

2021 Annual Report

The Hamlet *Lopez Housing Options (LHO)*



Halloween lunch at Hamlet House (staff unmasked briefly for a quick photo).

Making an Enduring Impact

The Hamlet House we know and love today would not exist, were it not for the leadership and hard work of Becky Smith. Before becoming manager in 2015, Becky served on the Hamlet board. At that time, Hamlet House had only three seniors in residence and three staff. As an adult family home, it could house six. The lack of income forced the Board to consider dire options, like shutting down or selling. They were stymied.

After the Hamlet House manager resigned, Becky stepped up to turn things around. As a lifelong caregiver, Becky has a passion for eldercare. Within months, she boosted the number of residents to five. Becky also recognized the need to shift the original vision of serving Lopez seniors, to also offering a place that Lopez residents could bring their elders from off-island. The shift in focus worked. Hamlet House gained a better reputation, and people welcomed their loved ones to stay at Hamlet House as they aged.

Fast forward to today - Hamlet House is full, with six residents and a waiting list. Even during COVID-19, residents have enjoyed some community activities outdoors and masked family member visits.

Thanks to responsive donors, careful spending, and an average 92% occupancy, the budget is more secure and staffing is fully funded. Recruiting caregivers remains a challenge nationally and on Lopez as well.

As the board considers future plans, Becky has announced her intention to retire in May 2022. She has made an enduring impact on the health of Hamlet House and the wellbeing of its elders. Her creative energy and community connections have yielded many benefits, and thanks to her efforts, Hamlet House is on solid ground. Families may keep their loved ones on Lopez for care at end of life. Becky hopes The Hamlet will endure many more years, as a great place for seniors and the workers who care for them.

In anticipating her retirement next year, Becky looks forward to fewer after hours calls at home and more time to visit family off-island. She won't be a stranger at The Hamlet though, perhaps volunteering for special occasions and maybe being a guest chef at a future Hamlet House event!

We're so fortunate she stepped up! Thank you Becky!

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Hamlet House



Residents Clara and Lucy participate in an arts and crafts project, led by Britney Westervelt. Caregiver Tammy Schible and Manager Becky Smith join in the fun as well.

Getting to Know Clara

Last January, Clara moved into Hamlet House from across the country in southern Illinois. Her first venture to Lopez came in 1970, camping with her family all the way west, staying on newly purchased land on Lopez Sound. Ever since, Lopez has been a focal point of her summer plans. Now that Lopez is home full time, she and her daughter enjoy strolls at Otis Perkins or at the Fisherman Bay Preserve.

In the earlier years, getting out for a walk on Lopez - to Shark Reef, Watmough, Colville, or Iceberg Point, brought her special joy. Clara has a keen eye for spotting wildflowers tucked in the woods or sighting birds in trees, on a beach or in the water. She has relished hikes all over southern Illinois, in the Smoky Mountains and across the western states, in Europe and Hawaii. When not hiking, her love of reading books, her efforts on social justice and women's issues and a long career in mental health kept her engaged and connected to her community.

She feels fortunate that her name came up on the list at Hamlet soon after her longtime partner passed away at 103, necessitating a change of residence. Making the move during COVID-19 wasn't easy, but the staff, Hamlet House residents, and Hamlet Cottage residents welcomed her and she is content to be here, on lovely Lopez Island.



Clara out walking at Fisherman Bay Preserve.



Clara, Elsie, and Lucy enjoying the sun!

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The Cottages



Some of the Cottage residents posing for a photo on a brisk fall day.

The Hamlet Cottages: A Caring Community

Our Hamlet Cottage community has remained strong throughout the pandemic, with seniors continuing to share and visit with each other (often outdoors). I have been especially touched to see how much cottage neighbors look after each other, whether it's simply by sharing their morning coffee, bringing by freshly baked bread, celebrating a birthday with a card, or watering plants for a neighbor while they are away. The Hamlet is a special place - and the residents who call it home make it the incredible, caring community that it is.

Heather Harrison, Cottage Executive Director



Ed Sheridan, Cottage resident and Board Chair, greeting guests at a special Hamlet event.

Spirit of the Hamlet, Early Spring 2021

It's been a dark and gloomy day
The snow has melted, but today
The rain is "reigning", so it seems -
It gushed its way into our dreams.
Our poor old country - on the ropes -
The virus takes away our hopes -
But wait! The latest news is hot -
We're lining up to take our shot!
Tomorrow, friends, the sun will shine.
We'll soak it up - won't that be fine?
I'm sick of staying so apart
From fellow beings - but it's smart
To keep that doggone bug at bay -
Can we bear it just one more day?

You've all been great - you've passed the test -
Your cookie-making's quite the best!
From shepherd's pie to flower sketches
You've shared your gifts with us poor wretches!
I'm not a cook - my skills are few -
A little jingle's what I do -
So here you are, my neighbors dear
I want to make this very clear -
We'll make it through this winter long
And all because we **WILL BE STRONG!**

By Resident Rosemary Berleman, Age 96



Rosemary enjoying herself at The Hamlet ice cream social on the green.

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Staff

Heather Harrison,
Cottage Exec. Director
Becky Smith,
Hamlet House Manager
Alex Davis, Resident Manager
Amy Hatchel, Caregiver
Masako Kikuchi, Caregiver
Tammy Schible, Caregiver
Siri Sourbeer, Caregiver
Ece Kocak, Cook/Housekeeper
Ani Sanburn-Bill, Cook/Housekeeper



Cottage resident Marlene with her mentee, Christopher, and dog, Millie.

Board Members

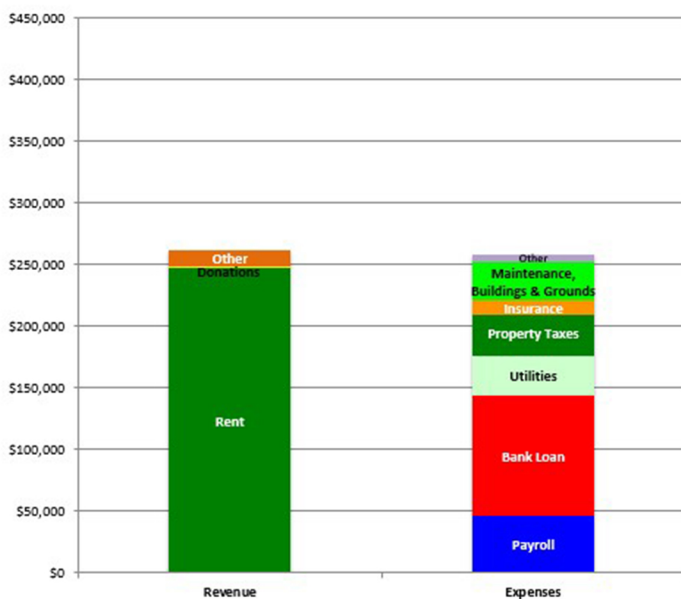
Ed Sheridan, Chair
Nancy Wynen, Vice Chair
Mary Ann Cameron,
Secretary/Treasurer
Cathy Doherty
Ruth Fothergill
Connie Harris
Levanne Hendrix
Laura Matthews
Wendy McClure
Robin VanHyning

The Hamlet has remained financially stable in 2021. Although expenses at The Hamlet were somewhat affected by the pandemic, occupancy at both of our facilities remained high and our campus stayed free of COVID-19. We were also pleased to have our 2020 Payroll Protection Program loan forgiven.

This year, we were able to offer health insurance to our employees, as well as provide hourly rate increases to our Hamlet House caregivers. The USDA, our Hamlet House loan holder, also wrote a complimentary letter in regards to our proper cash flow. "LOHO is to be commended for their success in operating the much-needed assisted living facility for their clients and community."

In addition to the accounts shown below, we have separate accounts for major long-term maintenance expenses, for unrestricted donations (used largely to fund operations, particularly the Hamlet House), reserve accounts for Hamlet loans, and a small endowment. We are so grateful for our kind and generous donors who ensure that The Hamlet can provide this important service to our community. Thank you!

2021 Cottage Revenue & Expenses
(Last 3 months forecasted)



2021 Hamlet House Revenue & Expenses
(Last 3 months forecasted)

