

A Letter from HOME

Looking Back and Looking Forward

Thirty and Thriving—there are not many homesharing programs around the country that can say that. In fact, nearly 75% of the programs which existed in the homesharing heydays of the early 1990's, have closed their doors. In contrast, HomeShare Vermont has not only made it to the ripe old age of 30, but we have never been stronger. Today, in Vermont, over 50% of the population has direct access to a homesharing program that provides in-depth screening and matching services. Nationally, less than 1/10th of one percent of the population has access to such services.

Looking back over 30 years much has changed but much has remained the same. Yes our name changed from Project Home to HomeShare Vermont; the staff

and board are different; and our office has moved several times. Yet much is the same:

- We have a strong volunteer core at the heart of our service delivery,
- We have a timely mission to give elders and others the option to stay at home if they choose,
- Self-determination and choice have been operating principles for us long before they were the buzzwords of today.

Many thanks to all of you who have helped us get to this point. Please consider a year-end gift to help us provide our unique services for those wanting to stay at home and those needing housing or jobs. ♠

30th Anniversary Awards

In October, nearly two hundred people joined us at the Sunset Ballroom to celebrate our 30th Anniversary, enjoy wonderful food and hear storyteller Willem Lange. It was a great evening thanks to generous sponsors, food donors and many others. As part of our 30th Anniversary Celebration we acknowledged and thanked three key individuals and organizations which were pivotal in our success.

1st Decade Award: Dr. Nick Danigelis and Dr. Fred Fengler authors, researchers and volunteers.

In the fall of 1981, Fred Fengler, professor at the University of Vermont, was approached by the then RSVP Director, Nancy Goodrich, who asked him if he would be interested in constructing a homesharing application form and researching endeavors related to homesharing. He then brought his colleague at the Sociology Department, Nick Danigelis, into the project. Once the application was developed they then trained the volunteers who would use the form to interview potential home sharers.

Around April 1, 1982, Project Home opened its doors! Nick and Fred wrote the book, literally, on our first five years. "No Place Like Home, Intergenerational Home Sharing Through Social Exchange" was published in 1991. They systematically monitored the work, helped develop client forms, trained staff and volunteers on interviewing techniques and so much more.



Photo by Karen Pike

From left: Fred Fengler, Nick Danigelis, Kirby Dunn, Rep. Helen Head, Polly Nichol and Francis Sharpstene.

Not only were they involved in our first decade but they have not stopped volunteering with us. Nick helped us develop our Outcomes Surveys and trained board and staff again on interviewing techniques. Recently they both came back again to look at the role that volunteers play at HomeShare Vermont. Their insights and research have allowed us to continue to improve our service delivery over the years.

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30 years





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Folk Rocker Winner!

Congratulations to Kathy Olwell of Burlington for winning the Vermont Folk Rocker rocking chair at our 30th Anniversary Celebration. Thank you to artisan Jim Geier of Starksboro for the wonderful donation which raised \$3,000 for HomeShare Vermont!



30th Campaign Nearing Goal

As you may know, the HomeShare Board of Directors launched a 30th Anniversary Campaign to raise \$300,000 to support the services of HomeShare Vermont. This fund, established in December 2011, will help us meet the growing demand for our services, especially for peo-

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2nd Decade Award: Representative Helen Head, Executive Director 1986-1998.

Helen came to HomeShare Vermont, then Project Home, at a pivotal time in our development. When she took the reins she focused on developing the organization beyond the initial entrepreneurial stage. She concentrated on increasing on-going sources of funding including the State of Vermont and United Way and on developing fundraising, all of which are still our major sources of revenue today. This increased funding allowed the organization to hire staff to work with the staff volunteers in the match making process.

Helen also expanded what is now the Hourly Caregiving Program into

ple who seek a "match" but cannot afford our fee for services.

We are pleased to report that we were successful in matching Amy Tarrant's \$100,000 challenge gift by the September 30th deadline!

As of November 1st we have raised just over \$256,000 in gifts and pledges leaving us just \$44,000 to go!

Welcome Shannon!

HomeShare Vermont will be increasing our staffing level by 50%, going from four to six! This is our first increase in staffing in over a decade and is result of our new funding from the State of Vermont as well as our 30th Anniversary Fund. With this increased staffing we will be able to focus on outreach and serving more people. Shannon Treacy joined our team in September and her focus will be on outreach and intake. If you visit or call the office it will likely be Shannon who greets you so say hello!



a paid service which was able to help many more people stay at home. She increased the focus on an educational component with the development of manuals, Do It Yourself Guides for both homesharing and caregiving, and plenty of trainings for volunteers and staff. She oversaw the expansion of the Advisory Board and development of working committees. And she stayed with the organization for twelve years to provide the continuity that was needed for HomeShare to grow.

Helen is now at the statehouse in Montpelier where she heads up the Housing Committee looking out for the needs of many of Vermont's frailest citizens and she continues to help HomeShare Vermont whenever we need her insights.

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Making New Friends

Everybody keeps on saying we're so lucky..." recounts Sandy describing her home-sharing arrangement with Angie. "My family loves her, the neighbors love her, and she's made a lot of friends at our church."

Angie recently moved to Vermont from Wisconsin to take a job with the Department of Homeland Security. Despite her trepidation about starting a new life in an unfamiliar place, she found a welcoming presence with Sandy and her lovely home in Essex.



Angie & Sandy

Sandy immediately included Angie in her weekly dinners with neighbors and family gatherings. They toured around Vermont to familiarize Angie with her new home state. It wasn't long before the gals were giggling in the kitchen like old friends.

Now working only part-time, Sandy wanted to stay in her beautiful home and friendly neighborhood. She looked to HomeShare Vermont to help her find someone who could share the expenses. Angie's rent and a share of the utilities allows her to do just that. For her part Angie enjoys Sandy's companionship over evening meals after busy work days. The ladies live their separate lives, come and go as they please, but share many common bonds including cooking, gardening, and socializing. Angie and Sandy feel lucky to have found each other through HomeShare Vermont. ▲

Welcome Margaret and Peter!

HomeShare Vermont attracts the best board members, and this year is no exception. Joining the board this year is Margaret Cicchetti. Margaret saw the benefits of HomeShare's services when her mother had a live in caregiver to help her stay at home. Peter Cameron is coming back to HomeShare Vermont after serving on the board a number of years ago. He was also a homesharer in the early 1990's and knows the benefits of our services first-hand.



Photo by Karen Pike

Board members (back row) Zach, David, John, Carol, Gil, Dan, Kate, Peter (front row) Estelle, Kirby (staff), Cathie, Margaret, Julie and Kelly

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3rd Decade Award: Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). Sponsors of the AmeriCorps Program 2001-2012.

In 2001 HomeShare Vermont applied for and received AmeriCorps sponsorship from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. VHCB remains the forerunner in the nation in pioneering a comprehensive approach to affordable housing and community development linked with land conservation and historic preservation. The results have been impressive. With over a hundred nonprofit organizations working at the local level to identify and develop important projects in each community, the effects of 25 years of investment are discernible in every part of the state.

VHCB developed their AmeriCorps Program as a way for local non-profits to develop the next wave of

employees to work at the community level and support the dual goals of housing and conservation. They did not have to do this but they had the foresight to know that hands on learning about affordable housing and land conservation was one of the best ways to help these non-profits succeed.

VHCB sponsored the program and worked with this federal government program on behalf of community based non-profits like HomeShare Vermont and they also subsidized the cost of these positions for the non-profits to keep them affordable. So for 11 years, HomeShare Vermont has had the equivalent of 1-2 AmeriCorps positions each year to help provide our services and grow our programs. HomeShare Vermont would not be where it is today if it were not for these amazing AmeriCorps members assisting with outcomes, working with clients, developing trainings and much more. ▲

Inns Raffle Tickets Available December 1st!

4 One of our favorite fundraising events is our Vermont Country Inns Raffle where inns and bed and breakfasts across the state donate an overnight or two. Tickets will be \$10 each, 3/\$25 or 15/\$100. Call the office (802) 863-5625 or visit our website www.HomeShareVermont.org to purchase tickets. They make great stocking stuffers! The drawing will be February 12th.



Dorset Inn
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The Essex, Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa
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PARTICIPATING INNS

Arlington Inn
Back Inn Time B & B
Blueberry Hill Inn
Brandon Inn
Catamount B & B
Charleston House
Courtyard Burlington Harbor Hotel
Couture's Maple Shop & B & B

HomeShare Open House

To celebrate the New Year and to show you the renovations of our office we are hosting an Open House at our office on **Wednesday, January 16, 2013** from 3-6PM. Come and say hello and meet our new staff members.



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United Way of
Chittenden County

