

A Letter from HOME

Volunteers Are Our Heart and Soul

At our Annual Meeting in October, UVM sociology professors Nick Danigelis and Fred Fengler presented a summary of the findings of their recent study, "The Dedicated Volunteers of HomeShare Vermont: A 28-Year Follow-Up," on how HomeShare Vermont uses volunteers in our screening and matching process.

Nearly 20 years ago, they published *No Place Like Home: A Study of Inter-generational Homesharing*, a book which, among other things, examined



Photo by Karen Pike

Fred Fengler and Nick Danigelis

the unique role that volunteers played in the genesis and early years of Project Home. Today, HomeShare Vermont has grown beyond Project Home's humble beginnings with a larger budget, more staff, expanded office space (owned not rented), and many more clients; but it still is dependent on a core of dedicated volunteers who provide direct service to the program's clients.

In order to understand the reasons for this unbroken chain of critical volunteer involvement, they interviewed all fourteen HomeShare volunteers in Chittenden and Addison Counties; six former HomeShare volunteers; and related staff. They tried to answer the question, "What does volunteering for HomeShare Vermont mean?" not only to the volunteers themselves but also to the program and the clients it serves.

The presentation focused on the unique nature of the volunteer experience. The volunteers, mostly retired professionals, are doing a similar job as the Homesharing Coordinator in terms of direct work with clients. They are using the skills they have developed over their lifetime. But they are also learning new things. They feel valued and they are making a difference in people's lives and to the organization.

A key factor in the dedication and longevity of the volunteers' commitment to HomeShare is the relationship with other volunteers and staff. A key component to developing this team spirit is the weekly or bi-weekly

case conference meetings they attend. At the Annual Meeting several volunteers shared their personal experiences. A program participant noted that she was so impressed with the work the volunteer did with finding her just the right match.

Danigelis and Fengler reported that they have not found another organization that uses volunteers in this unique manner. They noted that with the current generation of retirees looking for more rewarding volunteer experiences, the HomeShare model should be something that other organizations look to replicate.

A public presentation "*Social Exchange and Staffing with Volunteers: The Case of HomeShare Vermont.*" will be held at UVM on Tuesday, December 7 at Noon at Memorial Lounge in the Waterman Building. This talk is part of The Center on Aging at UVM Brown



Photo by Karen Pike

Volunteers Dot, Ellie, Jane, Kathleen, Carol and Julie

Bag lecture Series. The presenters will be Nick Danigelis, Professor and former Chair of the Sociology Department and Fred Fengler, Emeritus Associate Professor, Sociology Department, University of Vermont. For more information Contact: Deborah Worthley with the Center on Aging. 802-656-4220, Deborah.worthley@uvm.edu 🏠





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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.

Staffing Notes

In September Alexis moved to Burlington from New York to begin her service year at HomeShare Vermont. "As a psychology and counseling graduate, I am interested in working for non-profit organizations and community agencies to help others in need," said Alexis. While she's not logging service hours, Alexis enjoys hiking, traveling, making meals with friends, and going back home to Rochester, New York to visit her family and beloved dog, Gibson. Thanks are due to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for sponsoring this AmeriCorps position.

After two years as an AmeriCorps member, Ali Fogel has joined the HomeShare Staff. Ali will be leading our fuel assistance outreach and she will be filling in while Amy Jelen, our homesharing coordinator, is on maternity leave. "In over ten years of supervising AmeriCorps members, Ali was one of the best and brightest. We were fortunate when she decided to stay with us for a second term and we are pleased to have the funding to be able to bring her on staff, even if only temporarily," said Kirby Dunn. Welcome to the staff Ali!



Ali Fogel & Alexis Seubert

Welcome Kate!

At our Annual Meeting in October the board welcomed Kate Baldwin to their ranks. Kate has worked at UVM for twenty-five years. She first learned of HomeShare from Polly Rowe many years ago, and has been a supporter and donor ever since! "I am pleased and honored to be a part of HomeShare and its mission. I wanted to join this dedicated group because I admire the leadership and respect the fact that HomeShare is fulfilling a critical role that family members often performed in the past. I want to do what I can to help with the success of the organization."

The board also elected David Porteous as President and Dan Stanyon as Vice-President, John Draper as Treasurer, and Nancy Robinson as Secretary.



Kate Baldwin



HomeShare Board of Directors: Front row: Estelle and Joyce; Second row: Cathie, George, Kelly, Julie; Third row: Nancy, Chris, Kate, Sam, Zach, Carol

Photo by Karen Pike

Save the Date Sunday, January 9, 2011

On this day, Leunig's will contribute 10% of all sales to HomeShare Vermont! So mark the date on your calendar now. Dine at Leunig's Bistro on Sunday, January 9, 2011 and enjoy a fabulous meal while at the same time supporting HomeShare Vermont. See you there!

LEUNIG'S
BISTRO & CAFÉ

All in the Family...and the Neighborhood

Bev and Nellie have a lot in common. They're next door neighbors. They both worked at the Huntington General Store on the other side of Nellie's house. Nellie

married Bev's brother, and Bev married Nellie's, making them double sisters-in-law. A little over a year ago, they both decided to try homesharing.

Bev & Shawn

It all began when HomeShare Vermont showed their outreach video at the senior lunch in Huntington and Bev was there. Knowing that her children were concerned about her living alone, Bev took home the information and began exploring the idea of homesharing. Bev didn't need much help around the house, so she was mostly looking for someone who could liven up the house and occasionally share conversations and meals. After a few introductions with different people, Bev met Shawn.

Shawn moved to Vermont a few years before, was about the same age as one of Bev's sons, and shared Bev's love for baseball. He was independent, quiet, and mostly kept to himself, but he was willing to occasionally cook, chat, and watch television with Bev. Looking back on their first meeting, Bev says, "It just felt right." Shawn agreed, saying, "It just felt like it was going to work." And so it has!

Shawn and Bev's introduction was a year ago in August, and they have been happily homesharing ever since. "I keep her on her toes," says Shawn. Their favorite moment since moving in together—a trip to Olive Garden to celebrate their one-year anniversary of homesharing! Shawn plans on attending Bev's grandson's hockey games with her this coming winter. Bev and Shawn are a shining example of the unexpected bonds that can form through homesharing. In fact, Bev says of her relationship with Shawn, "I'm like his adopted mother."



Front row: Bev, Nellie and her Pug Suzie
Back row: Shawn and Aubrey

Photo by Karen Pike

Nellie & Aubrey

Only a couple hundred feet away, Nellie and Aubrey became a homesharing match with a slightly different goal. Nellie heard about HomeShare through Bev and decided to give it a try. Having a son, dog, and cat who lived with her, Nellie was looking for someone to help out around the house. No longer driving much, Nellie was also looking for someone that wouldn't mind running errands with her.

Aubrey, a woman in her early 20s, wasn't quite ready to have a place of her own and wanted something affordable. She saw a HomeShare Vermont ad in the newspaper and thought it was an intriguing option. Aubrey was certainly open to helping around the house with light housekeeping, some cooking, and errand running which made Nellie and Aubrey a good possible fit.

It was both Aubrey's and Nellie's first introduction through HomeShare. At first, they were both a bit hesitant; they weren't entirely sure what to expect. They decided to give it a try, and, a year later, are still together. Nellie, who is glad they decided to stay with it, says, "It just seemed to work, and I am very content." Every Wednesday night, you can find Nellie and Aubrey at Nellie's daughter's house for "Pasta Night" with about ten other family members and friends. In their opinion, what is the best part of homesharing? Aubrey says, "Getting to know everybody—Nellie knows everybody!" Nellie says, "She just fits in. That sort of makes her part of the family."

While Bev and Nellie may have been family for decades, in a little over a year they have added two new family members, Aubrey and Shawn, thanks to homesharing! 🏠

Thank You George!

George Mona has been a fixture around HomeShare Vermont. Everyone always looked forward to his stories and his jokes. Every trick in the book was tried to keep him with us, but after ten years on the Board of Directors, including five



George Mona

Photo by Karen Pike

years as treasurer, George has decided to step aside. At the Annual Meeting, George thanked many people including his mentor, Bill Young. "What a great amount of change has occurred over the years. It has been a pleasure and, I admit, a matter of pride to be a small part of it. I'll miss the fun but I am also pleased to see competent, younger people on the board," said George. We hope George will continue to volunteer with HomeShare in various ways for the next ten years! 🏠

Looking for a Fabulous Get Away?

4 Imagine a 3 night stay at the beautiful Arlington Inn. Think about relaxing on the porch of a lovely carriage house looking out over the fields of Vermont at The Wildflower Inn. If this brings images to mind that appeal to you, buy your HomeShare Vermont Country Inns raffle tickets today and that daydream could come true.



We are continuing our popular Country Inn's Raffle this year with the goal of raising \$10,000 for HomeShare Vermont programs. We are pleased to announce that the Charleston House, Edelweiss at Snow Mountain Farms and Thomas Mott Homestead have all donated not one but two gift certificates. So you have 25 chances to win a get away at a Vermont bed & breakfast! Inns Raffle tickets are on sale for

\$10 per ticket, three for \$25 or fifteen for \$100. Buy some for yourself or surprise someone else with a holiday gift of raffle tickets. Only 1,500 tickets will be sold.

The drawing for the winning tickets will be January 27, 2011 and you could be the next person to enjoy a fabulous stay at one of our beautiful Vermont inns! 🏠

There are 3 easy way to purchase tickets.

For the first time ever you can buy tickets on our website www.HomeShareVermont.org thanks to Network for Good:

OR call (802) 863-5625 to order your tickets

OR stop by the office to pick them up.

Participating Inns
Arlington Inn, Arlington
Blueberry Hill Inn, Goshen
Catamount Bed & Breakfast, Williston
Couture's B & B, Westfield
Echo Lake Inn, Ludlow
Edelweiss at Snow Mountain Farms, West Wardsboro
Elliot House B & B, Shelburne
Firefly B & B, Lincoln
Lang House B & B, Burlington
Sleepy Hollow Inn, Huntington
The Brandon Inn, Brandon
The Charleston House, Woodstock
The Craftsbury Inn, Craftsbury
The Dorset Inn, Dorset
The Essex, Essex
The Inn on the Green, Middlebury
The Pitcher Inn, Warren
The Wildflower Inn, Lyndonville
Thomas Mott Homestead, Alburgh
Three Stallion Inn, Randolph
Timberholm Inn, Stowe
Willard Street Inn, Burlington



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