



Recent events are not teaching us anything new, they are reminding us what we have ignored. Reactions of grief, rage and protest are not only understandable, they are justified. So, too, are calls for hope, community and change. We want to be part of a community that brings about change.

We are outraged by the continued instances of senseless death, which shine a piercing light on issues of racism, police brutality and inequitable justice that permeate our country. As an organization, we condemn those things. But words aren't enough. The call to action is loud and clear.

We will actively work to dismantle racist systems, focusing on sustainable solutions to structural racism, police violence, and inequitable economic, health care, and education systems. It requires all institutions, including ours, to ask what more we can and should do to live our commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion – and we must be brave enough to make changes.

Share continues to work with the Vancouver Police Department and the Clark County Sheriff's Office to seek positive responses to incidents within our community. Most often, we've worked directly with those involved as opposed to making public statements. However, we have come to acknowledge that silence on inequity is complicity and a public response is both responsible and required.

The vast racial disparities in those experiencing homelessness and poverty are also stark examples of historic inequity, reflecting an unacceptable indifference to the humanity of Black Americans. Too often being homeless is considered a personal or a moral failing. However, homelessness should be understood as a failure of our system to implement the right to affordable housing and to restore justice and dignity to those for whom it matters most.

At Share, we will reexamine our policies to ensure that we are leading with a vision for equity.

Today's crises are a stark reminder of the importance for people to vote, to engage in policy reform and political reform, to not tolerate the rhetoric of fear and anger. Through respectful, constructive and honest conversations, together we can build safer, unified communities to call home.

Sincerely,

Diane McWithey, Executive Director

