

Creative Living



at Horizon House

Horizon House Seamstresses And Knitters Exemplify The Spirit Of Giving

The Homeless Sewing (and Knitting) Project, started by resident Pat Henry six years ago, is a great example of social accountability at Horizon House – those ways in which we express our mission and render “service to the broader community.” Approximately 38 residents volunteer anything from 15 minutes to many hours per week working on projects to keep the homeless warm this winter. This sewing and knitting group receives donated fabric and yarn or purchases these raw materials at a great discount, creating everything from pajamas, to hat, scarf, and mitten sets, to quilts and blankets. The finished items are delivered to five charitable organizations, several of which have direct ties to Horizon House: Mary’s Place (service to homeless women with children), Plymouth Housing (affordable, supportive housing for the homeless), Harborview Mental Health Outpatients, Solid Ground Transitional Housing, and Youth Care (Orion Center and Alhadeff House, service to homeless teens). Last year our seamstresses and knitters made and delivered 496 items!

Sewing machines are humming, fleece is flying, and knitting needles are clicking down in the community sewing room. Residents are currently in high-production mode on this year’s items, with a delivery date of late November, early December. Resident Jane Piehl encourages all residents—those who sew or knit and those who don’t—to join in. There’s a job for everyone, a way to meet new friends, and an opportunity to do something that is really appreciated by our greater community.



Sylvia Odom:

A Resident's Long-Term Vision To End Homelessness

Sylvia Odom has been a valued member of the Horizon House community since 2007. Although she was born and raised in Archie, Louisiana, she spent most of her adult life in Seattle, enjoying a career as an elementary school teacher. In addition to her active interests in reading, travel, and theatre, Sylvia also belongs to the Plymouth Church congregation. In 1980 when she chaired the church's Mission and Community Service Board, Sylvia was asked to create a housing task force, which she subsequently chaired. That task force, whose goal was to provide affordable housing for the homeless in downtown Seattle, applied for nonprofit status and became the Plymouth Housing Group (PHG). Their vision today is the same as it was in 1980: eliminate homelessness through permanent supportive housing.

Sylvia served on the board of Plymouth Housing Group from 1980 until 1994 and was involved with half a dozen affordable housing projects. PHG's first project was the preservation of the Seven Seas Hotel as apartment housing. In 1987, PHG leased the Payne Apartments—the first units set aside for clients of the Northwest AIDS Foundation. The Gatewood project in 1991 was their first total apartment building rehab. Throughout these intervening years, Sylvia has continued to volunteer for Plymouth

Housing Group, an organization that provides housing with 24/7 support services to its nearly 1,000 formerly homeless tenants.

Earlier this fall, ground was broken on Plymouth Housing Group's 14th apartment building—Sylvia's Place, named after Sylvia Odom. As part of their Housing Options Program, Sylvia's Place will contain 63 apartments available to "graduates" of Plymouth's supportive housing. When these tenants graduate to Sylvia's Place, their former units become available to

men and women who are determined to leave the streets and are in need of the intensive services those units provide. As PHG Executive Director Paul Lambros said, "We wanted to name our newest project in honor of someone who has made a major contribution to Plymouth Housing Group. Not only was Sylvia a key person in our founding, but she has remained involved with Plymouth Housing Group in the 34+ years since then. There was really no other contender." Horizon House is proud to have such a committed resident sharing her talents with the broader community.



Walter Blassan:

An Employee's Commitment To Making A Difference



Walter Blassan, one of the smiling faces we all encounter as we pull into the Horizon House parking garage, just celebrated his five-year anniversary as a full-time garage attendant. Walter also works a second job as a security guard at the Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS). ACRS was founded in 1973 to promote social justice and the well-being and empowerment of Asian Pacific Americans through innovative, community-based multilingual and multicultural services. That organization is not just his employer, but the focus of his volunteer activity.

This past summer ACRS held its 24th annual "Walk for Rice," a 2.5-mile journey through Seward Park to raise funds for their Food Bank. Walter organized a team, "Rice on Wheels," consisting of several of his Horizon House co-workers, his wife, and young son, that raised \$250. All in all, over 200 people walked to end hunger, raising \$267,000. The most recent ACRS event was their annual benefit gala, "A Culinary Journey," featuring a cooking demo by Chef Kristen Kish, winner of Bravo's Top Chef Seattle. Walter would have volunteered there as well if he hadn't been celebrating his boy's first birthday!

Walter feels fortunate that he has a job and can provide for his family. Working at ACRS, he has seen the great things they do for the community in terms of feeding the hungry, and providing education, jobs, and housing—the natural next move was to get involved and give back. The spirit of giving is alive and well in Walter Blassan—and in so many generous people just like him on staff at Horizon House.

Employees Share In 2014 Day of Caring

As part of our ongoing tradition of service, Horizon House staff participated in United Way's annual "Day of Caring" in September. This year's project involved some heavy duty gardening for a local senior no longer able to handle this task herself. The homeowner was thrilled to have her property cleaned up, and our clean-up gang got a great workout—as well as the satisfaction of doing something meaningful for a neighbor.

Horizon House volunteers were part of a HUGE effort: More than 11,800 people served their communities across King County on the 2014 Day of Caring.



Employee Recognition Fund:

Residents Dig Deep For Staff

Employee Recognition Fund Committee members kicked off their 2014 drive mid-October with a Blues Brothers-style line-up of sunglassed, be-hatted "Rappers" asking fellow residents to "Dig Down Deep & Pull Up Lots & Lots & Lots of Cash!" to reward employees. Each year the Residents' Council Employee Recognition Fund distributes monetary gifts to Horizon House staff (with the exception of the Executive Team) in appreciation of their services. The total amount raised last year was \$200,470.



We have a no-tipping policy so this fund is one of the ways residents give back to the employees whose hard work makes Horizon House a great place to live all year long. Once contributions are received, gift amounts are determined by the Residents' Council Finance Committee, and checks are distributed to employees at the holiday party, which is organized and hosted by residents. Employee eligibility is based on duration of employment—full-time staff receives the full gift amount, but part-timers, on-call staff, even employees as new to Horizon House as three to six months receive their portions of this generous bonus. Thank you, residents!

Horizon House
Wishes
ALL OUR READERS
A BRIGHT
and
HAPPY
HOLIDAY
SEASON

CEO Bob Anderson Announces June 2015 Retirement

It is with a sense of deep appreciation and tremendous satisfaction for the almost 16 years of service as CEO of Horizon House that I announce my plan to retire in June 2015. I have very mixed emotions about this decision as Horizon House, this wonderful community of residents, staff, families, and trustees, has been completely woven into my life on all levels, a tour of duty that I have cherished from the day I arrived on October 15, 1998. I realized recently that I have served this remarkable institution for 30 percent of its life and more than one-third of my career. I can simply say these have been the very best years of my professional life. The amount of gratitude I feel for this privilege to serve here cannot be adequately expressed in words.

This decision is driven mainly by my desire to have more time with my family and to honor the 44 years of support and care provided by my wonderful wife, Julie, who has embraced the Horizon House resident community with a passion and commitment that has made my job so much richer and more fulfilling. I will reach the age of 70 next June and feel blessed to have good health and plenty of energy at this time to apply to my future endeavors. I will also have the privilege of becoming a grandfather later this year, and I know there are some delightful experiences awaiting me with that new fellow.

Perhaps the hardest part of this decision is leaving this fabulous community of residents and staff, so many dear friends, colleagues, and kindred spirits; as we say here—Living and working in the spirit of community. How remarkable a run it has been for me to be a part of this gracious and dynamic place!

I wanted to announce this decision now so that the Board of Trustees will have plenty of time to select my successor, and frankly so I have the time to complete my work priorities and to say farewell to you all. I

have seven months and I intend to be at full pace until my departure mid-year 2015. I have offered to serve as a strategic advisor in some capacity if that would serve the interests and needs of the Board and new CEO. I will work as diligently as ever to advance the important work of the organization and to help set the strategic agenda for many years to come. If I can be of service beyond that time in some capacity, I will be pleased to do so.

I believe we have the most capable team of executives, managers, and staff in the senior living industry anywhere in the region. We are financially healthy, operationally sound, and strategically focused on many exciting opportunities for the future. We are solidly anchored in our mission of service to our residents, their quality of life and financial security, as well as our commitment to the broader community.

This isn't a farewell message; we'll have plenty of time for that—I just wanted to keep you informed and say thank you!

Sincerely, Bob



Supported Living Expansion Project Is Underway

Earlier this year the Horizon House Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve an expansion of Supported Living, our innovative healthcare program. The project involves remodeling eight Independent Living apartments on floors two and three of the East Tower to create 17 new Supported Living apartments.

Like many other retirement communities, Horizon House is experiencing increased demand for Supported Living. Many of our residents in Independent Living are successfully aging in place and have a need for enhanced services. Likewise, many of our Supported Living residents are benefitting from excellent care and living longer. As Lauri Warfield-Larson, Health Services Officer, has noted, "The expansion of Supported Living is timely. The currently high internal demand doesn't seem to be temporary, but rather a trend that is strongly expected to continue. We want to ensure that our residents have access to the services and support they need now and in the future."

Our Supported Living expansion project is a big one, but we're well underway. All eight apartments in Independent Living have been vacated and the residents have moved to their new apartments. The permitting process with the City of Seattle and the Department of Health has been completed—almost two months ahead of schedule. Permits in hand, October marked the hiring of sub-contractors. General construction, which started with demolition of the former Independent Living apartments, has begun. Great care is being taken

to minimize the impact on both residents and staff, through noise management, dust control, and limited construction schedules.

The expansion will give us 17 new apartments in Supported Living—all contiguous with the existing campus on floors two and three—as well as a new nurse's station, medication room, and living room with a small kitchenette on the third floor. When construction is complete, there will be a final inspection by the city, the Department of Health, and the Department of Social and Health Services. September 2015 is our projected occupancy date. As Lauri exclaims, "We look forward to seeing you at the grand opening of an expanded Supported Living campus next fall!"



It Feels Good To Give: Vi Carlson



Violette Carlson (known to many of us as Vi) was born in the small farming town of Axtell, Nebraska, on October 27, 1914. Her father was a local banker, and both parents were actively involved in the doings of Axtell.

When Vi was just an infant, her mother took her down the street to visit a family with a newborn son. Twenty-five years later, that

baby became Vi's husband! Phillip and Vi were married for 64 years, living the first chapter of their lives in Axtell. As a young engineer, Phil's profession took him to Seattle in 1950, where his talents were instrumental in building many of Seattle's freeways and local icons like the Kingdome and our own Freeway Park. Seattle became their home, where the Carlsons raised two children.

Upon retirement, Vi and Phil were drawn to Horizon House because of its urban location. An active member of the Women's University Club, Vi thrived on the array of activities, including watercolor classes. Many of her paintings adorn her home today. Vi enjoyed strolling

downtown, shopping at nearby Nordstrom, and even attending football games. Vi and Phil were season ticket holders to both the University of Washington Huskies and the Seattle Seahawks—since season one!

The Carlsons were taught at an early age the meaning of charitable giving. Both Vi and Phil's parents were philanthropic role models in their rural town, supporting Bethpage Village at MOSAIC, an organization benefitting disabled youth. Later, Vi and Phil became donors themselves, eventually contributing funds to restore the original building on campus. Vi recently made a major gift to help restore the stained glass windows in the chapel.

Vi has continued the tradition of giving, both in Axtell and in Seattle. She continues to support her church, Gethsemane Lutheran, and many other organizations. Vi has also been a generous and loyal donor to Horizon House since the Carlsons moved here in 2001. Vi is motivated "because it feels good to give. Giving is good for you." She feels fortunate to be able to support the charities that are near and dear to her heart and home.

As Vi celebrated her 100th birthday this year, she was surrounded by many friends and multiple generations of family. Vi truly enjoys life and knows how to celebrate. At 100, she is a delight to be around and is still as positive, friendly, and philanthropic-minded as ever.

Happy Birthday, Vi!

Employee Education Fund: Happy Staff, Happy Life

Horizon House is a family of residents and employees alike. We not only strive to provide hospitable service to our residents, but we also strive to be the "employer of choice." In fact, this is a key goal set by the Board of Trustees in its most recent Strategic Plan.

An essential ingredient to our success is training and retaining employee talent. Our donors help us do that each year by supporting the Employee Education Fund. This fund is available to our staff to help them enhance their professional and technical skills. Specifically, it provides financial assistance for continuing education, training, and conferences.

Last year 16 employees used the fund, spending \$21,100 on education. So far this year, Horizon House has distributed \$12,500 for 19 employees to enhance their job-related skills. Employees who have been with us for over one year and who have a satisfactory evaluation may apply for funds. Staff in a wide variety of positions have tapped into this resource.

A contribution to the Employee Education Fund is not only an investment, but also a way for donors to say "thank you" for the valued services they receive. Our employees appreciate this benefit and often cite it as one of the reasons they enjoy working at Horizon House.



"Generous financial support from this fund is helping me achieve my lifelong professional goals. I would not have been able to pursue this were it not for this resource. Thank you for making my goal a reality."

Erick Ferguson, Accounts Payable

"The Employee Education Fund has helped me with my pursuit of a profession geared towards improving relations in the world. I am thankful for this help, and use these skills each day in my work at Horizon House."

Corey Cotton, Dining Services

Residents' Council 2014

Bill Andersen, President
Lou Templeton, Vice President
Jeannette Kahlenberg, Secretary
Terry Gudger, Treasurer

Other members of the Residents' Council include:

Fam Bayless, Helen Bottomly,
Carol Burkhart, Pat Henry, Frank Little,
Dorothy McGee, Simon Ottenberg,
Zoa Shumway, Jim Travis

Board of Trustees 2014

Karen Lane, President
Jim Fitzgerald, Vice President
Susan Duffy, Secretary
Bob Cline, Treasurer
Fletch Waller, Past President

Other members of the Board of Trustees include:

Bill Andersen, Ann Brand, Margaret Burke,
Richard Counts, Julius Debro,
Mike Denton, Tom Garland, Ned Lange,
David Okimoto, Kathleen Paul, Kathy Turner

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Horizon House
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Horizon House is a dynamic nonprofit retirement community dedicated to dignified aging, life fulfillment, and service to the broader community.

End-of-Year Effort To Reach Partners In Caring Goal

Horizon House is a safe and nurturing home for close to 600 residents. Thanks in part to our broad community of donors, we provide a good quality of life for all who live here. Funds raised support three important resources: the Residents Assistance Fund, the Quality of Resident Life Fund, and the Employee Education Fund. Each of these funds is unique and each benefits the Horizon House community.

So far this year, we have raised \$325,000 - 94% of our \$345,000 goal. We just need another \$20,000 to meet that goal. Whether a resident, family member, business, or friend, we invite you to participate in this important effort.

Every gift, no matter the amount, adds value to our community. To make a gift or find more information, visit www.horizonhouse.org/philanthropy. Be a partner in caring and make a difference for this special place that many call home.

