

Fall 2018

Housing Navigators: Making a Difference

Share has added a new position that has made a dramatic increase in the number of clients being housed. A Housing Navigator engages and motivates those experiencing homelessness by linking them with housing opportunities, developing budgets, completing applications and advocating with local landlords. In just one month, our Share House Housing Navigator, Gavin Rose, recently moved 30% of the Share House residents into housing.

Otha Common is top of mind when considering clients who have benefitted from a partnership with Share's Housing Navigators. When asked if we could share his journey with others, he readily agreed. His only request was, "Don't forget to talk about Gavin, he's awesome. A heaven sent for me. He got me a place and did it quickly."

Staff first met Otha at Share House while he was eating at the Hot Meals program. He had the biggest, most welcoming smile and the most infectious laugh. Otha grew up in Chicago and used boxing as a way to keep off the streets and stay out of trouble. He often shared stories about his days as an AAU boxer, and professional boxing career. Otha would visit with some of the clients in the area and was always willing to give rides and support to people when they were in need.



Otha in 2017, working with clients at the Share Day Center.

At the time, Otha was employed building homes. But he injured his knee and spent a long time pursuing a worker's compensation claim to get his knee repaired. After the injury, his health rapidly declined, in part due to his living conditions. He was unable to work and lost his home. He lived in his car for a while and eventually couldn't keep up with the cost and lost it, too.

His earlier acts of kindness were rewarded. Upon learning Otha had lost his car and was having to sleep on the street, one of his friends let us know. The program director reached out to Otha to talk about his options and he entered shelter in 2016. He quickly moved up through the transitional housing program, working in the front office to provide assistance to residents in (Cont. page 2)



Dellan Redjou: Our Community Champion



Photo By Kate Singh

Dellan Redjou, Director of Volunteers & Community Resources, was recognized as 'Community Champion' at the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce 2018 Business & Leadership Awards on Sept. 25.

Our own Kim Hash shared this, "After four years of working with Dellan and watching her big heart in action, I can honestly say that she makes me want to be a better person. She inspires me to do more, to be more, to care more."

In addition to the Chamber award, Dellan will also be recognized as an Outstanding Alumni by Leadership Clark County on Wednesday, October 24, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Warehouse '23.

If you'd like to help us celebrate with Dellan, tickets are \$35 and can be purchased on-line (Cont. page 2)



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For a list of our management staff: sharevancouver.org

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Housing Navigators (Cont.)

shelter and the growing population outside. He easily built a rapport with everyone he met. Otha was able to apply for and start receiving an Aged Blind & Disabled benefit of \$197 per month and started his Social Security application. He also became a on-call staffer for Share and provided graveyard coverage for the Winter Hospitality Overflow Program.

Finally, in November 2017, Otha was granted his social security benefits. He immediately started working with Gavin Rose to start his search. Gavin shared, *“I remember Otha being very excited to start the housing search and was impressed with his positivity when faced with the many obstacles that he kept encountering. He looked at places where there were pets allowed, even though he’s allergic to cats. Or a great basement room for rent, although he’s unable to go up and down stairs. His persistence was contagious.”*

In January 2018, Gavin assisted in locating a two-bedroom apartment and asked Otha if he would be interested in renting with a roommate. Otha and another gentleman who lived at Share House decided to apply together. The Share Day Center was able to help with application fees for both and they were approved for the unit immediately; however, they did not have funds to cover move-in costs. They combined their current savings and secured some flexible funding provided through the Council for the Homeless. The Community Service Northwest outreach team assisted in connecting the new tenants with beds and furniture, and Share volunteers helped the roommates to select donated household items to fill their new home.

Otha and his roommate frequently stop by and call to check in and say how much they are enjoying their home. They let others know that housing can happen for anyone!

Dellan (Cont.)

at leadershipclarkcounty.com.

Dellan has spent decades generously giving back to our community. And during her four-year tenure at Share, she has re-energized and grown our volunteer base, as well as increased connections to the business community as a resource for donations of goods, such as food, shoes, household goods and more.



Dellan with daughter Kelly at the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce awards event.

Congratulations, Dellan!

Donor Spotlight: Bethel Lutheran Church

Our tremendous thanks to the wonderful members of Bethel Lutheran Church in Brush Prairie for the donation of 288 handmade quilts to Share. The quilts were made with loving care as they are intended to provide comfort to those in need. An example of a family who recently received these wonderful gifts is shared below, as told by Cassie Sorrensen, Director of Share Homestead.

Marcus and his three children had been experiencing homelessness off and on for the past four years. Until shortly before entering Homestead Shelter, he had been in a relationship affected by domestic violence. Marcus and his children would become homeless each time they left his partner, the children's mother, and then return to the home to avoid ongoing homelessness.

Through support from shelter staff, Marcus was able to re-engage

and secure employment in his construction career, and was able to enroll all three children in new schools. He was able to secure a permanent restraining order against their mother and did not return to her.

Following three months of employment, and a total of nine months in shelter, Marcus had saved enough money to pay for a deposit and first month's rent at an apartment. He secured housing in a local complex where he was able to receive reduced rent for doing building maintenance.

The day that Marcus and his children moved out of shelter, I was lucky enough to be there. As they packed up their belongings I handed Marcus and each of his children a quilt to take with them to their new home. His oldest daughter, Lila who was eight at the time, hugged her quilt and said, "I'm throwing away my old blanket."



"Why?" Marcus asked.

"Because," Lila said. "Those are my afraid blankets. This quilt is my safe quilt. I don't have to sleep with afraid blankets in our new house."

Everyone in the room had tears in their eyes.

Thank you, again, to Bethel Lutheran Church for wrapping our families with care, warmth and security.

2nd Annual Share Stack Smackdown!

It's official and the votes (donations) have been tallied! The winner of the 2018 Share Stack Smackdown which took place on Give More 24 is our returning champion, LSW Architects!

We had three incredible and creative competitors this year including Gravitate and Wager Audio. All of the canned goods used in the creation of these "can-structions" have been donated to Share's Hunger Response Programs—more than 5,000 pounds!

We thank all three businesses for participating and all the supporters who voted with their donations!



THERE'S
NO PLACE LIKE

home FOR THE holidays

There are **so many ways to help men, women and children** this holiday season. Take a look at all the ways to give, then contact Share staff to get started!

FOOD BOXES



Fill a food box to provide a Thanksgiving meal for a family of 4-6 people. Our goal is to provide a box for 150 households. A list of needed items is available at sharevancouver.org.

CONTACT: Dellan Redjou
(360) 952-8228 or volunteers@sharevancouver.org

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

Make a difference for a family this holiday season. Purchase gifts and clothing for low-income families in our ASPIRE program who receive rent subsidies, and other families who qualify for assistance. Average cost is between \$75 to \$100 per adopted family member.

CONTACT: Becky Graff
360-952-8223 or officemgr@sharevancouver.org

WISH LIST



Donate new gift items! From shoes to winter coats (all sizes, for men, women & children) to kitchen items and small household appliances to board games and sports equipment—and don't forget gift cards! A full list is available at sharevancouver.org.

CONTACT: Molly Evjen
360-952-8312 or volcoor@sharevancouver.org



Sometimes *volunteers* are called *heroes*...

Kathy Sluznis:

2018 Emily Marshall Volunteer of the Year



Kathy began volunteering for Share in December 2017. Since starting, Kathy has put in over 500 hours in the Warehouse at the Share Fromhold Service Center. That averages out to just about 17 hours per week!

Kathy brings to Share a warm energy and a fantastic smile. She comes in without fail every week and stays all day long. Even when she is struggling with back pain or sickness, Kathy doesn't like to rest. She truly dislikes staying at home and not being an active member of our community. **When Kathy fills an order, she puts her whole heart into making sure the client is receiving everything they ask for and that they are fully prepared for their potential new home or job interview or cold night on the street.** We have no doubt that every person that receives an order from Kathy feels her love and compassion along with it.

Outside of Share, Kathy volunteers her time with Friends of the Carpenter, where she runs the front desk and reception area. She and her husband also run a local branch of Point Man Ministries, through which they go to Share House once a month and serve a warm meal and provide clothing and hygiene items.

Kathy has managed to work the equivalent of a full-time job solely by volunteering almost 40 hours a week at various locations. Kathy truly is a remarkable human being who wants to help this community.

Audrey Chang:

2018 Youth Volunteer of the Year



Audrey's first experience at Share Orchards Inn was with her family, when her brother was in high school and volunteering for Share. At age 10, she didn't really understand much about the organization, except that her brother would help cook and serve dinner. Then one day, she began

helping in the kitchen. Audrey said, *"I still remember being so proud of the first thing I cooked there: garlic bread with cheese, something my mom makes frequently."* When she reached high school, she started volunteering on her own.

Audrey shared: *"When you come to the same place for weeks pretty regularly, you start to recognize faces, you start to learn names, and you start to learn peoples' stories. This pulled at something in me, something humane, something empathetic. I was able to brighten up the day of a grandfather, mother, child, and so on, even if it was only for a little bit."*

Today, Audrey is an officer of her school's Key Club and it's her job to encourage others to volunteer. *"The best I can say is to just give it a shot and experience it for yourself. Many don't realize how privileged they are, or they dismiss the thought quickly. Opportunities are not evenly distributed and circumstances can be devastating even when you've done everything right. Those of us blessed with both opportunity and circumstance have a moral responsibility to seek and to give. Even if what you give is just one hour of one day, you may not see it but can change someone's life."*

Community Services Northwest: **Community Partnership Award**

Share and Community Services NW have a tremendous partnership, collaborating to provide a variety of services for clients in programs across the service array. Lincoln Place and CSNW have partnered to provide staff training and clinical consultation for client treatment and concerns. Mental Health Teams from CSNW work with Share's Lincoln Place and Outreach Teams to engage clients in intensive mental health services to highly vulnerable clients. CSNW's Adult Mental Health Crisis Response team and Day Center and Outreach staff from Share have been able to support clients who are experiencing immediate mental health concerns. Additionally, CSNW has provided Share ASPIRE with two housing programs: a duplex which houses six Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) clients as well as a house in which six clients live. Share's shelters, including Share House, Orchards Inn, Homestead, and the Women's Housing and Transition (WHAT) have also worked with mental health providers and outreach case managers to serve clients who have a high level of need in shelters. **This partnership is integral to the work that Share does in our community and we are extremely grateful for this partnership in all the work we do.**



Presents

Glitz! Glam! OSCAR Party

Share Red Ruby
40th
Celebration

Saturday, April 27, 2019
at Hilton Hotel Vancouver

Embrace the theme & dress
in style to *walk the red carpet!*

Sponsorships are available from 'On the
Waterfront' Supporting Sponsor at \$7,500 to
'Out of Africa' Table Sponsor at \$1,500.

Contact Kim Hash:
(360) 952-8227 or devdir@sharevancouver.org

Giving With Your IRA

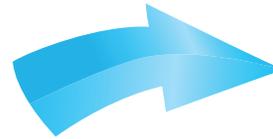
Holly* is 80 years of age. Her house is paid off and she lives simply. She has a pension and collects social security. These two sources of income cover all of her regular expenses.

She also has an IRA with a large required minimum distribution (RMD). The taxes she pays on this required distribution bothers her since the RMD funds aren't needed and they bump her into a higher tax bracket and cause more of her social security to be taxed.

Holly's financial advisor notices that she donates regularly to several nonprofit organizations. Holly does not itemize her expenses, instead she takes the standard deduction. He recommends that she start making her donations to her favorite causes directly from her IRA. These donations will be credited to her RMD amount but are not counted as income. This minor adjustment lowers her tax bill at the end of the year without changing either her living or giving lifestyle.

* Fictionalized character for article reference

Your Retirement Account



Your Favorite Charity!



Minimum Distribution
or More...

- No Penalty
- No Tax
- But Also No
Tax Deduction

If you are over the age of 70 ½ you may have a tool in your charitable-gift toolbox that you have overlooked. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) can be made directly from your IRA to the nonprofit of your choice.

These contributions are excluded from your gross income while still counting towards your RMD requirements. You can donate up to 100k per year in this way. If you are taking the standard deduction

on your taxes, this could make a real difference to your bottom line.

Check with your CPA and financial planner to see if this strategy is a good option for you. Remember to keep track of and to properly report your donations to your CPA to make sure you get credit.

To discuss IRA contributions to Share, please contact Diane McWithey, Share's Executive Director, at (360) 952-8216.



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Annual Drive to Meet Basic Needs ... Including Wee Ones!

Three items that are ever present needs are new underwear, diapers, and socks. Throughout the month of October, we are asking for:

- new underwear (all sizes for men, women, and children)
- diapers (all sizes, including pull-ups)
- athletic-style socks (for men, women, and children)

Donations can be brought to any Share shelter or the Share Fromhold Service Center (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Don't have time to shop? Make a donation online at sharevancouver.org and direct your contribution to our 'Seats & Feets' drive.



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