



Sharing Lives

Winter 2023

■ A Mother & Her Sons' Journey from Heartbreak to Happiness

As told in Dusty's own words.

In 2012, I was a Share client. I was a single mother of three boys. When my youngest son was six weeks old, my husband at the time had shaken him to the point where it caused serious medical complications, brain injury and some broken bones, which left him fighting for his life in the hospital.

That situation caused my husband to go to prison and it left us without a home. I lost my job, because it was highly publicized and my employer didn't want the publicity linked to their organization. I was unemployed and houseless with three little boys, a six-week-old, a five-year-old and a ten-year-old.

I did have family, but they were unable to provide assistance at the time; it was just a little too much for them. They weren't sure how to help or what they could do.



Somebody had mentioned calling 211. I called the Housing Hotline and, to my surprise, they said they had an opening at a family shelter that day if I wanted to come in. I said, *"Absolutely, I'm loading up my car now."* We stayed at Share Orchards Inn. I did our intake process, the staff were really pleasant; they could tell that I was terrified.

After I woke up one morning, one of staff—it was Dee Sanders, she was the program director—said, *"We have an opening at a program called ASPIRE and you've been referred."*

Dee explained the two-year program and that she thought I'd be a good fit. It would give me time to get my son to all his necessary doctor's, so he could receive the care he would need, without having to worry about working full time. She knew I wasn't able to go to three to four doctor's appointments a week, plus taking my other son to therapy. I was just beyond myself, I was so thankful. We did the paperwork, a Housing Specialist helped me find an apartment and the program paid my rent for two years. *(Continued)*

BECAUSE EVERY PERSON DESERVES

*a permanent home,
enough food to eat,
dignity and respect.*

For hundreds of local families, people and grandparents, a constant, daily struggle remains for paying monthly bills, accessing meal and food programs, securing employment or affordable housing, accessing health care or paying for a prescription, and so much more.

Just \$25 could provide a person with an essentials kit of personal care items, helping them maintain daily hygiene and dignity.

And, \$150 could provide a local family with six months of protein-rich foods through our Backpack program, alleviating stress for a household on a tight budget.



*May the holidays
bring joy to you and
your family!*

■ Heartbreak to Happiness Continued

The doctors had said that my son would be hugely, developmentally delayed, that he wouldn't be able to function like a normal child. And I honestly believe that because Share gave me two years—that I could take him to all these medical appointments, make sure he sees specialists, that he got the best medical care—Malik is now a perfectly functioning 13-year-old.

I'm so grateful because Share didn't just give me a home, they gave us hope, they gave us a future, they gave him life, a good life, the life he deserves.

And now I work for Share. I started in July of 2021 in Outreach and now I work for the Affordable Housing and Stability program, which used to be called ASPIRE. So I am serving the program that used to serve my family.



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I decided to work for Share because I wanted people to experience the same hope that I was able to experience. I wanted them to know that there are people out there who care. Just because things look bleak now, they don't have to stay that way. What's going on now isn't necessarily what your future is going to look like.

The people at Share, they do care about you, our community and our futures. And together we can make a difference.

Thank you Share for helping my family and giving me the opportunity to serve our community.



SCAN TO WATCH *Dusty's* video on the homepage of Share's website.



*Know someone who says
they don't need anything?*

■ Give a Gift in Honor of a Loved One

Looking for a unique and inspirational gift idea?

Make a gift in honor of someone close to your heart: your grandmother, father, sister-in-law or best friend! Donate online at sharevancouver.org and be sure to select 'In Honor' under 'Tribute Type.'

We'll mail a card on your behalf to your recipient to let them know a donation to Share has been made in their name. It's that simple! Visit sharevancouver.org today to get started.

■ Congratulations to Sue Young 2023 Emily Marshall Volunteer of the Year

Sue Young has volunteered at Share since 2015, primarily helping to process volunteer applications and enter volunteer hours into the database. Sue dedicates so much of her time to the staff of the volunteer and development departments, where she is a valuable member of their team.

“I believe in the philosophy I read in a book by Max Lucado: ‘No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.’ Whoever you are, there’s something here at Share that you can do. The staff at Share is great, but they could not accomplish all they do without volunteers.”

“One of the most valuable parts of volunteering for Share is being appreciate for who I am. They always let me know how much they appreciate me. It gives me a good feeling to know I’m a part of what Share is doing for our community.”



Sue Young received the 2023 Emily Marshall Volunteer of the Year award from Penny Harris, who represented our Volunteer of the Year Sponsor, Columbia Credit Union.

■ Congratulations to Orchards Grocery Outlet 2023 Community Partner

For the past eight years, Ken Cole and Carlos Rodriguez-Vega, independent owners/operators of Orchards Grocery Outlet, and their team have helped to raise \$70,000 for Share through their annual Independence from Hunger drive, as well as participating as Dynamic Duos at past Share Galas.

“It’s part of Grocery Outlet’s mission to reach out and support the community. When we first reached out to Share, we were thrilled that our mission’s aligned. It was a great fit from the beginning.”

“Share is well known in the community, so it was easy to ask our cashiers, our customers to make donations for the Backpack program. We know people are shopping at Grocery Outlet because they don’t have a lot of money to spend. We have customers who shop with food stamps that use some of those dollars to support Share by buying high-need food items to donate. It’s so heart-warming to see people step up at all levels.”

“We are grateful to Share for the Community Partner award. But this award is not for Ken or Carlos. This award is for our employees and our customers who supported us and helped us to help Share with their mission.”



Ken Cole (Superman t-shirt) and Carlos Rodriguez-Vega (Flash costume) sharing the Community Partner Award with members of their team at Orchard Grocery Outlet.

Hear directly from Sue, Ken and Carlos, as well as the Share staff who nominated them. **SCAN TO WATCH the video now!**



■ A SOUP-er Evening!

It was an event filled with costumes, entertainment, laughter and generosity at our “Soup-er Heroes” Soup’s On! on October 15. We are truly grateful to the 830+ guests, including volunteers, that came out in support of Share’s mission. A total of \$72,150 was raised through the paddle raise alone.

Soup was the star of the show and the winning chefs included:

- The coveted People’s Choice Award and Golden Ladle to Joe Reid of Hudson’s Bar & Grill for Guardians of the Gourmet Beer Cheese Soup with Brisket Burnt End Sausage
- Presenting Sponsor Award to Michael Garofolo of Heathen Brewing Feral Public House for Hulk’s Smashed Squash Soup
- Chefs Choice Award was a four-way tie to:
 - Tanner Genck of AC Hotel Marriott for Deadpool’s Chimichanga
 - Fernando Martinez of Kuya’s Casa Kitchen for Levanta Muertos
 - Ryan Ziegler of Line & Lure Seafood Kitchen & Tap for Coconut Chicken Curry
 - Bobby Rasaphangthong of Nom Nom Restaurant & Grill for Wonton Soup

Special thanks to this year’s additional competitors:

- Aaron Guerra of the Tod & Maxine McClaskey Culinary Institute of Clark College for Crawfish & Corn Chowder

DAVIDSON & ASSOCIATES INSURANCE presents...



–Michael Castaneda of Woody’s Tacos & Tequileria for Hearty Beef Stew

–Brandon Edgerton of Wyld Pines Public House for Lobster Bisque

We are grateful to our potters: Pat Brame, Marjorie Kavanaugh, Nick Molatore, Kelsey Rice and Honna Sheffield.

The event also included the presentation of our Emily Marshall Volunteer of the Year Award and Community Partner Award (story on page 3).

Our amazing Master of Ceremonies, Eric Sawyer, wowed the crowd with seven costume changes: Star Lord, Thor, Mr. Incredible, Batman, Batgirl, Wonder Woman and Mr. Rogers.

We are grateful for his humor, wit, positivity and mostly for his very generous heart which continues to say ‘Yes!’ when asked to help support Share, our clients and the community at large!



(Top to Bottom): Tony Johnson of Davidson & Associates Insurance; Jasmine Ames of U.S. Bank and a Share board director; MC Eric Sawyer as Thor and Mr. Rogers, just two of his amazing costume changes



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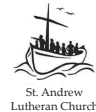
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■ A Volunteer Leaves a Legacy

Bequests are gifts that are made as part of a will or trust. In the nonprofit world, receiving notice of a bequest is both sad and heart-warming.

We recently received a bequest from John*, a very thoughtful individual who gave back to his community and to organizations on a regular basis.

His attorney shared via a letter that upon learning of a cancer diagnosis, John was given only three months to live and so he had to get his affairs in order quickly. He chose Share because he believed in the mission and it would be the worthiest of the estate.

John gave unconditionally, usually with his time, such as volunteering. When he thought he could better another person, he gave what he could.

He always spoke of the adage, “to help those in need and not expect anything in return.” John aided many people in his life. That’s why it was so important to him that his assets went to your organization in hopes to keep improving lives after he could no longer be of service.

John will be missed by so many, but he will be remembered by all his contributions to humanity.



Giving through a bequest or will can be a convenient way to leave a lasting legacy to benefit Share.

To learn more, contact an attorney or tax adviser. You can also contact Chris Box, Share’s Finance Director, at (360) 952-8217 or cbrox@sharevancouver.org.

usbank
PRESENTS

Live from Vancouver it's...

**SATURDAY
NIGHT**

 **share studios**
MAKING OUR COMMUNITY HOME

LIVE **ON AIR** LIVE

Save the Date:

Saturday, April 13, 2024

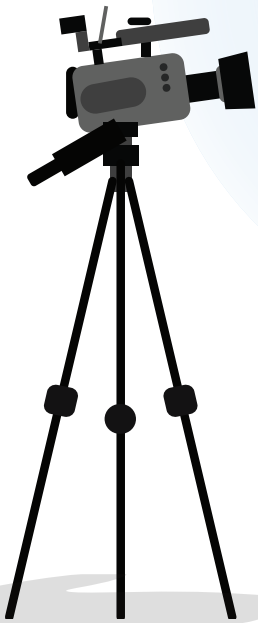
In-person at Hilton Vancouver

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.

Sponsorship opportunities 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 mbernetich@sharevancouver.org or (360) 605-7677.



■ Share's New Deputy Director: Brondalyn Coleman

Share is delighted to welcome Brondalyn Coleman as the new Deputy Director; her first official day was Monday, October 16.

"It's incredibly inspiring to be part of a team where talent and compassion intersect so beautifully. Everyone is deeply invested in the impact Share is making on the community, and I am honored to contribute to our strong efforts," said Brondalyn.

Brondalyn is a dedicated advocate, a trailblazing community leader and a passionate entrepreneur hailing from the heartland of Oklahoma. Her journey, rooted in her pursuit of knowledge and compassion for others, has propelled her to become a driving force for positive change.

In her most recent role, Brondalyn served as the Chief Impact Officer of Brown Hope, a vital position that allowed her to champion causes focused on racial equity and social justice. She also served as a consultant and Director for Supportive Services for Veteran

Families, a program that provides essential support to veterans facing housing challenges, including homelessness. And she is the founder of BNC Global, a consulting firm with a mission to enhance child welfare for all.

She attended Oklahoma State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, and Louisiana State University, where she earned both an Associate of Public Service and a Master of Business Administration

Brondalyn's journey is one characterized by resilience and determination. During her senior year of high school, she confronted the harsh realities of homelessness, a challenge that persisted throughout her college years.

Her grace and unwavering determination propelled her to overcome these obstacles, culminating in her ability to provide vital support to youth and adults facing similar circumstances.



Please join us
in welcoming,
Brondalyn!

Dare to Share

IT TAKES COURAGE TO MAKE CHANGE.

With a monthly donation of \$15, \$25 or more, you'll join a committed group who believes that *every person counts.*

SIGN UP TODAY: sharevancouver.org

We Dare You!





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Donations small & large
make a difference!



■ Join Our We Share Major Gift Society

Members of our **We Share** Major Gift Society help to establish reliable, annual funding to bolster and sustain Share's ability to provide the programs and services that positively impact the lives of local families with children, people and grandparents.

It's easy to join **We Share!**

Your donations received from January 1 to December 31 will be tallied; those who qualify by making accumulative donations of \$500 or more will be recognized at one of eight levels:

- Hopefulness
- Encouragement
- Compassion
- Dignity
- Inspiration
- Confidence
- Empowerment
- Sustainability

Benefits are provided in the following year to those who qualify and include our new and very

popular "Answers with Amy" series, hosted at a local coffee shop, brewery and wine shop.

At each event, Amy Reynolds, Share's new Executive Director, provides an update on Share's programs and services and answers any questions you may have, too.

Every **We Share** member receives a Society Pin with the name of your level designation and may also request to tour Share's four shelters and the Fromhold Service Center.

There is still time to make a donation in 2023 to become a new member or to move up a level.

And, sponsorship opportunities are available for these stewardship events! Contact Maggie Bernetich at mbernetich@sharevancouver.org or (360) 605-7677.



Pin example, not to scale.

