for this new car that you can drive home today." But the buyer doesn't have a driver's license, doesn't understand the requirement for insurance, and doesn't understand interest rates. So, they hand over their money, sign all the documents, not realizing that \$260 of their \$400 payment is going to interest and that they are legally not able to drive.

Many clients have difficulty maintaining an email address;



maybe they don't remember the passwords or don't know how to reset a password. After applying for a housing or employment opportunity, they are later unable to access and retrieve the information and opportunities slip by. Three clients last month missed out on job and housing opportunities for just this reason.

"These issues are not isolated to people who have immigrated here. American born people struggle with reading, writing and lack of computer skills too. Often it takes us a bit longer to discover these barriers because people feel shame and have really creative ways of navigating life so that others remain unaware. So, every family, every background, every race, every identity will benefit from this opportunity."



If I can rollover, so can you!

A charitable IRA rollover is a gift option that enables donors age 72 or older to make a tax-free gift directly from your IRA.

Your gift to Share will never count as taxable income for you, but will always make a difference for families and individuals in our community. Get started: Contact your IRA plan administrator and then Diane McWithey, dmcwithey@sharevancouver.org or 360-952-8216.



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■ Give With Cheer to Last the Year!

November and December are a time filled with generosity for others in our community. We are grateful to community members and local businesses eager to **help us fill our warehouse shelves with new, high-need items to be distributed to our clients through our Move-In Kit and Request for Items program in the coming year!**

You could provide a growing teen with a new pair of shoes or a parent with a crock pot to make nutritious family meals in their new home, and so much more. And we know that many of you like to start planning and shopping early, so here are ways you can help:

- **Purchase New, High-Need Items:**

We maintain a list of high-need items at sharevancouver.org (click 'Donations' then 'Donate Resources'). Select and purchase a new item (or 2 or 3!) and drop it off during our Warehouse Open Hours at the Share Fromhold

Service Center, 2306 NE Andresen Road: Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Thursdays, 2 to 4 p.m. You can also purchase items online and have them shipped directly to the Share Fromhold Service Center, 2306 NE Andresen Road, Vancouver WA 98661.

- **Host 'Make a Home' Donation Drive:**

'Make a Home' tags are an easy way to purchase and donate a high-need item for a child, teen, woman or man in our housing and outreach programs. We can provide you with digital slips or links to our Amazon Charities Share Wish List. Donation drive organizers can share the items list or tags with co-workers and group members.

- **Fill a Food Box or Host a Food Drive:**

Provide a meal for a family of 4-10, a pantry box for a high school or a food pack for students in transition. Or considering hosting a food drive to fill multiple boxes.



Either way, can provide you with a list of needed food items.

Donations will benefit families and individuals in our Affordable Housing & Stability program, family shelters, Share House, Women's Housing and Transition (WHAT), Lincoln Place and Share Outreach.

To learn more, contact Maggie at (564) 888-0821 (call/text) or mbernetich@sharevancouver.org.