

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Hamlet *Lopez Housing Options (LHO)*



AN UPDATE FROM JIM ORCUTT, BOARD CHAIR

What an amazing, rapid six years these have been. I will complete my time on The Hamlet Board of Directors in February. When I first joined, the fiscal condition of The Hamlet was dire and bankruptcy was being considered. However, due to strong leadership from board members such as Rebecca Chao, Charlie Janeway and Paula Walker, the financial condition slowly improved. The Hamlet has become much more fiscally sound, having a reserve as well as a long-term maintenance fund. The Cottages and Hamlet House are now full and there is a waiting list. The bank loan has been renegotiated at a lower interest rate and all other Cottage debt eliminated. In addition, leadership has stabilized and we have been able to cover large maintenance costs as the buildings age.

We owe much to the founders who had a vision of providing comfortable, safe housing for aging Lopezians. The focus remains on serving local families so that their loved ones can remain on Lopez. Both Becky Smith and Heather Harrison make The Hamlet run smoothly and seamlessly. I'd like to thank the managers, board members and residents for making my time on the board memorable, as well as those who have supported The Hamlet over the years, both financially and by volunteering. Without your ongoing support, The Hamlet would not exist.

WELCOME TO BOARD MEMBER MARY ANN CAMERON

The Hamlet staff and board would like to give a warm welcome to our newest board member, Mary Ann Cameron. Mary Ann is a native Washingtonian and graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Communications. She worked in health care public relations for several Seattle hospitals as well as Blue Cross, and was associated with Rick Steves' Europe for many years. She has served on the Board of Directors for REI and the Edmonds Arts Festival, and is a board member for the Lopez Island Vineyards and Winery. Mary Ann has been a volunteer with the Lopez Thrift Shop for more than 30 years. She guided her mother through the maze of senior living "opportunities" in her golden years, and learned much in the process of going from independent living to assisted living to nursing home care. Her "been there, done that" experience makes her grateful for the resource The Hamlet is for the Lopez community.



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Hamlet House



Colby enjoys his time outside on the Hamlet House porch. Elsie sits in the background reading old letters.



Howard bundles and masks up to go outside to see his daughter, Connie.

MEET HAMLET HOUSE'S NEW SPARK, CLEO

Cleo is the new young spark that Hamlet House residents and staff look forward to seeing each week! The upstairs apartment is this sweet puppy's second home since her owner, caregiver Kaycee Lawrence, lives there Monday through Thursday. She joyfully bounds toward anyone that she knows, and she's always excited to see her Hamlet House friends!



Doris enjoys a game of bingo with the other Hamlet House residents and staff.

A YEAR OF CHANGE AT HAMLET HOUSE

We started off the year with an open room at Hamlet House. At the time, two different families were considering moving a family member to Lopez from facilities in Seattle. However, before either became final, COVID-19 came roaring into our world and everything came to a stop.

The shutdown went into effect as fear and uncertainty filled our lives. Masks, hand washing, limited visits with family, and restrictions on trips away from our facility became our reality and remain so today. We have all had to adapt to changes that have now become routine.

We were finally able to welcome a new resident, Penny, into our empty room in July! We are grateful to have a full house, and we feel very fortunate that everyone has remained healthy. We are all enjoying our new addition – Cleo. Somehow a new puppy brightens up the day! We look forward to a time when family and friends are allowed into the facility again and usual activities are able to resume.

-Becky Smith, Hamlet House Manager

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The Cottages

COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

Community has always been a guiding light at The Hamlet Cottages. Neighbors celebrate together, connect as a community and support each other. They even occasionally bake and cook for one another!

Despite the pandemic and required precautions, residents have creatively found ways to continue to foster community here, be it listening to opera on a neighbor's front porch, walking The Hamlet paths together, or celebrating a special occasion on the Gathering Place front patio. Life here has continued on with a vibrancy, warmth, and enthusiasm!

Although we are at capacity, it is a good time to put your name on our Cottage applicant list. Cottages occasionally open up, and we always enjoy welcoming new neighbors into our tight-knit community!

-Heather Harrison, Executive Director

GALE MCCALLUM
5/29/1924 - 12/16/2019



Gale McCallum was a generous supporter of The Hamlet from the beginning. She served on the initial board in 2004, was one of the first residents to move into a Cottage in 2008, and found abundant ways to contribute to the well being of our community. As someone who lived well into her 90s, she was a model for many, showing us how to live with independence, grace, and daily delight no matter what our age. Gale loved to be involved and active. Among her variety of interests, she was a member of two book clubs, attended Grace Church every Sunday, and was always a vocal ambassador for The Hamlet, encouraging many to make it their home. An avid gardener and advocate for native species, she planted trees, shrubs and ground coverings at her Cottage that attracted birds and bees as well as admiring friends and neighbors. In Gale's final months when she needed more support, she moved to Hamlet House, where she passed away peacefully. As one longtime Hamlet friend said, "When I think of Gale, I think of beauty. She made everything beautiful. Her support of others at The Hamlet reflected a beautiful empathetic character, and her intelligence and wisdom helped us all find ways through the hard times. When I think about The Hamlet now, there is a hole - she is so missed."



Rosemary, Phyllis and Florence enjoy their socially distanced visiting.



Karen and Pete enjoy the beautiful fall sun from their Cottage porch.

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STAFF

Heather Harrison, Executive Director
 Becky Smith, Hamlet House Manager
 Linda DiBona, Cottage personal assistant
 Amanda Bailey, caregiver
 Masako Kikuchi, caregiver
 Kaycee Lawrence, caregiver
 Ani Sanburn-Bill, caregiver
 Tammy Schible, caregiver
 Siri Sourbeer, caregiver



Photo by Robert S. Harrison Photography

BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Orcutt, Chair
 Bill White, Secretary
 Mary Ann Cameron
 Cathy Doherty
 Ruth Fothergill
 Marlene Giedd-Clark
 Levanne Hendrix
 Ed Sheridan
 Robin VanHyning
 Nancy Wynen

The Hamlet has remained financially stable in 2020, despite increased expenses due to COVID-19. We received a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan and an Economic Injury Disaster Loan which have helped greatly with increased expenses for The Hamlet due to the pandemic. While these are currently still loans, we are hopeful that at least one, if not both, will be forgiven in the coming year.

As The Hamlet facilities age, the maintenance costs rise. The graphs below show the annual repair and replacement maintenance costs, while the more major long-term maintenance (such as painting, roofing, new major appliances, etc.) is covered by a Long Term Maintenance account.

We also have additional generous donations being held in a separate Unrestricted Donations account. Our Hamlet House and moderate rate Cottage rents do not fully cover expenses, and these donations are crucial in order to keep rents affordable. Many thanks to all of our amazing and generous donors that keep us operating and have helped us get through this complicated time!

