

A Letter from HOME

30 Years and Looking to the Future!

In celebration of HomeShare Vermont's 30th Anniversary in 2012, we have launched a \$300,000 campaign to establish the HomeShare Fee Assistance Fund. This will help us meet the growing demand for our services and to help people who seek a "match" but cannot afford our fee for services.

The Need for a Fee Assistance Fund

Our fees are on a sliding scale and adjusted based on a person's income. Fees can also be waived or reduced in cases of hardship. We never want our fees to prevent people from getting the services they need, but we have also learned that people who pay a fee are more committed to making homesharing and caregiving successful.

Last year, we raised just under \$14,000 from fees.

Most of our clients can't afford to pay our full fees which include a \$30 Application Fee, and a \$500 Match Fee when a successful match is found.

Last year, HomeShare Vermont subsidized over 86% of fees!

The vast majority of people we serve are low income.

Keeping our sliding scale is critical to our being able to serve people of modest means. Making sure our neighbors all have the homesharing and caregiving they need is critical to us all for a safe and secure society. Last year 87% of applicants had incomes considered "low income" by federal standards.

The Benefits of HomeShare Vermont

Homesharing and Caregiving are among the most economical ways to serve frail and vulnerable seniors and people with disabilities. Not only do these cost a fraction of nursing home care, but they improve a sense of well-being and happiness when a person can stay in their own home. Our services save everyone money. Last year our homesharing and caregiving services saved taxpayers money by helping 76 nursing home eligible individuals stay in their own homes.

The need is growing, both in terms of finances and the number of aging Vermonters. Our programs have grown exponentially and it is now time to provide more support to this important and unique screening and matching service. ♠

An Amazing \$100,000 Challenge Gift

Amy Tarrant has been a long time supporter of HomeShare Vermont and was the lead donor to our Capital Campaign when we built our current office space in 2006. Without Amy's generous support over the years, we would not be the strong and growing organization that we are today. Earlier this year Amy told us of her support for our 30th Anniversary Campaign and that she would donate up to \$100,000 to our Campaign if we could match her gift!

The Board of Directors has been working hard to meet this challenge. What we originally envisioned as a three year campaign has been compacted to a one year campaign. We are now over halfway to making this match, with just under \$50,000 still to raise.

In order to be eligible for the match, gifts need to be pledged by September 30th and received by December 31, 2012.

If you would like to make a gift to the Campaign and help us receive these matching funds, you can use the enclosed envelope or you can call the office and ask Kirby for a pledge form.

Thank you Amy!

30 years





A *Letter from HOME*
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We wish to acknowledge Steve Alexander and Phyllis Bartling of Futura Design in Shelburne for donating their time for the design/production of this Newsletter.

In Memory of George Mona

George Mona was one of the most energetic people you could ever meet. He joined our board in 2000 and was our Treasurer for many years. George was instrumental in making HomeShare Vermont a very strong and successful organization. He helped to steward our organization to becoming an independent non-profit with some savings in the bank! He was always racing in and out of the office, yet always had time for a joke to share. He would wear his HomeShare nametag proudly and talk us up to every person he met. Even after George left our board of directors in 2010 he continued to help us with various projects. George was even responsible for adding the "chimney" to our logo when we changed our name from Project Home.

The Board of Directors has named

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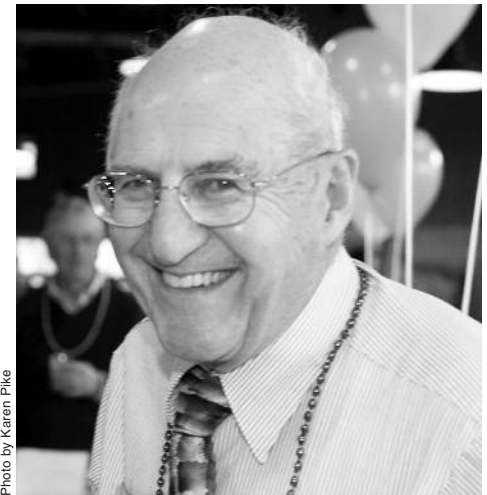


Photo by Karen Pike

our conference room "The George Mona Room," so a little bit of him will always be here with us. "George Mona was a man of consideration, respect and honesty. The world is diminished and we will miss him," said Dan Stanyon, Board President.

Thank you very much to the donors listed below for your loving gifts in George's memory.

Save the Date!

Friday, October 12, 2012 6-9PM

Thirty and Thriving!

HomeShare Vermont's party to celebrate our 30th Anniversary

At the Sunset Ballroom, Shelburne Road, South Burlington

Featuring Willem Lang sharing stories about home

And wonderful food from area restaurants

Tickets: \$30 each

Alone No More!

Hilda is a social, energetic 90-year-old with a sparkle in her eye. When Hilda's grandson decided to get a place of his own after living with her for three years, she didn't want to live alone and called HomeShare Vermont. She wanted a housemate with "a little life" and, when asked what she'd enjoy doing together, commented, "Anything legal!"

Meanwhile, Sue acknowledged she was experiencing the empty nest syndrome living alone in her home after her grown son had moved out.

Although she worked two jobs, she still struggled with the costs of maintaining and heating her home, and she had thoughts of selling it and moving in with someone else.

HomeShare Vermont introduced Hilda and Sue late last summer. Sue commented "I know you from somewhere," and soon they discovered their connection. Hilda's sister had been a close friend of Sue's family. Dozens of other common acquaintances quickly sur-

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faced, and the conversation flowed like friends who had known each other for years. They decided immediately to give homesharing a try. After the two-week trial match, Sue knew that giving up her "money pit" home and moving in with Hilda was the right choice.

Hilda remarks that Sue is as close as a daughter and the feeling of being like family is mutual. "Hilda's a mother figure to me," Sue adds. They take turns cooking meals. Sue does the housekeeping, carries in the groceries and takes out the trash. Hilda stays up later at night now that she has some-

one to talk with. But she also gets up earlier, worrying that Sue might oversleep for work! Hilda laughs, "I wake up in the morning and yell, 'Sue, you up?!'"

Hilda's daughter says, "I speak for my family when I say we're all so happy. It's such a blessing to have Sue here with mom." 🏠



Photo by Karen Pike

Sue and Hilda

How Do We Spell Success?

S-H-E-R-W-O-O-D and W-A-L-T is how! Sherwood, a *veteran* who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, works in Essex at Green Mountain Coffee Roasters. He loves to *fish*, *hunt* and *ride* his motorcycle, and is a fabulous cook. Walt, an octogenarian, is a *hunter*, *maple sugarer*, poet, and family man par excellence. They both love to joke, have fun, and play *Scrabble*.

During a recent visit to the two new *chums* I found Sherwood taking biscuits out of the oven and covering them with Walt's homemade applesauce. Expecting my visit, they had a rousing game of Scrabble underway, using words portraying what their homeshare means to them (which are italicized in this story!). They share *errands*, *drives* (Walt claims that he'll *rev* up and ride the motorcycle with Sherwood yet), family birthdays and holidays, sitting around talking about all sorts of things.



Walt and Sherwood

Sherwood has felt welcomed by the whole family, especially by Walt's son Eric who often comes over to chat and play Scrabble. Eric says that Walt has gotten spoiled by Sherwood, often pacing the floor, waiting for Sherwood to come home and make a great dinner. They share a common frugality with the motto "waste not, want not." Recently Sherwood repaired Walt's table saw (which others may have discarded) with a simple part.

Most importantly, Sherwood and Walt honestly care about each other with almost a father-son bond. They are *quick* to laugh, love their families, and are friends of the highest order. This is a *homeshare* story of two *chums*: full of *fun* and mutual kindness, who have found a *better* way to live! 🏠

by Jane Goodman, Staff Volunteer

Help Us Make A Match!

HomeShare Vermont is celebrating its 30th year and we have never been stronger! Help us stay strong and continue to grow our services and programs by donating to our 30th Anniversary Campaign by September 30th.

Up to \$100,000 of gifts to our 30th Anniversary Campaign will be matched by Amy Tarrant *if received by September 30th*. We need your help to meet this challenge. Please make a gift in the enclosed envelope or go to our website and donate on-line. Note that the gift is for the 30th Anniversary Campaign so we can count it towards the match!

**Thanks
to our board members for
100% giving to the campaign!**



412 Farrell Street, Suite 300, South Burlington, VT 05403

HomeShare Vermont: bettering the lives of elders and people with disabilities by helping them remain in their homes. We match them with people who are looking for affordable housing and/or caregiving opportunities.



United Way of
Chittenden County

