

2022 Annual Report

The Hamlet *Lopez Housing Options (LHO)*



Cottage residents and volunteer Wendy decorating the Gathering Place for the holidays!



Karen Gilbert in Hamlet House

Welcome to new Board members, Karen and Barbara!

We welcome our newest Hamlet Board members, Karen Gilbert and Barbara Orcutt. They each bring a wealth of knowledge from careers in nursing and have past connections with Hamlet House and the Cottages.

Karen has her master's degree in geriatric and adult nursing. She worked as a nurse practitioner at an oncology practice, and has done palliative and hospice care. She served as a Hamlet Board member several years ago. We are very lucky to have her back again!

Barbara is a lactation specialist and parent educator with a master's degree in Family and Child Nursing. Barbara's mom, Gale, was our first resident and lived at the Cottages and Hamlet House. Barbara provides interim backup at Hamlet House when Cathy Doherty (ARNP) is off island.

An adult family home must not only provide great care, but also meet requirements and comply with state regulations. Karen and Barbara bring experience in medical settings, and their knowledge will support Hamlet operations. Karen and Barbara each care deeply about ensuring the Cottages and Hamlet House remain strong and viable for Lopez elders. We are so fortunate they have stepped up to join the Hamlet Board and we are grateful for their commitment to senior housing.



Barbara Orcutt (right) with her mom, Gale

2022 Annual Report

Hamlet House



Residents Lucy (center left) and Doris (right) enjoy a round of bingo led by Doris's daughter, Deborah (center right). Caregiver Amy (left) assists with the fun!

Welcome to Billie Blake Fant

Welcome to Billie Blake Fant - who made the move to Hamlet House from her home of 65 years in Houston, Texas. Life there revolved around collaborations with artists, and active participation in the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. Living on Lopez means more time with her daughter, Debbie. Still, it's a big change.

Her room is decorated with paintings, a four-poster bed, and colorful textiles, with two striking portraits of Billie, painted by a dear friend and artist. An IBM Selectric typewriter on her desk hints at her past work.

Billie enrolled in secretarial school after high school - her first job assisting the bank president of Frost Bank. While raising three kids, she worked many years for a large law firm, Vinson Elkins, using shorthand, typing and administrative skills on condemnations, such as to build freeways.

The opportunity to create an exhibit in the foyer of a large bank led to many rewarding years promoting local artists by curating art installations throughout the city. It didn't feel to Billie that she "was the first of anything, but simply doing something that needed to be done". She also developed decorations and permanent installations at her church. Her minister says in admiration, "There will never be another Billie." She looks forward to getting to know the island, and continuing to create art herself.



Nancy (left) and Mary at a Hamlet House tea party



Billie in the dining room

2022 Annual Report

Do You Have a Skill or Hobby to Share?

Elders often realize they are no longer doing things, but things are being done for them and around them. Thus, it's exciting to see Hamlet House staff launching interactive events, festivities, and hands-on activities. Mary Worthy, the staff cook who prepares most meals, also coordinates activities when she has time. These include a recent tea party and a Halloween pumpkin decorating event. Residents actively participated in these shared, hands-on enjoyable experiences, with staff support. Such activities enrich the day, prompting memory sharing, engaging artistic interests, tapping different parts of the brain than reading or passive TV watching.

The Cottage residents also hold activities, often assisted by Board member Mary Ann Cameron and Cottage Executive Director Heather Harrison. These include events such as decorating the Christmas tree together for a holiday celebration at the Gathering Place, story-telling at Halloween and outdoor tea parties and farewell gatherings.

Community members also enhance activities at the Hamlet. Musicians and singers share music, bringing their guitars and beautiful voices for sing-alongs. Residents' family members host game days, work the garden beds near the Hamlet House patio, host social events at the Gathering Place and more. What are your skills or hobbies that you could share? Let us know!

As you read more about us in this update, we invite you to consider visiting the Hamlet, seeing residents in the Cottages, donating to LOHO, volunteering on activities, or joining us to assist with a project. We look forward to your visit.



Rosemary (left), Nate (center), and Rosie (right) after carving pumpkins at the Gathering Place



Diana (left), Mary Ann (center) and Karen (right) at a Cottage holiday event



Billie (left) and Ani (right) painting a Halloween pumpkin together

Special Thanks

Special thanks are extended to Karlena Pickering and Matteus Rabel for helping to develop an informative video about Hamlet House. The video (www.lopezhamlet.com/hamlet-house-promo-video), now posted on YouTube and on the LOHO website, helps introduce people to the many benefits of Hamlet House from the perspective of residents and family members. Thanks to Heather, Karlena was able to schedule several interviews with family members, Board members and residents for a compelling video. Karlena and Matteus worked well together to produce the final result! Many thanks to them both!

2022 Annual Report

To You - Our Generous Donors

We thank you for your bountiful contributions to LOHO, which make our elder housing and caregiving services possible. Your support enables us to keep Hamlet House fees as low as possible for islanders, and to provide living wages to our dedicated Hamlet House caregiver staff. We strive to provide affordable housing for active seniors in the Cottages, as well as practical supports that enable them to remain independent in their homes on Lopez. We gratefully acknowledge these gifts received from donors as of mid-December 2022:

Laura Adams
Connie & Fritz Baesman
Mary Ann & Larry Bailey
Carolyn Baldwin
Howie & Melinda Bargreen
Edith Blomberg
Tom Brown
Nancy & Jim Caleshu
Mary Ann & Cliff Cameron
Rebecca & Gene Chao
Marty Clark & Karen Gilbert
Ann Nason Cowley
Mary Bywater Cross
Tara & Sand Dalton
Heike & Alan Deubner
Claudia Elwell & Christine Langley
Lawrence Eppenbach
Barry Fatemie
Charles Gadd
Jim Ghiglione & Sherry Brummel
Charles Givens
Todd Goldsmith & Diane Dear
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Brian & Christina Krantz
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Nancy Luebke
Jerry Manion
Timothy Maxson
Nora McCloy & Terry Larson
Wendy McClure
Virginia McDonald
Margaret Mechaley
Rhea Miller & Sandy Bishop
Clarke & Stephene Moseley
Barbara Nason
Joseph Nelson
Barbara & Gerald Nepom
Nancy Nordhoff & Lynn Hays
Jim & Barbara Orcutt
Patricia Paton
Jim Phillips
Ted Phillips
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Migael Scherer
Barbara Schultheiss
Mike Seifert

Ed & Diana Sheridan
Randy Simon
Douglas & Marcia Stevenson
Mary Stiger
Rick Strachan
Danny Stratton
Lexi & Kirm Taylor
Nick & Susie Teague
Jane Todaro
Anne Trench
Renée VandePutte
Robin VanHyning
Florence Wagner
Terry Wean & Capper Heffernan
John & Carol Whetten
Anne Whirledge-Karp
Carolyn Woodbury

Organizations:
AmazonSmile
Apple
Lopez Thrift Shop
Microsoft
Windermere Real Estate Lopez
Winston-Salem Foundation

In memory of:
Barbara Fleming (and Millie)

In honor of:
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Radwick

Thank You!

2022 Annual Report

The Cottages



The Hamlet Cottages: Abundant Gratitude

The residents of the Hamlet Cottages are filled with gratitude this holiday season. At our Thanksgiving gathering, we created a silly, but meaningful, “thankful turkey.” Residents shared what they are most grateful for: to live on Lopez, to be surrounded by a caring community, family and pets, to reside in a cozy cottage, to have terrific island medical professionals and great Hamlet staff, and more.

These heart-warming comments remind us how important these Cottages are to our community. They foster continued independence with the benefits of a close-knit community. Families on Lopez recognize that the Cottages provide comfortable, supportive housing for our dear family, friends, and in the future, maybe even ourselves, to stay close to those whom we love on Lopez.



A fun hat, ice cream social farewell to the Christensens



Marlene and Millie relaxing in the Gathering Place

2022 Annual Report

Staff

Heather Harrison,
 Cottage Executive Director
 Alex Davis, Resident Manager & Admin.
 Amy Hatchel, Caregiver
 Masako Kikuchi, Caregiver
 Ani Sanburn-Bill, Admin. Assistant
 Tammy Schible, Caregiver
 Mary Worthy, Cook & Activities Coord.



Board Members

Nancy Wynen, Chair
 Barbara Orcutt,
 Vice Chair
 Mary Ann Cameron,
 Secretary/Treasurer
 Karen Gilbert
 Ed Sheridan

Thank you for special project support to: Rebecca Chao, Cathy Doherty, Melora Hiller, AnneMarie Killen-Gall, Wendy McClure, Peggy Means, and Robin VanHyning.

The Hamlet has remained financially stable this past year, despite rising expenses. Inflation has affected the costs of supplies, food, utilities and staffing at the Hamlet House. Maintenance costs are rising as the 14 Cottages, Gathering Place and Hamlet House age and require attention. Occupancy at both of our facilities has remained high, but serving the needs of our lower income residents (seven Cottages, one Hamlet House bed) requires that the Hamlet rely on the generosity of donors to help cover the costs of care and maintenance.

In addition to the accounts shown below, we have a separate account to track long-term maintenance, a small endowment fund and several reserve accounts. Our unrestricted donations account tracks expenditures of general donations used for all of the Hamlet's needs. We are so grateful to our wonderfully generous donors. Thank you.

