As coronavirus continues to dominate the news, we want to assure you that Share is focused on our mission and committed to doing our part to ensure the safety of our clients, staff, volunteers, donors and supporters, and the community at large.

It’s true, these are unprecedented times. But our community always steps up to help those in need.

We are grateful for our partnerships with Evergreen (EPS) and Vancouver Public Schools (VPS). While VPS is suspending their food program at this time, we continue to get bags of food to children—and their families—through EPS. At the Share Fromhold Service Center, a small crew of staff and volunteers (while adhering to social distancing guidelines) pack 600+ food bags which are available at “grab & go” school locations from 9 to 11 a.m. on Thursdays (visit evergreenps.org for site locations, vansd.org for updates and clarkcountyfoodbank.org/coronavirus for additional food resources).

While our dining room at Share House is closed, our ‘delivery window’ is open. To-go meals are served daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner; meals times remain the same. This change was implemented on March 14 and will continue until further notice.

We are grateful to St. Paul Lutheran, St. Andrew Lutheran and St. Luke’s Episcopal churches who despite closing their faith services continue to provide space for the Winter Hospitality Overflow and Women’s Housing and Transition shelters.

We also want to express our appreciation to the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington who has granted funds to Share so that we may provide hazard pay to our staff on the front line continuing to provide essential services to the most vulnerable members of our community.

We cannot fully express the depth of our gratitude for individual volunteers and business groups who continue to donate their time to help keep these programs open and serving our neighbors and families who rely on these meals.

Share Fromhold Service Center: Due to increased risk of spreading coronavirus, the Share Fromhold Service Center will be open by appointment only. If you have a scheduled appointment, please ring the doorbell. No donations are being accepted at this time.

Share Family Shelters: We will continue to provide meals to the families and single women living at Share Homestead, as well as providing support to our off-campus families residing temporarily at local apartments while Share Orchards Inn is under construction.

At all Share facilities, we will continue to follow all recommended local sanitation and health guidelines. Staff members practice proper hygiene, including handwashing with soap and water, as well as disinfecting high-touch surfaces. (Continued on page 2)
Our response continued ...

Clients in shelters, at Lincoln Place and those receiving meals at Share House also are encouraged to practice proper handwashing with soap for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol when handwashing isn’t available.

The show will go on for our ‘There’s No Business Like Share Business’ Annual Gala, which has been postponed to Saturday, August 8, 2020 (page 4).

Our Appeal for Meals (formerly called Hunger Appeal) will still be held during the first week of June (page 8).

For Our Volunteers:

- Liquid hand soap and single-use paper towels are stocked at all hand-washing sinks/stations.
- Hand sanitizer is provided at entrances and common areas.
- Volunteers accepting and sorting donations will be provided with disposable gloves.
- All high-touch surfaces, including door handles, restrooms, counters, tables, surfaces in use during volunteer activities, will be routinely disinfected.

Volunteers age 60 and over are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to stay home and not volunteer. We will not bar you from entering, but we acknowledge the unique risks facing our older volunteers, and we want you to be safe.

We serve a vulnerable population. We understand your commitment to helping those in need. However, we kindly request any volunteers with symptoms of an illness (e.g. cough, fever, sore throat) notify us, and to stay home until symptom free for 72 hours. Additionally, if your immune system is compromised or you are nervous about being in a public place, we respect and support your decision to stay home. When you are ready to come back and volunteer, our doors will always be open to you.

This is a dynamic and fast-moving situation. We are regularly monitoring updates from the Clark County Public Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) as well as twice weekly phone meetings conferences with public providers. We respect and follow recommendations by experts in the field.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this issue, please contact Diane McWithey, Executive Director, dmcwithey@sharevancouver.org or Amy Reynolds, Deputy Director, areynolds@sharevancouver.org.

Let your legacy

LEAVE A LEGACY

The impact of a final gift in your will could go further than you think

A gift in your will

The meals, shelter & housing that you could provide

The men, women & children you can help

Making our community home for future generations

To discuss some of the options available, please contact Diane McWithey, Share’s Executive Director, at (360) 952-8216.
Lincoln Place Celebrates 4th Anniversary with 1-year, 100% Retention!

In February, Lincoln Place celebrated its four-year anniversary! Our staff went all out to celebrate these milestones with the residents, including a BBQ, desserts, awards, prizes and lots of fun. We are so glad that we were able to host this celebration prior to the current situation.

“Lincoln Place is a special community that serves our community’s most vulnerable. We strive to have an enrichment-oriented community, with activities, wellness groups and living skills groups, so that we can help people live more independently after transitioning out of homelessness,” said Michelle Bittinat, Housing First Director.

And in addition to the excitement of the anniversary, Lincoln Place also marked a one-year, 100% housing retention rate. “It’s super exciting, because of the nature of how high-needs our clients are,” added Michelle.

The success of Lincoln Place is shared with many partners whom we’d like to thank including Vancouver Housing Authority, Clark County Community Services, Housing & Health Innovation Partnership, CDM Caregiving Services and Community Services Northwest—Thank you!

Volunteer Spotlight: Sue Young

After moving to Vancouver, I began looking for places I could volunteer my time in order to use the skills I had learned during my professional life in human resources. I drove by Share on Andresen Road several times and thought that it might be a good place to start giving back to the community.

I made an appointment with the director of volunteers and was soon scheduled to work in the office to do volunteer application background checks, data entry, calling and emailing to schedule volunteers, lots of filing, plus “other duties as assigned.” I have also enjoyed special opportunities like the Holiday Cheer program, Easter baskets, school supplies and Soup’s On.

I believe that volunteering is beneficial in two major ways:

- By using the talents and gifts that I have been given, I am able to help and care for others
- It gives me a sense of accomplishment and self-worth in my retirement years

I have been reading Outlive Your Life by Max Lucado. I believe he says it best: “No one can do everything, but everyone can do something.”

And my “something” is volunteering in the Share office.
Every28Days: Because Feminine Hygiene Products Should Not Be a Privilege

For women and girls experiencing homelessness or in low-income families, having a period is especially challenging as feminine hygiene products cannot be purchased with food stamps and are extremely expensive.

Our Every28Days drive was designed to help. In February, the drive collected an amazing 782 boxes (big & small).

Thank you to all of our community partners for supporting this effort with collection bins (listed at right), especially Amy Cheng, Chicago Title Company-Clark County Washington, for bringing this issue to light and for rejuvenating the drive this year.

We plan to hold this drive annually in February. If you are interested in participating next year by hosting a bin at your office, church, etc., please contact Heather Walker at hwalker@sharevancouver.org.

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Our community supports us in amazing and creative ways. One of those individuals is Cynthia, who brings us a move-in basket almost every week. When asked how she came up with the idea, she was happy to share her story.

Cynthia was watching the evening news and saw a story about the City of Vancouver and how it was doing a great job of finding housing for folks. “I look at this problem every day and ask: What can I do?” she said.

She came up with the idea of creating move-in baskets with just about everything you’d need when moving into a new home. She started by making a checklist and then she hit the stores—yard and estate sales, plus thrift stores—searching for silverware, dinner plates, skillets, baking pans, mixing bowls and so much more.

She spends time scrubbing, cleaning and shining items and then matching them into sets. “I don’t give anyone items I wouldn’t use myself. I want someone to be proud to have friends eat at their table.”

Her husband also helps by rewiring lamps and sharpening knives; he even buys wood to make frames for artwork or a new cutting board.

However, she does always buy one item new: “I believe everyone deserves new towels.”

In her garage, she has a table and shelves to store purchased items. This is also where she sorts them, ultimately packing a completed set into a laundry basket. She said she imagines people in their new home thinking: Gosh, this is great, a roof over my head. I can cook, keep myself clean, get a job and build a new life.

“The move-in baskets are super incredible and so helpful when filling orders for people that are celebrating the reality of a new home,” said Nicole Hanna, Share Program Assistant.

“I feel it is important that everyone do something if they can. Share does an amazing job, and everyone deserves a second chance,” said Cynthia.

It’s heart-warming when we receive letters of thanks in the mail, like this hand-written note from the end of February.

“You are doing a tremendous work in our community, one that touches many lives and enhance their quality of life and standard of living.”

At Share, our dedicated, compassionate staff perform vital work, every day, because they believe that every belly should be full, every soul should be warmed, and every head should be sheltered—regardless of circumstance. Thank yous are not necessary, but they are very much appreciated.
In February, 18 people—including three Share clients—moved into permanent supportive housing at The Pacific Apartments. Staff from Share and Council for the Homeless (CFTH) threw a house warming party to welcome them and each person was gifted with house supplies and a new TV.

“We are thrilled to welcome home 18 individuals with behavioral health challenges who moved from the street to The Pacific thanks to the partnership between Share, Housing Initiative LLC, Council for the Homeless and SeaMar-Community Service Northwest,” said Kate Budd, executive director of CFTH.

CFTH founded Housing Initiative LLC in 2016 to develop and preserve a large portfolio of rental apartments that are designed, financed, owned, and operated from the perspective of the homeless crisis response system. Learn more at housinginitiative.net.
New Date, Update Your Calendar:
Sunday, October 25, 2020
Not a postponement due to coronavirus, just a scheduling conflict!

It will be a truly magical evening with guests enjoying delicious soups, taking home a hand-made, artisan soup bowl, purchase raffle tickets, celebrating our 2020 Emily Marshall Volunteer of the Year, and more, all to support Share’s vital programs & services!

Our ‘cauldrons’ will be prepared by:
- Beaches Restaurant & Bar  | Bleu Door Bakery
- Elements Restaurant  | Frontier Public House
- The Hammond Kitchen & Craft Bar
- Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center
- Line at Lure at ilani Casino Resort  | New Seasons Market
- Nom Nom Restaurant & Grill  | Say Ciao!
- Sixth Avenue Bistro  | WildFin American Grill

Sponsorships available from ‘Sorcerer’s Stone’ Supporting Sponsor at $7,500 to ‘Choose Your House’
- Table Sponsors at $1,000—10 each available for Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff & Ravenclaw.

With 800 guests, this is Share’s most popular event—claim your table soon to ensure your house preference! Contact Kim Hash at khash@sharevancouver.org

Our Soup’s On! event relies on local culinary professionals donating their time, passion and heart to support Share’s mission. Today, we ask you to help support our culinary community.

Restaurants that are able will pivot to alternative service models, including delivery and/or pick-up only, as a way to ensure the health and safety of their staff and the community, while anticipating their ability to open their dining room doors once this crisis has passed.

If you are able, please consider a delivery or take out order from one (or more) of our amazing Soup’s On! participants. While some locations have temporarily closed, most are open; please visit their websites for more information. Thank you.
Mark Your Calendar to Support Our Appeal for Meals:
Make a Donation June 1 to 7

Donations made to Share’s Appeal for Meals (historically called the Hunger Appeal) are used to support our Fresh Food Pantries, Backpack, Summer Meals and Hot Meals Programs, which collectively serve more than 180,150 nutritious meals each year. The success of these Hunger Response programs is measured by our ability to meet the growing food needs of the community through providing meals and food supplies at our current capacity.