



2SHARE ANNUAL REPORT-2024

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES: After six years, Don Arabian is stepping down as our Executive Director the end of January and joining the Board. We are pleased to announce that Aaron Schnurbusch, a long-time volunteer who has been our Board President for the past 3 years and who works as an Assistant Director at the Harrelson Center will be taking over as the new Executive Director responsible for the day-to-day operations of 2SHARE. Cecelia Peers, Board Vice President has been elected as Board President. As a social service professional with Trillium, she has been a terrific asset to 2SHARE both as a volunteer and Board member. Alex Murchison who has been on the Board the past 2 years and an extremely active volunteer and fund raiser has been elected as Board Vice president. He will be reconstituting and overseeing our fund-raising committing.

HOW DID WE DO: 2024 was 2SHARE's busiest year yet. We delivered to 258 households, a 22% increase over 2023. We served some 800 adults and children bringing the total number of those we have served since we began to approximately 3500 people (nearly 2000 children).

WHO WE SERVED: As has been the case since 2SHARE began in 2018, over half of the those we served in 2024 were single parent households. Mostly single moms or grandmoms. The average family size is slightly under 4. In 2024 we continued to see an increase in single adult referrals, representing 22% of all referrals this past year. Seniors, mostly singles, represented 13% of all referrals and 15% of households served. Approximately 90% of our deliveries were in New Hanover County, roughly 75% in the City of Wilmington. Our focus on the City and County is a reflection not only of chronic need but grant money spending requirements and our own limitations in terms of volunteers and resources. While there is significant need in Brunswick and Pender Counties, we do not yet have the capability to adequately assist those communities. One of our goals moving forward is to improve our "reach" which in part means increasing our pool of available volunteers as well as growing our infrastructure.

REFERRALS AND FURNITURE DONATIONS: Some 40 organizations and agencies referred households to us this past year. New Hanover County, The Disability Resource Center, Med North and Coastal Horizons represented 40% of all referrals. Other significant referral sources included Sister Isaac's Center, NHC school social works and Help Hub. New referrals continued to run 20-25 a month on average. Households in queue that we are assisting at any one time averaged about 30. We continue to focus on beds and households with children as our highest priority. We deliver 345 beds this year (a new high and a 28% increase over 2023). Beyond beds, we delivered some 800 other essential pieces of furniture (living room, kitchen, and bedroom) in 2024. Furniture donations remained brisk throughout the year with 100 plus pickups. Most of our donation opportunities now come through our website. We continue to miss donation opportunities because of response time which is limited by availability of volunteers and on occasion, cost factors.

FINANCES: We expended just shy of \$94K in 2024. Over 82% of those expenses were for the purchase of beds. We received donations (faith communities, private and corporate) of \$51K and another \$31K in grant money. We expect the need for assistance with furnishings to continue to grow between 10 and 15% in 2025. Consequently, we anticipate our expenses for this year will be in the \$105 to \$110K range.

Challenges for 2025:

Volunteering: Expanding our available volunteer pool remains a significant challenge to improving our overall operating tempo and responsiveness. We always need able-bodied volunteers to assist in delivering and picking up furniture both on Saturdays and during the week. We also need folks who can assist from time to time with furniture repair and minor refinishing. Additional folks to search neighborhood and community social media sites, such as Market Place are invaluable. Two of our volunteers Peggy and Sam Neathery have continued to do incredible work for 2SHARE in that regard. Finally, we need help with scheduling. You will be hearing more about volunteering as we head into 2025.

Storage Space: In 2024 we spent over \$5K on commercial storage space. That money could be much better spent on beds and other essential items. One of our goals in 2025 is to find 800 to 1000 sq. ft. of donated storage space to replace the commercial storage we currently require and to supplement the 1500 sq. ft. of donated space that St Peter the Fisherman Church provides us. As a 501(c)(3) donated storage can be a tax write-off. Please contact Don Arabian at 703-220-0762 or anndon@earthlink.net if you have any connections with commercial real estate brokers, companies with warehouse space, owners of self-storage facilities or other ideas about locating donated storage space for 2SHARE.

Fund Raising: Overall, our fund raising has improved over the past several years. More needs to be done. The Board will be focusing additional efforts on fund raising in 2025 and will welcome your ideas and your active participation in developing our fund raising capabilities.

It was a great year because we were able to help many in need. Again, thanks to all of you for your support to 2SHARE. Because of you, we continue to help get people off the floor by providing beds to sleep on; tables and chairs eat at; and living room furniture to rest on. THANK YOU SO MUCH!