



Sharing Lives

Fall 2023

■ Welcome Amy Reynolds, Share's New Executive Director!



For those of you reading this who are familiar with Share, you'll likely recognize Amy Reynold's name—in fact, you may have met her at a community gathering, fundraising event or even while volunteering. Amy has worked for Share for 22 years, starting as a swing-shift case manager at Share Orchards Inn, moving up to Director of Share Orchards Inn and Winter Hospitality Overflow program, to Director of Programs and then Deputy Director. On Monday, July 17, she began her new role as Executive Director.

When Diane McWithey announced her retirement last October, the board of directors conducted a nationwide search, with the assistance of Page Two Partners. The search took place over seven months, involved input from a wide range of participants and included multiple rounds of interviews.

"Share is going through a truly unprecedented organizational change and I couldn't be prouder of the work of our search committee, board directors, program managers and stakeholders who participated in this process. In selecting Amy as our Executive Director, we get an experienced leader with an immense passion for fulfilling Share's mission, and we are excited for what lies ahead," said Matt Lennick, Share's board president.

During her time at Share, Amy's commitment to alleviating trauma, suffering and poverty has remained steadfast. She is very excited to build upon the strong foundation of Share as a champion for professional staff development, with a clear commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, and a passion for the mission.

"I believe that everyone should have a place to call home. Home is the foundation for family and community. A safe, stable place to live is necessary for people to not just survive but to thrive. Share has done incredible work in the community for the past 45 years and with so many people living outside and experiencing food insecurity there is clearly much more work to do," shared Amy.

"As an agency we need to grow our DEI work and be willing to be humbled along the way. We need to strengthen our infrastructure to ensure that team leaders have the support that they need to lead in this new world. We need to recognize that cultivating a more diverse staff and valuing lived experience means that policies and practices need to be reflective of these beliefs. It is for these reasons that I am excited to step into the role as Share's next Executive Director, to lead Share to an even more impactful future."

■ 2023 Staff Awards



This year's Staff Awards featured the theme of Disney's "Encanto," taking inspiration from the gifts of the Madrigal family and applying them to the talents that our Share staff use on a daily basis.

The awards recognized members of each department+ plus six special awards for staff across Share. Each recipient received a clay tile featuring a bas-relief house and landscape, hand-crafted by local artists Pat Brame and Carl Sumsion.

A big *"Congratulations!"* to all the recipient's who are listed below and which continue on page two.

The Luisa Award: *This strong performer is one who constantly gives their best at work. Always willing to lend a hand and do the heavy lifting.*

- Heather Young
- Dusty Rushton
- Tina Mann
- Laurie Russo
- Bridgette Mesa
- Julie Henson
- Jesse Ashcraft
- Ed Kearney
- Jon Metzger
- Valerie Manibusan
- Ellie Fowler
- Jillian Provience
- Maggie Bernetich
- Brandon Couch



■ Staff Awards continued

The Dolores Award: *This team member is the one other staff members turn to for advice or guidance. Incredible at listening and responding in an efficient and heartfelt way.*



- Jana Jones
- Kris Curtis
- Brittany Hardaway
- Eddie Ramirez
- Brenda O'Connor
- Jessica Freier
- Stephenie Williams
- Brandon Rhodes
- Chelsey Brooks
- Jessica Lightheart
- Karen Read
- Peter Thorpe
- Brandy Lemmon
- Molly Hamstreet
- Molly Evjen



Share Board Directors

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Penny Harris

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Dawn Redmond

Erik Selden

*For a list of management staff:
sharevancouver.org*

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



The Camilo Award: *Born to entertain, this humorous staff member lifts spirits. This chameleon is adaptable and flexible, showing an ability to turn on a dime to handle unexpected situations gracefully.*

- Dusty Cardwell
- Holly Shaw
- Mandi Lancaster
- Sharon Toliver
- Cristian Madrigal
- Catherine Hamilton-Richardson-Brown
- Crystal Saylor
- Thomas Green
- Diane Marar
- Domenoch Carr
- Rich Rosentreter
- Kim Hash
- Rita Bell
- Joclyn James
- Hasserin Tataichy

Across Share Awards—



The Mirabel Award: *A caring, supportive self-starter, you can count on this Share member to step up to save the day! Challenges do not deter this brave leader.*

- Nicole Hanna

The Antonio “Newbie” Award: *An outstanding member of Share who joined the staff during 2022-2023. Though new at Share, this dazzler did not waste any time demonstrating their gifts!*

- Katie Duncan

The Bruno Award: *This strategic-minded leader quietly and reliably does their job exceptionally well but does not seek the spotlight. With an eye to the future, they focus their gifts on the health and future of the organization.*

- Ashley Gaffney

The Pepa Award: *While it's sunny or torrential, this team player weathers every storm with creative solutions and performs with grace under pressure!*

- Brian Osuna

The Julieta Award: *With compassion for our mission, this employee radiates warmth and kindness; magic is found in the work they perform.*

- Tony Colin



The Isabela Award: *Sometimes work is hard. It can feel irritating, overwhelming, or even exhausting. It takes someone special to help make the flowers bloom when work gets rocky, with a can-do attitude, steadfast leadership, and dedication to Share.*

- Dee Sanders

+ 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

■ 20 Years of Share Summer Meals

Share's Summer Meals program has evolved greatly over 20 years.

The program began as a partnership with Evergreen Public Schools and Washington State University Vancouver, providing the At Home At School curriculum and led by masters in teaching students from the university. Parents needed to register their children for the program and 130+ children participated.

Over the next few years, the program grew to provide meals at multiple schools across Evergreen and Vancouver Public Schools and served 500+ children.

The year 2012 saw great expansion with a transferring of responsibility from Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation to Share, forming partnership with summer schools, parks activities, science camps, sports camps, middle-school readiness program, a VHA community center and the NAACP, to serve children enrolled in their programs. All lunch sites were located at schools or facilities with a greater than 50% rate of free and reduced-price lunch enrollment; funding came through the USDA. That summer, the program was honored by the Children's Alliance and the End Childhood Hunger Washington for sponsoring summer meals.

In 2013, the program pivoted once again with a focus on expanding to locations beyond local schools. *"We were aware that transportation was a barrier to the program. Not everyone who could benefit from accessing the meals had a car or the cost to travel by bus just for a meal, either of which could be an added cost for a family already on a limited budget,"* said Amy Reynolds, Executive Director. The program served 16,000+ meals that summer.

The addition of local apartment complexes as meal sites increased access once again with 25,000+ meals served at 21 locations in 2016.

During the pandemic, the program never stopped. *"Our staff innovated very quickly, moving to grab 'n' go meals for kids,"* said Molly Evjen, Director of Volunteers and Community Resources. *"We even had drive-thru options where people could pull into a meal site, roll down their window and be handed their meals. It was so important to make sure kids still got meals during what was a very scary and uncertain time."*

One aspect of the program has remained consistent and vital: volunteers. Hundreds of volunteers are needed each summer to help prepare meals, pack them in coolers and deliver meals to sites.



BY THE NUMBERS:



10,200+
free meals to kids
@
20 locations

331 volunteers
=
2,453
hours of time!

Thank You to Our 2023 Partners:

YMCA, Vancouver Public Schools,
Police Activities League,
Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries
and Vancouver Parks & Rec.



Help us reach our goal
of 200 Monthly Donors.

sharevancouver.org



■ The Importance of Trauma-Informed Care

*The concepts of trauma and trauma-informed care have evolved greatly over the past 30 years, leading to the development of evidence-based models of trauma treatment.**

Trauma-informed care is practiced in all of Share's programs, from Outreach to shelters to meal programs to subsidized housing. The following staff contributed to this article:

Shana Jenkins, Housing Navigator, Jacky Snell, Outreach Supervisor and Nicky Ferguson, Family Pathways Program Director.

People experiencing homelessness have lived through the loss of home, personal possessions, community, stability, safety and social networks. They are under constant stress from the insecurity of not knowing whether they will be able to sleep in a safe environment or obtain regular meals.

Compounding this hardship, a disproportionate number of people experiencing homelessness have experienced more than one traumatic event in their life (physical or sexual abuse, neglect, domestic violence, community violence, family disruptions) and oftentimes have experienced several.

At Share, staff use trauma-informed care to understand, anticipate and respond to the impact of trauma.

The impacts of trauma can be invisible. Unlike a broken arm, it's not something you can see unless you know the signs of trauma. However, the signs present themselves as behaviors and it might look like someone being difficult, combative, or argumentative.



Signs of trauma could be yelling for no reason, having a strong emotional reaction that does not fit the situation, bursting into tears, being avoidant, not making eye contact, untrusting, fearful, anxious, or nervous, being skeptical, sad, depressed, and more.

People who have experienced trauma may not be able to tell someone why they are doing the things they are doing because trauma is not rational; it lives in the body and creates an auto-response that presents as a behavior.

For the Outreach team, it's important to approach people with care, compassion, and a non-judgmental attitude. We want them to feel that we are providing them with a safe space. We use active listening to respond in a respectful and kind manner, to build trust and rapport so we can support them in a time of need. **A strength-based approach is used which allows people to be independent, making the choices they feel are best for them. We recognize that they are their own person and know what is best for themselves, so we walk alongside them to reach their self-determined goals.**

In Share's shelters—Share House for

single men, Share Homestead and Share Orchards Inn for families—it often looks different for each person.

Staff may meet with a client in their room or car because being in an office environment causes anxiety. Or a child may be asked if they have time to come outside and play to provide some needed fun and stress relief while giving their parents some quiet time. It's also important to respect someone's pronouns or ask them if we are not sure.

Trauma informed care is practiced in all the little tasks completed with clients, but also in bigger ways, such as how staff empower.

Clients have been helped to enroll in classes at Clark College to take English as a second language courses, writing and basic computer classes, all skills that are vital to navigating necessary paperwork to apply for a job or complete a rental application. We offer RentWell programs and coach families on how to continue raising their incomes.

And our clients represent a diverse population, so we employ staff that are bilingual. **Our goal is to foster a trauma free transition from shelter to permanent housing.**

* Source: *Encyclopedia of Social Work* | *National Association of Social Workers (NASW Press)* and *Oxford University Press*



Batman (aka Bryce Davidson) and Thor (aka Eric Sawyer) say: "Don't miss it, it's gonna be Soup-er!" (Pun intended!)

\$85 per person | \$850 Table of 10
PURCHASE ONLINE: SHAREVANCOUVER.ORG

Are you a **We Share Member**? You may have access to free or reduced-fee tickets.
 Contact Megan Carter at (360) 952-8231 or mcarter@sharevancouver.org to claim your seats!

THIS YEAR'S COMPETITORS INCLUDE:



Every guest can sample all of the delicious soups 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 will also present the **2023 Emily Marshall Volunteer of the Year and Community Partner Awards**.



Bring a donation of new bath towels for a chance to win a Dutch Bros gift basket including a \$250 Dutch Bros gift card! (1 ticket for each bath towel donated).

Buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win 2 round-trip tickets on Alaska Airlines.

Take a pic in the photobooth, plus enjoy carnival games like *Throw Thor's Hammer* and *Hawkeye's Archery Challenge*!

Thanks to our Bowl, Volunteer of the Year, Mystery Boxes, Raffle & Photobooth Sponsors:



Thank you to our **"JUSTICE LEAGUE"** Presenting Sponsor:



And to our **usbank** "AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!" Supporting Sponsor: **ilani**

■ 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 Brittany at (564) 888-0821 (call/text) or bhardaway@sharevancouver.org.

usbank
PRESENTS

Live from Vancouver it's...

**SATURDAY
NIGHT**

 **share studios**
MAKING OUR COMMUNITY HOME

Save the Date:
Saturday, April 13, 2024
In-person at Hilton Vancouver

Get ready for a night full of entertainment with plenty of laughs to go around!

We'll have some "wild and crazy" guys and gals to compete as Dyanmic Duos, as they channel their favorite characters and skits from SNL.

Sponsorships are available from "The Weekend Update" Support Sponsor at \$10,000 to "Celebrity Jeopardy" Table Sponsor at \$2,000. Contact Maggie Bernetich, Special Events Manager, at (360) 605-7677 or mbernetich@sharevancouver.org.

■ Donor Spotlight: New Seasons Market

New Seasons Market Fisher's Landing has been a key donor of Share's meal and nutrition programs since 2012. Their generosity has been diverse and creative—literally!

New Seasons Market has entered chefs to compete in Soup's On! and as a staff competed in a Food Stack Smackdown, a community competition to design and build a structure completely out of non-perishable food items—which they then donated, of course! Their staff have also spent time volunteering at our Donation Warehouse and at our fundraising events.

Beyond the donations of their time and

enthusiasm, they also provide vital funds to support our Hot Meals, Backpack, Outreach and Summer Meals programs. This has come in many forms:

- Six-time match donors for Share's annual Appeal for Meals campaign
- Selecting Share as an annual beneficiary for their week-long Hunger Relief Match (money raised for 10 local organizations with donations from the community matched by New Seasons Market)
- Honoring Share as a Hunger Relief Partner; year-round, customers can make a donation at the register to directly benefit Share

Thank you!

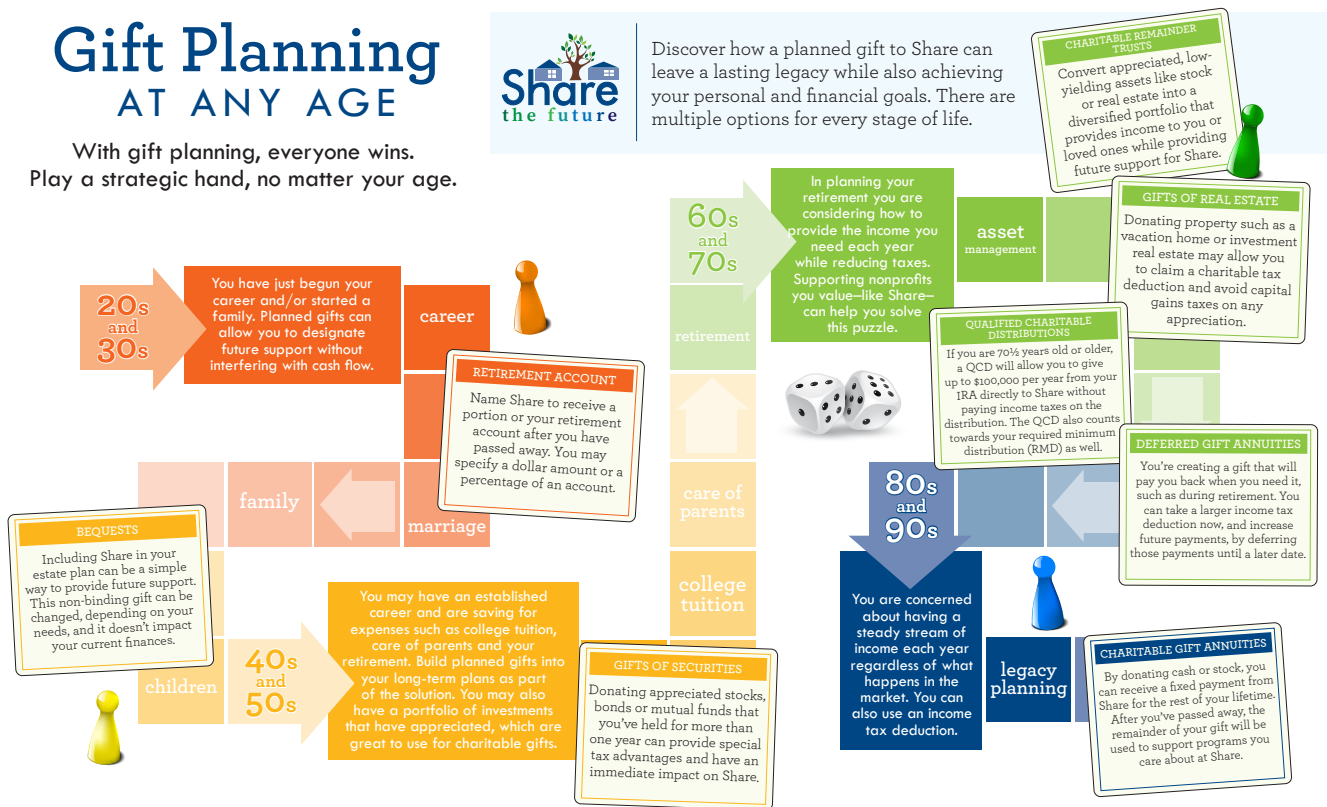


Gift Planning AT ANY AGE

With gift planning, everyone wins. Play a strategic hand, no matter your age.



Discover how a planned gift to Share can leave a lasting legacy while also achieving your personal and financial goals. There are multiple options for every stage of life.



To learn more or discuss options, please contact Chris Brox, Finance Director, at (360) 952-8217.

The above information is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor. Figures cited in any examples are for illustrative purposes only. References to tax rates include federal taxes only and are subject to change. State law may further impact your individual results.



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Donations small & large
make a difference!



■ Serving Up Food & Smiles at Summer Meals!

Learn more about the success of our Summer Meals program on page 3.

