

Holiday 2018

Share Welcomes Becci Read-Ryan as New Hunger Response Assistant Director

Becci shares her enthusiasm for her job and how our Backpack Program and Fresh Food Pantries are truly making a difference in the community:

I have a passion for providing nutrition education and food access to underserved populations. My job has been challenging and incredibly rewarding since I started in August. The first two weeks on the job, I organized an emergency mobile pantry for Evergreen and Vancouver school districts to fill the need for food while schools were unexpectedly closed.

After that, I dove headfirst into making connections with schools and figuring out how the Backpack Program and Fresh Food Pantries worked. **It's amazing how a simple bag of food positively impacts students' and families' ability to function and reduces stress in their life because now they have food they can count on.** They know that they will get food on Fridays, and they don't have to worry about not having anything to feed their children over the weekend. I am excited to continue growing these programs, and hope that I can provide nutritious food to low-income families throughout Clark County in a way that is accessible for them.

One of our fabulous Family & Community Resource Counselors, Jennifer Beeks, recently shared two heart-warming stories from Orchards Elementary School:



Becci Read-Ryan



Josefina (pictured at left) is so thankful for the food support she receives as a participating family in our Backpack Program. Her family of six truly appreciates the additional meals to help extend their family food budget.

In fact, **the kids love the macaroni and cheese so much that they all wanted to have a picture taken with it.** Josefina shared, *"I am so grateful for this program and know that without it my kids would not have as much nutritious food to eat."*

(Continued on page 2)



\$10,095 Raised on #GivingTuesday!



The generosity of donations from our community on #givingtuesday will allow us to buy 8 new bunk beds made of recycled steel, which are durable, sustainable and bed-bug resistant.

#GivingTuesday may have concluded, but the giving doesn't need to end!

Our goal was to raise \$14,400 to buy 12 bunk beds. If you didn't get a chance to donate yet, but would like to support our effort to buy additional new bunk beds for our family shelters, we'll be accepting donations throughout the month of December.

Throughout this year's campaign, we talked about how beds are important to everyone and for so many reasons—a place for story time, a place to do homework, a place to call your own.

Donate on-line at sharevancouver.org (select #GivingTuesday from the drop down menu)

Sharing Lives



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Hunger Response (Cont.)

One active participant at Orchards Elementary is a mother who speaks her native Spanish as well as English. She has become my Fresh Food Pantry star. She helps with set-up and is a personal shopper for all of our families that are not English speaking. She is such an amazing and positive support to our pantry and our school community.



This wonderful woman helps provide for others in our community with translation and support, helping to bridge the gap not only with language, but with trust, showing others her positive relationship with me, the Resource Center and the school as an agency.

This is a wonderful example of why I believe Fresh Food Pantry is vital for our school. It is nutritious food, amazing relationship-building and support for our community in such a tangible and meaningful way.

Did you know? **75% of parents** surveyed said their **child is happier** as a direct result of our Backpack Program*

88% shared that the program **assists with financial limitations**



68% said their child has **increased interest in school**



68% saw **improved physical health** in their child

85% said that it provides for **more family meals**

81% shared that it **lowers their stress** as a parent



* Each year, Share conducts a confidential survey of parents whose child is a participant in our Backpack Program

THERE'S
NO PLACE LIKE

home FOR THE holidays



Dear Friend & Supporter of Share,

Baking cookies, wrapping gifts, hosting a party for family and friends—the holidays can be a magical time, especially when celebrating in the comfort of your own home. But the reality of the holiday season for many in our community looks much different: alone, cold, hungry, hopeless, homeless. Talking about the plight of those less fortunate often shows us a side of life that we tend to shy away from; daily challenges being faced by individuals in our community—our friends, neighbors, strangers, co-workers, children and the elderly—including people like Susan:

Susan was in heart failure and fighting for her life. After a three week stay at the hospital, she was ready to be discharged, but would have faced homelessness—back to living in her car with her nine-year-old son, Arthur. The hospital knew that would be a death sentence for Susan, so they referred her to Share Homestead.

She entered our Respite Room and, for the first month, her whole focus was staying alive and getting better. Share staff partnered with in-home care organizations to make sure that nurses and caregivers could provide Susan with needed services. They also coordinated transportation so that Arthur could continue attending his elementary school. Susan applied for and was delighted to receive a Housing Choice Voucher; but shortly after, she learned that her health conditions had deteriorated and she had about two years to live. Susan was determined to move out of shelter and into housing, to enjoy her final years with her son in their own home.

Susan worked with our Housing Navigator to establish a budget and began applying for housing. Within just one month, Susan had been approved at an apartment complex and on October 18, Susan and Arthur moved into their new home—in time to enjoy the holidays, to create happy memories and enjoy the time they have left together as a family.

Susan's story is not a common one faced by those in shelter, but her struggle is real and relatable to us all. At Share, our work is done with compassion, care and commitment. And fulfilling our commitment includes help from you. Your donation today could help move a local family or individual into an apartment or house. Plus, **all donations made through December 31 will be matched up to \$25,000** to support Share's Housing Navigators.

Your \$50 donation could become \$100 and provide transportation to and from housing tours, budgeting and rental classes, or cover application fees. Your \$500 donation could become \$1,000 and pay for deposits and that critical first month. The application fees and deposits are historically one of the largest hurdles our families face in regard to housing. Not only are local rents extremely high, but landlords often require the first and last month rent in advance, in addition to security and cleaning deposits.

Every person deserves to live without worrying whether they'll have food on their plate or a roof over their head. But instead, far too many people are forced to make hard choices between paying for food, housing and other critical expenses. Please consider a donation to Share and help create a better today and hopeful future for homeless and low-income individuals and families.

Sincerely,

Diane McWithey
Executive Director

Wishing you and yours a warm and joyous holiday season, and prosperous New Year!

Share

Donate on-line: sharevancouver.org | Learn more: facebook.com/ShareVancouver

While helping others, *volunteers become friends...*

What originally started as Vancouver Run, Grub and Chug Club—a social running club that meets on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings for friendly, fun runs in and around Clark County and now boasts nearly 2,000 members—has evolved into that and something more.

RGC saw the importance and value of giving back to the community and created a spin off group called Chuggers Community Service. Contrary to the name, the group includes drinkers and non-drinkers, young and old and everything in between. **One of the main things that members have in common is a desire to make the community a better and brighter place.**

For approximately two years, Chuggers Community Service has been volunteering twice per month at Share House. One night per month the Chuggers don their chefs' hats and prepare homemade meals for the residence of Share Homestead, not knowing what they are cooking until they arrive and seeing what items are available.

Later in the month, they help at the Share Fromhold Service Center doing various tasks around the warehouse. Past activities have included sorting donated clothing, stuffing backpacks for the Share Backpack Program or helping get Christmas trees and decorations ready for display at Share.

Dan Donovan, one of the regular volunteers, originally started giving his time as a way to help those in need. Prior to volunteering, he'd had little interaction with the homeless and while he wanted to help, he felt discomfort when he came across a homeless person. Dan shared:

"I continue to volunteer because of the satisfaction and goodwill I get for volunteering. I often feel that I get more than I give. The staff and residents at Share House are always warm and thankful, making it a pleasure to volunteer."



Seats & Feets Drive a Success!

Thank you to everyone who donated to our 'Seats & Feets' drive, which brought in 1,840 pairs of adult underwear, 1,536 pairs of children's underwear, 959 pairs of socks, six boxes of diapers and \$1,525 in donations to support this campaign.

These daily necessities will be greatly appreciated by clients who receive them as part of the gift-giving through our Holiday Cheer Program!



Doors Open at the New Vancouver Navigation Center

The new Vancouver Navigation Center officially opened its doors on November 19. Located at 2018 Grand Blvd., the center will provide daily living services Monday to Sunday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Services include:

- Case management, housing navigation, and peer support
- Support groups
- Group activities led by Share staff and community volunteers
- Mail services
- Bathrooms & showers
- Laundry
- Clothing and other item requests
- Transportation assistance
- Coffee, tea, water, and snacks
- Computer and internet access
- Electronic charging stations
- Indoor lockers
- Pet cages
- Outside cage storage
- On-site service providers

Share board member Terry Toland spoke at the open house, sharing the following words:

For those of us fortunate to live in the greater Clark County area, we recognize our neighborhoods and communities as a truly special place. This is due to a variety of factors, including relationships built between families, friends, school communities



and faith-based organizations. But we also benefit from the strength and support of our local businesses, local government and community leaders.

Healthy communities thrive through partnership. By connecting multiple systems and movements, and bringing more players and voices to the table, we have fostered and created a brighter and healthier future for generations to come.

A perfect example of this partnership is the Vancouver Navigation Center.

To the City of Vancouver, who purchased this facility and contracted with Share to operate the Day Center;

To the local businesses and community leaders such as CE John, JE John, the Lynch and Nolan Foundations, Woodblock Architecture, the Vancouver Sign Co., Jet Industries, Instafab and Whitewater who partnered with the City to turn this facility into a Day

Center with laundry facilities and showers;

To our community service partners who will provide support to our guests such as Clark County Volunteer Lawyers, Columbia River Mental Health, Community Services Northwest, Council for the Homeless, Food with Friends, Goodwill Job Connection, Lifeline, Planned Parenthood and YWCA Clark County:

Thank you for your compassion and your commitment to helping men and women in need, those who are often unseen or forgotten, those who are someone's daughter, grandfather, neighbor, cousin or friend.

As a Share board member, I am truly honored to be here today as we open this new facility which will offer the vital resources needed to help those who face the daily struggles of homelessness. We can build a better future for everyone and we will do it together.



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Sharing Lives



and the **SOUP'S ON QUEST FOR THE GOLDEN LADLE**



More than 800 guests and volunteers at “Soup’s On! Celebrity Chefs Compete for Share” on Sept. 30 at ilani Casino Resort helped to raise a record-breaking \$150,462, with \$45,000 of that total raised during the special appeal alone. The event was presented by Davidson & Associates Insurance and supported by Fred Meyer and Pacific Premier Bank.

A major highlight of the event was the awards for best soup with the coveted Golden Ladle People’s Choice Award for Soup-er Chef awarded to Bob Rasaphangthong of Nom Nom Restaurant & Grill. Rasaphangthong was also awarded the Chef’s Choice Award for Best Soup.

The Presenting Sponsor’s Choice for Best Soup by Davidson & Associates Insurance was presented to Tim Conklin of Line & Lure at the ilani Casino Resort.

A total of 13 local celebrity chefs participated in the ‘Chef Battle,’ with guests sampling each soup and casting a ballot. Representatives from Davidson & Associates Insurance cast a vote for the Presenting Sponsor’s Choice and each chef cast a vote for the Chef’s Choice. Additional chefs and restaurants included: Chris Monek of Beaches Restaurant & Bar, Bonnie Brasure of Bleu Door Bakery, Capers Ogletree of Eatery at the Grant House, Marian Adams of Frontier Public House, Brandon Carmon of Legacy Medical Center Salmon Creek, Ulises Ramos of Mill Creek Pub, Lindsey Meinhard of New Season’s Market, Tamara Leibfarth of Simply Thyme Catering, Troy Sazzman of 3 Sheets at the Harbor, Kelsey Neimeyer of Tommy O’s Pacific Rim Bistro and Mychal Culver of Warehouse ’23.

The evening’s program included the presentation of the 2018 Emily Marshall Volunteer of the Year Award to Kathy Sluznis, the 2018 Youth Volunteer of the Year Award to Audrey Chang and the 2018 Community Partnership Award to Community Services Northwest, accepted by executive director Bunk Moren.

Guests were asked to ‘Drop Their Drawers’ for our door prize drawing by bringing a donation of new underwear—an amazing total of 1,468 new pairs of adult underwear and 1,332 new pairs of children’s underwear were donated. These donations will be given to clients in Share’s outreach, shelter and housing programs.

Each guest also took home an artisan soup bowl created by local artists Pat Brame, Nick Molatore, Kelly Kegwin, Sam Mackenzie, Stephen Mickey and Honna Sheffield.

Finally, an enormous thank you to all of this year’s sponsors, who are listed on the opposite page!



Our fabulous MC: Eric Sawyer of BBSI



All our 2018 Soup’s On! Chefs!



Bob Rasaphangthong of Nom Nom and Tim Conklin of Line & Lure.



Incredible generosity for our special appeal guided by board president Adam Roselli.

Sharing Lives

Indiana Jones & the Temple of Soup Sponsor:



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We Named the Dog Indiana Sponsors:



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We'll go **BACK IN TIME** to celebrate **40 years**

Then look toward **THE FUTURE** for **Share & our community!**

Sunday, October 6, 2019 @ ilani Casino Resort





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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



Featuring entertainment by Andy Stokes, who has been sharing his soulful voice and undeniable musical mastery with the Northwest music culture for more than three decades, performing to sold-out crowds throughout the Northwest and across the country. His hit single *Best Day Ever* is now in the top 10 on the Billboard R&B recurring chart, putting him on the national stage amongst musicians such as Bruno Mars, Cardi-B, John Legend, Peabo Bryson and Toni Braxton!

Gala tickets on sale on January 7 @ sharevancouver.org