



Winter 2024

## ■ A Home in Time for the Holidays

Mr. Lopez-Garcia, a 71-year-old Veteran, and his 63-year-old wife, Mrs. Lopez, had been sleeping outside for almost a year. A family member causing problems in their home forced the couple to leave so that they would not receive an eviction notice.

Mychal, a member of Share's Outreach team, met them living in a tent along the Mill Plain sound wall. Both had medical conditions and were really struggling outside.

*"It is hard enough living on the streets but it's even harder when we spend what little income we have on buying things to make it easier, only to have it ripped away when you return from a doctor appointment."*

Mychal quickly acted to provide them with basic needs and camping supplies. The couple had a housing voucher but when they tried to look for places on their own, they were told to do it online. With their age and circumstances, they did not know how to apply online, barely able to operate their own phones. With their housing voucher about to expire, Mychal stepped in to help them get an extension.



In the meantime, Mychal secured an Outreach Motel Voucher to move them into a motel for three days while they continued to search for a permanent place to live. But while in the motel, Mr. Lopez-Garcia suffered a heart attack and was transported to the hospital. Mrs. Lopez does not see well and relies on her husband to help her. Mychal was able to help extend their stay by collaborating with Council for the Homeless to ensure her safety as well as helping him recuperate for a day once he was released from the hospital.

The couple soon found a place they would like to call home and applied through Outreach House Bill funds thanks to a grant from Clark County Community Services.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### BECAUSE EVERY PERSON DESERVES

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

For hundreds of local families, single 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 family in our community with six months of protein-rich foods through our Backpack program, alleviating stress for a household on a tight budget.



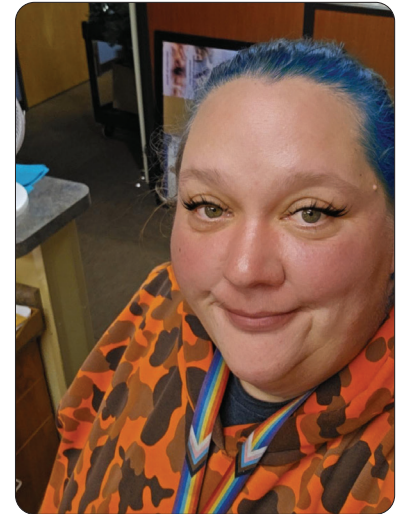
*May the holidays  
bring joy to you and  
your family!*

## ■ A Home continued

Although initially denied due to a low credit score, Mychal advocated to appeal the denial and negotiate on behalf of the couple for property management to reconsider.

They were ultimately approved and, with more help from Outreach funds to cover their move-in costs, Mr. Lopez-Garcia and Mrs. Lopez moved in immediately. Their move-in day was complete with a Welcome Home Kit put together by Share volunteers, including household items such as dishes, silverware, glasses, pots and pans, kitchen utensils, kitchen towels, dish soap, bath towels, cleaning supplies and more.

*“Mychal did everything in a timely manner, keeping us informed with every step. We were treated with respect in every way possible. We are so thankful for everything Share did to give us a hand-up in our time of need.”*



Mychal in the office.



### Share Board Directors:

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Erik Selden

Marcie Walsh

Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez

For a list of management staff, visit [sharevancouver.org](http://sharevancouver.org).



Welcome Home Kit example.

## Help Welcome a Family Home!

Donate items to fill a Welcome Home Kit or put one together on your own—either way, we can provide you with a list of needed items.

To get started, contact Nikki, Volunteer and Community Resources Coordinator, at [nhanna@sharevancouver.org](mailto:nhanna@sharevancouver.org).



*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](http://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](http://sharevancouver.org) today to get started.



## ■ “We will never arrest our way out of homelessness, nor should we.”

We are incredibly grateful to the 100+ people who attended our Beyond the Verdict event at Kiggins Theatre for an important conversation around homelessness and affordable housing in our community.

The event featured three panelists to discuss the implications of the Supreme Court ruling on Johnson v. Grants Pass (Oregon) which criminalized homelessness.

A huge THANK YOU to those panelists:

- Ed Johnson, Director of Litigation for Oregon Law Center; Legal Team, Johnson v. Grants Pass
- Andy Silver, CEO of Vancouver Housing Authority
- Assistant Chief Erica Nilsen, Vancouver Police Department

Special thanks also to the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington for their support of the event.

Ed Johnson provided a brief overview of the law case and closed his remarks with this:

*“One of the central arguments that I still think we should be talking about is whether or not these ordinances that prohibit people from using blankets—we’re not talking about other things like littering or drug use—we’re talking about living outside and whether that punishes voluntary conduct or whether it punishes somebody’s status. There’s a legal argument about that and there’s a moral argument that I think we’re still working on as a society.”*

Questions, including some from the audience, were asked of all the panelists. A selection of key questions and answers are highlighted below:

### **What role does VPD have in addressing homelessness?**

*“Our HART (Homelessness Assistance and Resources Team) officers do an absolutely incredible job to find a way to get the resources offered by the city, the county and the state to the people that need them. That is not always an easy job. All of our officers lead with compassion. There’s about 500 houseless people living within the city of Vancouver right now. And our HART officers know most of them by face or know a bit about their circumstances.*

*“We will never arrest our way out of homelessness, nor should we. It is not the way we should deal with it as a society and it’s definitely not the way we deal with it as a city. Our officers are not out doing blanket patrols to site people who are homeless.”*

—Erica Nilsen

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## ■ Beyond the Verdict cont.

Special thanks to:



**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
SOUTHWEST  
WASHINGTON



**People often say affordable housing and homelessness in the same breath. Do you see these two concepts linked, and if so, how?**

*“The rate of homelessness in a community is directly tied to the housing market. The cost of housing, the availability of housing, predicts how many people in a community are going to experience homelessness. You might think to yourself, well, the reason is related to mental health issues, substance issues, domestic violence or disability.*

*“Those are predictive factors. You can predict how many people will experience homelessness based on housing costs and then it’s a question of who will be experiencing homelessness. The people who have the most barriers to the housing market are unfortunately going to be those who experience homelessness.”*

—Andy Silver

**How do you think this ruling will impact public opinion toward homeless individuals? Do you think this case helps destigmatize homelessness or might it reinforce negative perceptions?**

*“I hear a lot sentences that start with: Homeless people are X. Whatever X is, it’s almost always false and harmful. It’s like saying: Housed people are X. People living outside are a lot like people living inside; all different kinds of people. And when we stereotype, it moves us away from the human side of this crisis.*

*“It’s a lot easier to treat this as a tent problem or a garbage problem, if we don’t acknowledge that there are hundreds of thousands of Americans who are going to have to sleep outside tonight.”*

—Ed Johnson



If you were unable to attend or are a guest who would like to revisit the conversation, **you can listen to recording online at [sharevancouver.org](https://sharevancouver.org) or by scanning this QR code.**



### Icing on the Cake!

**Are you at least 70 ½?** If so, you can make tax-free gifts directly from your IRA.

Each year, an IRA owner age 70½ or over can exclude from gross income up to \$100,000 of a qualified charitable distribution. For a married couple, if both spouses are age 70½ or over and both have IRAs, each spouse can exclude up to \$100,000 for a total of up to \$200,000 per year.

To get started, contact your IRA plan administrator and then Chris Brox at [cbrox@sharevancouver.org](mailto:cbrox@sharevancouver.org).



## ■ Staff Share with Clara Johnson

*Each year, the quilting group at Bethel Lutheran Church makes and donates dozens of quilts for families and people in our shelters. And they welcome staff to a dinner to share about our programs.*

*Clara Johnson, Director of Family Pathways Program, spoke at this year's event, including the positive impact the quilts have on our clients. Here is part of what she shared.*

The Family Pathways program offers houseless families temporary emergency shelter. This allows a family time to stabilize so they can begin to work with our housing navigator and engagement specialists on barriers to housing. These barriers range from property debt to lack of sufficient income to obtain and maintain housing.

When families enter our shelters, they arrive with very few possessions. Some have spent months, years living in their vehicles and others have been living in tents. You can imagine the trauma that these families have experienced.

We provide families with the necessities to get set up in their rooms. They are given hygiene products, bedding, towels, pillows etc. The families have access to onsite laundry, and we provide three meals a day and snacks.

The beautiful quilts you provide for us to give to our families are needed and appreciated very much.

While the items that we provide are standard issue, the handmade quilts are special. Families can choose which ones they like best. This may seem like a small thing for us. We go to a store every day and can purchase things that we need, want and like, but houseless families who have lost so much and who society has treated as less than, they do not have this option.

**By giving them the opportunity to choose their own quilts for their families it gives them a feeling of dignity. Of being seen as human.**

When I am chatting with families to get to know their stories, what motivates them, they often express shame that their family is in this situation. In moments like this, I remind them of their strength. I point out to the parents, and sometimes it's grandparents, how strong they must be to keep their families together.

Your donations go a long way in helping to lift our families! So, thank you from my team and the families you have helped to support also send their heartfelt thank yous!



Clara Johnson and Ro Mitchell



**Dare to Share**  
IT TAKES COURAGE TO MAKE CHANGE.

**Become a Monthly Donor!**

**Just \$15** could send home 3 bags of weekend food for children in our community.

**SIGN UP TODAY: [sharevancouver.org](https://sharevancouver.org)**





**SATURDAY  
APRIL 26**

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RIDGEFIELD, WASHINGTON**

**usbank** presents...

*Dolly*  
AND FRIENDS



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EVENT DETAILS!  
TICKETS ON SALE JAN. 1



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**LIVE IN PERSON GALA**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5 PM | TICKETS \$150 EACH**



*A NIGHT OF GLAMOUR & GIVING WITH A COUNTRY FLAIR!*





## ■ 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 very popular "Answers with Amy" series, hosted at local restaurants, breweries and wine shops, and sponsored by Davidson & Associates Insurance.

At each event, Amy Reynolds, Share's Executive Director, provides an update on Share's programs and services and answers any questions guests 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 2024 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](mailto:mbernetich@sharevancouver.org) or (360) 605-7677.

DAVIDSON & ASSOCIATES INSURANCE presents...



2024 Answers Uncorked at Salud Wine Bar



2024 Answers on Tap at Heathen Brewing Feral Public House

## ■ Accomplished & Under 40: Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez

The annual Accomplished & Under 40 event hosted by the Vancouver Business Journal is always an awe-inspiring event, as the community comes together to honor amazing young leaders making a difference in Clark County.

We are delighted to announce and celebrate that a member of the Share family was included in the Class of 2024 recipients:

Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez, Share board member and Associate Director of Programs at Workforce Southwest Washington

*"Nolan has been a wonderful addition to our board over this past year. He brings a delightful combination of humor and logic to our committees and board meetings. His sound reasoning, links to employment opportunities for our clients and support are an incredible value to our team."*

—Amy Reynolds,  
Share's Executive Director



*Congratulations!*



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[sharevancouver.org](http://sharevancouver.org) | [facebook.com/ShareVancouver](https://facebook.com/ShareVancouver)

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Donations small & large  
*make a difference!*



## ■ Host a Fundraiser for Share in 2025!

Hosting an event or fundraiser is a great way to support non-profit organizations. We call these “Community Cares for Share” events.

### Have an upcoming birthday or anniversary?

Consider making a contribution to Share in lieu of personal gifts and ask your friends and family to do the same.

### Own an independent business or restaurant?

Donate a percentage of proceeds for a day or a week or simply collect change.

**Host a can-struction competition!** Challenge teams (office departments, franchise locations, extracurricular school groups or sports teams, etc.) to build a structure made of canned foods, plastic jars of peanut butter or boxes of macaroni and cheese. You can select winners based on creativity, overall size, number of items used, etc., but the ultimate winner is Share, who receives the food items.

**Be creative**—your event could be whatever you envision! And we’ll help promote your efforts to help make it successful.

To get started, contact Maggie, Special Events Manager, at [mbernetich@sharevancouver.org](mailto:mbernetich@sharevancouver.org).



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### • Holiday Shop at Columbia Sportswear

Shop at Columbia Employee Store now through December 27, 2024 and 10% of your purchase will be donated to Share. Bring this page with your name and address printed at the top, then **SCAN THIS QR CODE** to access your digital pass for entry.



#### • Dine & Give Back at Twigs Bistro on the Vancouver Waterfront

Visit Twigs Bistro any time this December to enjoy a delicious meal with stunning views AND make a special gift to support Share at checkout.  
 801 Waterfront Way Suite 103, Vancouver  
 Call (360) 726-4011 for a reservation

#### • Van Mall Retirement Community Spaghetti Fundraiser

Three-course spaghetti dinner plus entertainment  
 January 23, 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. | \$15 per person  
 7808 NE 51st Street, Vancouver  
 Call (360) 896-9140 to RSVP by January 18

