



# Sharing Lives

Summer 2022

## ■ Internships & Volunteerism Bring Compassion to Share Outreach Program

Internships and volunteerism are both impactful ways to help people experiencing homelessness. We are grateful to Leslie Pfannes and Norm Johnson for sharing about their recent time with the Share Outreach Team.

*As shared by Leslie:*

After learning about Share's incredible work in the fall of 2021, I applied to complete my master of social work foundation year internship with the organization. I have had so many impactful experiences here



it would be impossible to list. The nonjudgmental approach to human services that each of the compassionate Outreach team members exhibits, and the empathic interactions I have witnessed have been a learning experience I will not forget. It was wonderful to see many people become housed.

Volunteering at Share has allowed me to engage with people in a completely different context than my current career. This opportunity has given me the chance to use empathy and understanding in a way I did not

know I could. I have grown exponentially from this experience and would encourage anyone looking for a volunteer position to join Share in their efforts to eradicate homelessness in Clark County.

*As shared by Norm:*

My path as a Share Volunteer began as an intern from Clark College working towards an associate degree in addiction counseling education and bachelor degree in human services.

The experience gave me new insight and perspective on the unhoused community in Vancouver. It inspired in me a desire to help.

I spent a lot of time doing harm reduction with the outreach and syringe services program. There is a great deal of satisfaction and accomplishment when we find housing for our clients. And it doesn't stop there; the continued wraparound services for our clients is imperative in keeping them housed. (Continued)

## ■ Share House Gets a Fresh Coat of Paint + In-Person Dining Returns for Hot Meals



Share House was last painted in 2004 and the yellow was showing its age. But the outside is now a beautiful blue with white trimmed windows—thanks to the Firstenberg Foundation for funding this project.

And that's not the only change down at Share House: in-person dining has started to return to Hot Meals.

*"On June 1, we served our first meal back in-person since March of 2020. Our guests really enjoyed being seated and had an amazing breakfast of biscuits, gravy, and sausage,"* said Molly Evjen, Director of Volunteers & Community Resources.

**For now, in-person dining is open only for breakfast and dinner on weekdays.** Weekday lunches and all weekend meals will still be served in the to-go style.

*"Covid concerns are still prevalent, so it's possible we'll have to adjust again to all to-go meals. But for now, it's nice to have our guests back inside,"* added Molly. (Continued)



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*We Dare You!*



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## ■ Internships Continued

There is an amazing amount of satisfaction when one helps others without any expectations of getting anything in return. *Ask yourself this question: If I don't help or contribute, then who will? Anyone and everyone can play a role, no matter how large or small, to help alleviate the problems associated with homelessness.*



## ■ Meals Continued

Need for food assistance in our community remains high, with an average of 7,600+ meals served each month. With rising food prices, we don't expect the need to come down any time soon.

You can help by volunteering to prepare and serve meals or to clean up in the kitchen and dining room before or after meals. It's a great opportunity to volunteer as a group, so ask friends, family or co-workers to join you!

Complete a volunteer application online and sign up for a shift (or shifts) at [sharevancouver.org/volunteer](https://sharevancouver.org/volunteer). Questions? Contact Molly at 360-952-8228 or [mevjen@sharevancouver.org](mailto:mevjen@sharevancouver.org).



## ■ A Plan, Hard Work & Help Moves a Local Family into Their New Home

A family of five—Mariana\*, John\* and three children—moved to Washington state from Micronesia. Finding and maintaining permanent housing proved challenging. They stayed with family members for a year, with the kids sleeping inside the house and the parents sleeping in their car, until they found the Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) program in February 2021.

The family was able to transition to Share Orchards Inn during March of the same year. Shana Jenkins, a Housing Navigator for the Family Pathways Program, recalls the family's two main barriers to housing. *"The main barrier was their lack of income. But this was made harder to address as only the head of household spoke English and she was not fully fluent."*

Mariana did have a full-time, temporary position that paid minimum wage and she was receiving funds through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), a program of the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) that provides cash grants and medical coverage for Washington State residents who are responsible for the care of children under the age of 18 or who are pregnant and meet the eligibility criteria. But the couple also owed money on a rapid cash loan and still owed \$13,000 on their car loan.

*"One of the first steps we worked on for this family was obtaining childcare, so that John could find employment. Mariana brought a family member in during the day to watch her children with permission from Nicky Ferguson, the shelter's program director,"* said Shana.

John found seasonal work on a fishing boat in Alaska, which helped raise the family's income on a consistent basis. The next step was to address the family's credit scores. Through funding from Building Changes and a Community Development Block grant, Mariana and John were able to pay off some debt, plus consistently cover costs for their phone bills and car payment. Those efforts increased their credit scores to be considered for housing.

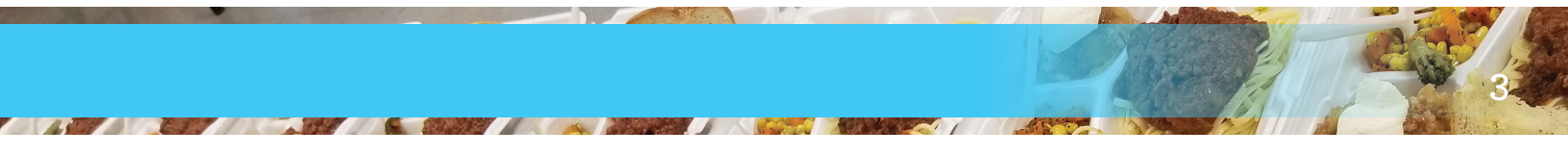
Mariana and John also enrolled in a Rent Well course specifically designed for Chuukese clients and facilitated by a Chuukese staff member. They began the search for housing and submitted applications weekly. But with no rental history, a security deposit would be very costly. So staff worked to secure funds to cover those costs once they found housing.

*"We worked with the family on understanding what sustainability means. It was helpful that the shelter has Chuukese-speaking staff members to emphasize the importance of budgeting for rent and utilities, building rental history, maintaining consistent employment and, if needed, asking for help well before it become an emergency,"* added Shana.



All the hard work was realized when their application for a 3-bedroom town home was approved, complete with washer and dryer, plus a fenced in back yard with plenty of space for the kids to roam and play. And a week before they moved in, John secured full-time employment in Portland and Mariana found a higher-paying, fulltime job with better hours, as well.

On May 28, a year and three months after entering the WHO, the family moved into their beautiful new home, where they can continue to grow, thrive and raise their children in a place that they feel safe, happy and a part of the community.



# ■ Grease was THE Word at Share's 2022 Gala!

We are incredibly grateful to the 520+ guests that came to our "Grease is the Word!" Gala on Saturday, April 23! After two years of virtual events, it was fabulous to be back together with smiling faces, hugs & handshakes, and amazing energy all around.

We have so many people to acknowledge for helping to make this event a success:

Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Riverview Community Bank, and our Supporting Sponsors: Orchards Grocery Outlet, United Grain Corporation, Yaculta, ilani and Pacific Lifestyle Homes.

Also to our tremendous Dynamic Duos: Cyndi Holloway & Bart Hansen, Avaly Scarpelli & Erik Selden, Carrie Cofer & Sherri McMillan, Ken Cole & Carlos Rodriguez Vega, Valerie Berrissoul & Wendy Marvin, and Marian Manual-Adams & Bobby Rasaphangthong. Each duo performed a number inspired by our "Grease" theme—and they were truly amazing! **Congrats to the winning duo, Cyndi & Bart!!** See all their pics below.

To our emcees, Ali Novinger and Kim Capeloto, and to all the volunteers that shared their time & talent—we appreciate you!

And last, but certainly not least, **thank you to each and every one of our guests who joined either in person or virtually and for making a contribution in support of our paddle raise or to 'vote' for a Dynamic Duo.** And so many of you dressed to fit the 50s theme, which added to the energy of the ballroom!

**Please save the date to join us on SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023** for another fun-filled evening with a new group of Dynamic Duos, delicious food and drinks, and a community of people dedicated to raising vital dollars to make a difference in the lives of local kids, women and men.



supported by:



Emcees Ali Novinger & Kim Capeloto.



Duo Cyndi Holloway & Bart Hansen.



Duo Marian Manuel-Adams & Bobby Rasaphangthong.



Duo Erik Selden & Avaly Scarpelli.



Duo Val Berrissoul & Wendy Marvin, with Linda Reid.



Duo Carrie Cofer & Sherri McMillan with Daniel Martinez.



Duo Ken Cole & Carlos Rodriguez Vega with Grocery Outlet Team.





# Thank You to Our 2022 Gala Sponsors!

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## ■ Finding Her Way Back Home

Jan had been happily married for 40 years. Then five years ago, her husband passed away. She decided to move to San Diego with her best friends to “grow old together.” But then the pandemic hit; the health concerns over living in a multi-person home proved daunting for Jan. She looked for housing back in Vancouver and, after a verbal agreement with a Vancouver landlord, she moved back home. But that agreement fell through and Jan became homeless.

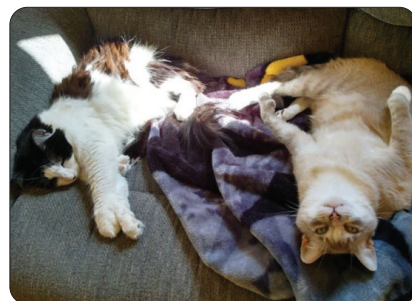
She lacked a credit history of her own, plus she had beloved cats; both proved barriers for housing. She lived in her car for three months, with a litterbox on the floorboard for the cats. Being homeless was “like living in a pit of vipers,” Jan described of living amongst people that she did not know and was unable to trust. “I credit the love of my cats with keeping me alive.”

Back when her husband was alive, Jan had volunteered for Share through her church.

So she reached out for help and found out about the Women’s Housing and Transition (WHAT) program; she moved in September 2021. “It was as if heaven exploded. I met people who could help me do something about my situation.”

In just two months, Jan secured employment in a field where she is able to help others—she calls it her “dream job”—and moved into permanent housing in November 2021. She’s happy, healthy and shared: “I feel like a rose getting my petals back.”

We wish her all the best!



## ■ Current High-need Items for Clients

Each day, staff and volunteers work in the Warehouse to pull requested items for clients who have recently moved into shelter or into new homes. Below is a list of some of the most requested items:

- cleaning products for move in kits: laundry soap, dish soap, mops, brooms
- liquid body wash (full-size)
- towels (bath towels, hand towels, dish towels, wash cloths)
- men’s size 10-12.5 shoes and work boots
- underwear (all sizes, for women & men)
- sheets and pillows (*but not blankets, we still have plenty on the shelves!*)
- shower shoes (for healthy feet in shared shelter bathrooms)
- “cooling”/hot weather prevention items: fans, summer clothes (all sizes, for kids, women & men)



Donated items should be **NEW** and can be dropped off during 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.

Questions? Contact Maggie Bernetich at (564) 888-0821 or [mbernetich@sharevancouver.org](mailto:mbernetich@sharevancouver.org).





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# Accio!



Calling all wizards & muggles ... and soup fans! Our magical Master of Ceremonies, Eric Sawyer, has been working on his incantations to help summon you, your friends and family to our ...  
**Cauldron of Soup Competition on Sunday, October 16, 2022 at ilani!**

This year's competitors include:

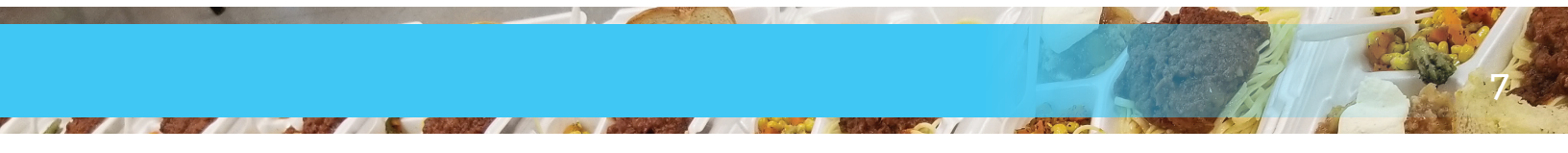
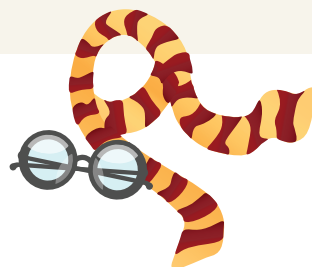
- AC Lounge
- Beaches Restaurant & Bar
- Bleu Door Bakery
- Feast 316
- Frontier Public House
- Nom Nom Restaurant & Grill
- Line & Lure at ilani
- Say Ciao!
- 3 Sheets at the Harbor

Who will conjure up the winning soup? You decide by sampling each soup then voting for your favorite to win the Golden Ladle! Each guest will also take home a handmade, artisan soup bowl.



To ensure our cauldrons are fully stocked, send your owl early to reserve your seats. Tickets will go on-sale August 1. **Show your pride by donning your best Hogwarts robes, house colors and paraphernalia!**

**Sponsorships are available** from 'Sorcerer's Stone' supporting sponsor at \$7,500 to 'Choose Your House' table sponsors at \$1,000—10 each available for Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff and Ravenclaw. This is Share's most popular event, so claim your table soon to ensure your house preference! Contact Tenly Hall at [thall@sharevancouver.org](mailto:thall@sharevancouver.org).





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For All Kids & Teens Ages 18 & Under



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**Meals will be available at multiple sites from June 20 to August 12.**

Share has once again partnered with Vancouver Parks & Rec, Police Activities League of Southwest Washington, Vancouver and Evergreen Public Schools, Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries, as well as local apartment complexes. We are extremely grateful for their participation and commitment to helping feed children in our community.

Share is still in need of volunteers to prepare, pack and deliver meals. To sign up, visit [sharevancouver.org/volunteer](http://sharevancouver.org/volunteer) or email Molly Evjen at [mevjen@sharevancouver.org](mailto:mevjen@sharevancouver.org). Volunteers must be 12 years or older to serve in a commercial kitchen; those under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.



For more information | Para más información | Больше информации  
Scan the QR code or visit [sharevancouver.org](http://sharevancouver.org) for locations, times & more!