

# 2023 Annual Report

## *The Hamlet* *Lopez Housing Options (LHO)*



*Cottage residents in front of the Gathering Place for a fall photo.*



*Hamlet residents Diana, Nancy, and Lucy celebrate Nancy's birthday with the help of Nancy's daughters, Elf (pictured) and Deb (not pictured).*



*Caregiver Barb enjoying time with Lucy.*

### It Takes A Village

The Hamlet has proven to be popular with Lopez seniors, serving over 90 individuals since it opened its doors over 15 years ago. We achieved occupancy rates over 95% this year, with a solid waiting list of individuals who would like to move in and over 100 financial and volunteer supporters.

Yet, there are challenges regarding financial sustainability. The Hamlet buildings and grounds are aging and require more ongoing maintenance, with long-term maintenance expenses rising an average of 60% per year in each of the last eight years. Revitalizing them is crucial. Hamlet Cottage Executive Director Heather Harrison and contractor Dave Welker have reviewed the expected long-term maintenance expenses for the next ten years. Raising an additional \$300,000 will be necessary to keep up with rising costs.

The Hamlet was created out of a belief that seniors on Lopez Island should be able to stay in the community they love as they age. Supporters are offered the opportunity to direct gifts to the long-term maintenance fund, in order to sustain the integrity of the buildings and grounds to benefit current and future residents. We are so grateful to have a community that firmly believes in the importance of preserving The Hamlet. By making a gift today, we can achieve this vital goal together.



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*Hamlet House Resident Nancy (Center) celebrating her 94th birthday with friends in the Gathering Place.*

## Hamlet House Capacity Increase

Penny Gilde is delighted she could return to live at Hamlet House this year, after the Washington State Department of Health and Human Services (DSHS) approved an increase in capacity at the adult family home. Due to this increase, Penny could return after recovering from health issues that took her to the mainland. Penny loves Lopez and is so pleased to be back near friends on the island. Her sunny room previously served as the staff break room, but staff now use the upstairs apartment. The innovative re-use of spaces will allow up to eight residents to live in Hamlet House.

Earlier in 2023, Hamlet House manager Amy Hatchel worked with Hamlet Board member Karen Gilbert to seek approval for a capacity increase from DSHS. We are very pleased that the approval came through this summer.

In the past, Hamlet House was licensed to care for up to six residents – now we can offer care for up to eight people. If two people wish to move into a room together, the approval now makes this possible. Having more residents means more interactions and opportunities for shared activities, two keys to healthy aging.

The expanded capacity approval is positive news on many fronts. It provides:

- More flexibility to host couples or residents who want to share a room
- Increased rent income for Hamlet House, which will allow more staff hiring
- More stimulating conversations and activities among Hamlet residents, due to more residents living together
- More of an ability to keep room rates as affordable as possible

With support of our community and careful management of Hamlet House, we continue to make elder care and housing available, right here on Lopez.



*Penny decorating a Thanksgiving cookie.*



*Previously Phyllis' Sweet Boy Kitty, George is now loving life with Jim and Colleen.*



*Steve delving into the art of frosting*



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## A Circle of Community



*GGK with her dog, Little Bit.*

On a recent Sunday afternoon, Hamlet Cottage residents made their way to the Gathering Place to enjoy informal conversation and connection with their neighbors at a "Sunset Social" organized by new Cottage resident Gayle G. Kellner (aka GGK) and long-time Cottage resident Marlene Giedd-Clark.

GGK and Marlene came up with a catchy name, "Sunset Social", and reached out to invite their neighbors to the Gathering Place. They figured Sunday afternoon is often a time for family gatherings, and as Marlene said, "This is my family!" The Gathering Place is the shared "living room" of the Cottages. The cozy fireplace, with comfortable chairs and sofa, dining tables, kitchen, large windows for

natural light, artwork and even a grand piano make for an inviting place to share stories, food, drinks and laughter. A perfect place for crossing paths with Cottage friends.

It was such fun, "Sunset Socials" are planned for the coming winter months. People delighted in the afternoon social time and snacks, and GGK played the piano. The gatherings knit the community even closer. GGK says spending time with Cottage residents and learning about their fascinating lives is enriching.

Being centered in a community matters to GGK. When a cottage came open, it was perfect timing to move to the Hamlet. During prior years living on Lopez, Orcas, San Juan, and Vashon, GGK has always tuned into the gifts of such community circles. Not only is GGK engaged with her neighbors at the Cottages, she plays an active role on the Hamlet Board of Directors as the Cottage Representative, serving as a key liaison between the Board and Cottage residents. The Board benefits immensely from GGK's participation and the input she brings from her conversations with her newest circle of community.



*Karen, Nancy, and Diana pause for a Halloween photo.*



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## Staff

Heather Harrison,  
Cottage Exec. Director  
Amy (Jenison) Hatchel,  
Hamlet House Director  
Ani Sanburn-Bill,  
Administrative Assistant  
Barb Hatchel, Caregiver  
Jett Ayala, Caregiver  
Masako Kikuchi, Caregiver  
Siri Sourbeer, Caregiver  
Tammy Schible, Caregiver



*Amy Hatchel, Hamlet House Director, gratefully accepts a grant from Fritz Baesman, Treasurer of Lopez Lion's Club.*

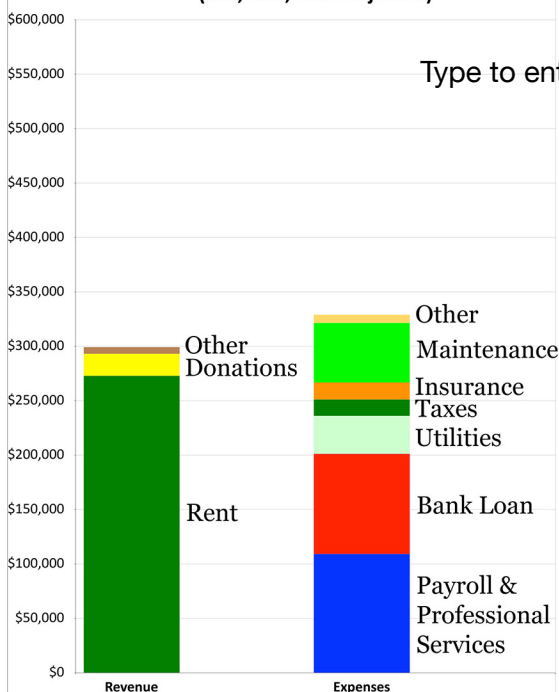
## Board Members

Nancy Wynen, Chair  
Barbara Orcutt,  
Vice Chair  
Mary Ann Cameron,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Gayle G. Kellner  
Karen Gilbert  
Kip Greenthal

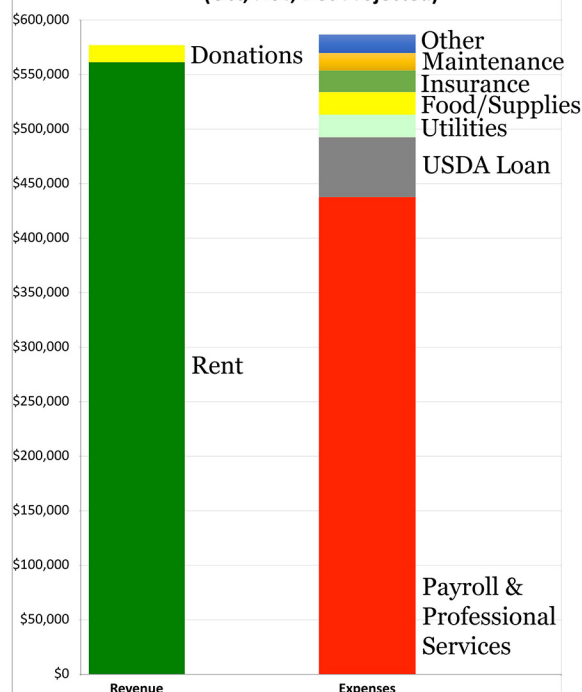
A special thanks to Wendy McClure and Peggy Means for their help with writing and editing this newsletter.

The Hamlet would like to acknowledge Shel Haber for his role as an advisor this year in the areas of finance and external funding opportunities. Though he spends part of his time in Arizona, he was generous in his willingness to help us on short notice. If you have a special skill, whether it be finance, landscaping, or interior painting, we would benefit if you could contribute your skills to help the Hamlet community. Please contact Heather Harrison at [director@lopezhamlet.com](mailto:director@lopezhamlet.com) and let her know of your interest.

**2023 Cottage Revenue & Expenses  
(Oct, Nov, Dec Projected)**



**2023 Hamlet House Revenue & Expenses  
(Oct, Nov, Dec Projected)**



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