Celebrating has been a big part of life at Bailey-Boushay House since its doors opened June 24, 1992. Whether it’s a festive holiday, a memorial service, a snow day or an anniversary, the spirit behind the event is the same. “We celebrate the people who come here and the community they create together,” says Brian Knowles, Bailey-Boushay’s executive director. “We celebrate the difference people make in each others’ lives.”

“We Are Here!”

The Bailey-Boushay House family celebrates 20 years of community and service

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Volunteer Pam Balentine staffs the reception desk on Tuesdays. She celebrated at parties, a reunion and the Pride Parade.
“We Are Here!” continued

This year’s 20th anniversary celebrations have brought together hundreds in the Bailey-Boushay family—clients and residents, staff and volunteers and longtime friends.

A day to honor clients and residents

Most days David, Randol and Barbara play cards and dice together before lunch. But on June 26, the three clients put their regular game aside to enjoy Bailey-Boushay’s 20th anniversary lunch for clients and residents.

With 100-plus others, they heard State Rep. Jamie Pedersen and Gary S. Kaplan, MD, chairman and CEO of Virginia Mason; salute the ways that Bailey-Boushay encourages not only health, but also community. News was shared about King County’s official proclamation of Bailey-Boushay House Day and a congratulatory letter from Gov. Christine Gregoire. And everyone got a Bailey-Boushay 20th Anniversary polo shirt.

Right before sharing a festive meal, the whole room joined in a thundering cheer led by Brian Knowles.

“Our tradition is to remember those who have died here by celebrating the community they were part of,” he said. “With as much noise as you can make, let the world hear us celebrating together: We are here!”

The high spirits carried over for weeks. “It was a good feeling seeing everyone enjoying lunch together,” one client recalls. “Everyone was having a good time.”

Becoming family at Bailey-Boushay

Randol, David, and Barbara have made Bailey-Boushay their community of choice. All are in their early 70s and make a big effort to get here.

Four days a week, David and Randol have nearly a two-hour commute by bus and train from Kent. Barbara could stay home at Rosehedge, an assisted living facility in Seattle for people with HIV/AIDS, but she’s up and waiting for her ride to come in for games, lunch and companionship.

“She was watching us play,” David remembers, “and we asked her if she wanted to join us. She’s been playing ever since.”

Despite troubles with her memory, Barbara plays intently. When teased about Las Vegas, she just smiles and says, “Never been there.”

BBH staffer Franklin Reed carries a rainbow flag high to celebrate both the Gay Pride spirit and Bailey-Boushay’s 20th anniversary.

Feeling safe, accepted and engaged

David and Randol have been partners for more than 17 years. Though homeless for several months when they first came to Bailey-Boushay, they have stable housing and have successfully stayed on their HIV medication. Bailey-Boushay is their home away from home.

“We always come for Thanksgiving and Christmas, too” Randol says, “even if it’s not our regular day.”

“I don’t get out of the house much,” David says. “My legs are weak and tired. The only time I get to talk to other people is coming here.”

Two years ago they wanted to celebrate their 14th anniversary with a recommitment ceremony. “We did our vows here, in front of everyone, with [Bailey-Boushay’s chaplain] officiating,” David says. “It was like having all friends and family.”

Walking with pride for a grateful community

By happy coincidence, Bailey-Boushay’s 20th anniversary fell on the same day as Seattle’s Gay Pride Parade this year.
On March 6 longtime supporters were invited to Bailey-Boushay House for a 20th anniversary kick-off party. Sara Intriligator’s partner, Rebecca Laszlo, encouraged her to attend. “I’d had a tour a year ago and couldn’t believe what they’re doing with medication,” Rebecca says.

Sara’s reaction was equally strong. “I was so touched, so moved, so overwhelmed to come back here,” she says. “I think it made a whole new connection for me.”

Early ties, long-term commitment
Rebecca and Sara go back a long way with Bailey-Boushay House. From 1993 to 1994, Rebecca worked here pro bono through her employer’s generosity as a software consultant. Sara was inspired by what she heard from Rebecca about Bailey-Boushay’s compassionate AIDS care, so Sara volunteered to bring in their gentle Vietnamese pot-bellied pig, Mooshu, for pet visits to patients.

The software got built. The pig became scared of the elevator. And regular visits to Bailey-Boushay stopped. But the longtime couple have been steady donors ever since.

The diversity and acceptance among participants and spectators alike touched her heart. “All along the parade route, we were cheered!” she says. “And in our group, it didn’t matter if you were client, staff or whatever—we were all wearing the same shirt. We were all one.”

A place where no one has to be alone
The strong sense of community keeps Pam coming back every week.

“No one is doing what Bailey-Boushay does,” Rebecca says.

Reconnecting with head and heart
After Rebecca’s tour, she says, she came home “gushing like I used to when I worked here.” She was excited by automated single-dose packaging of medication in “medistrips”—easy-to-use perforated rolls of pill packets. And she was astounded by clients’ high success rate (97 percent) in taking medication.

“No one is doing what Bailey-Boushay does,” Rebecca says.

At the party, the premiere of the 20th Anniversary video moved Sarah to tears. A tour of the building impressed her even more.

“I visit another nursing home often to care for a frail friend who is 94. That place is not even in the same ballpark as Bailey-Boushay,” Sara says. “I only wish my friend could be here.”
Calendar of Events

**September 22, 2012**
**Seattle AIDS Walk**

Bailey-Boushay House is a partner organization for the Lifelong AIDS Alliance’s Seattle AIDS Walk, a 5K march of support through Seattle’s Capitol Hill. Bailey-Boushay House will receive 75% of the donations raised by the BBH Team. Join the official BBH Team as a walker or supporter by going to [seattleaidswalk.org](http://seattleaidswalk.org).

**November 8, 2012**
**Annual Memorial Service**

The Bailey-Boushay House annual memorial gathering is an opportunity to pay tribute to those who died at Bailey-Boushay House. Join us to remember.

**SAVE THE DATE**
**21st Annual Chefs’ Dinner**
Sunday, January 20, 2013

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**Celebrate with Bailey-Boushay House**

The party isn’t over. We’re celebrating all year at [baileyboushayhouse.org/20years](http://baileyboushayhouse.org/20years). We continue to honor the people and friends of Bailey-Boushay House, past and present. Please visit often.

**Watch videos.** Recently added: 13 brief “Remembering BBH” videos with the personal recollections of former and current clients, loved ones of residents who died, doctors, public servants and longtime staff.

**Read stories.** This growing collection celebrates the life stories of 20 patients and the firsthand experiences of 20 staff and volunteers over the past 20 years.

**Check the calendar.** When, where and how to join us for more 20th anniversary events.

**Share your own story.** Has your life been touched by Bailey-Boushay? We’d like to hear your story.