

Mom IS SAFE AND SOUND

Barbara is a delightful woman in her 80s with memory loss. Her charming accent remains from her early years in England. She loves to laugh and enjoys her quiet days at home. Her daughter Sigrid contacted HomeShare Vermont to find someone to live with her mom. Sigrid lives out of state and, although she visits often and talks on the phone with her mom most days, she was concerned about her mom living alone. She wondered if Barbara was eating well and thought she could benefit from companionship and a nighttime presence.

We introduced Barbara to

Ha, a woman in her 60s, and they decided almost immediately to try living together. When faced with a relationship change, Ha came to HomeShare Vermont looking for affordable housing. Ha works full-time and volunteers at two local nonprofits, but in her free time, knew that she wanted to help someone. Ha is a nurturer by nature and, upon meeting Barbara, they shared a big hug, and Ha said that she would care for Barbara as she would her own mother.

Barbara wakes each morning to a hot breakfast prepared by Ha before she leaves for work. Ha reminds Barbara to



Photo by Karen Pike

Homesharers Barbara and Ha

take her pills and helps keep the house clean. Sigrid has peace of mind knowing that her mom is safe and enjoying the company of a loving housemate. "Ha is the loveliest, most caring, attentive person I could ever hope to meet," Sigrid says. "She goes above and beyond."

Although Barbara lived alone for decades before homesharing, she's quickly adapted to sharing her home. She still has some time to herself when Ha is at work and enjoys visits from a caregiver through a local agency a few times each week. Barbara shares, "I like everything about Ha here. She is simply wonderful. I don't have to worry about anything." The

feeling is mutual—Ha says she has many things to love about Barbara. She enjoys her positivity and says she's learned a lot from her kind, open-minded, and friendly ways. They enjoy simple pleasures together like short walks in the sun and checking out the flowers in the yard. And Ha adds that Barbara is a joy to cook for because "She likes everything I cook!"

Homesharing has been a wonderful solution for Barbara, Ha and Sigrid. Ha found comfortable housing at no cost at a time she really needed it; Barbara continues to live safely in the home she loves, and Sigrid knows that her mom is in great hands. ♦

A Letter from our President

With 33 years of experience, HomeShare Vermont has built one of the oldest and strongest homesharing programs in the country. We continue to meet the needs of those looking for affordable housing while helping others to be able to stay at home through this flexible and cost effective program. This year we are pleased to have expanded our services to Franklin County.

This Annual Report shows the amazing outcomes to individuals, families, government and communities by something as simple as homesharing. When people work together we can accomplish wonderful things.

Many thanks go to all the donors, volunteers, board members and staff for being part of this amazing organization. I am proud of our accomplishments and look forward to seeing how we can continue to grow and make our services available to more Vermonters in the coming years.

Kelly Deforge, Board President





HomeShare Happenings

Annual Report 2015

is published by

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Meet Donor David Ryan

In 1986 after a career in special education, David left Vermont and moved to Boston to pursue a career in elder care. That work brought him into contact repeatedly with people who needed affordable housing or others who couldn't afford or maintain the housing they had. Later he returned to Vermont and started working at the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging where he continued to see these housing needs for elders. "When I learned about HomeShare Vermont it really caught my attention and as I learned more I wanted to do what I could to support home-sharing. Housing is such a key component of our lives. Not having housing or having a house that overwhelms you are two sides of the same coin. Taking both of those people and matching them up is a no brainer" said David.

David started supporting HomeShare Vermont with small annual gifts when he could. "Giving now, or after is not about the quantity of the

gift, it's about just doing it" he said.

"As we get older, I think we all start to think about what is important to us beyond family. I would like to have some impact after I am gone. I want others to

think about what is important to them and how they can help the bigger community. I have been very fortunate in life and as I thought about – what is my purpose, what difference can I make – I decided to support HomeShare Vermont to make a small difference for the next generation."

Thank you David, and all of the donors listed below, for making a legacy gift to HomeShare Vermont. ♦



David Ryan

Photo by Karen Pike

A Legacy of Caring The Polly Rowe Society

Thanks to bequests received from Polly Rowe, Libby Downer and Alex Ribek, HomeShare Vermont has been able to seed a modest endowment fund to generate income for HomeShare Vermont, now and into the future. Others have told us of their plans to include HomeShare Vermont in their will or estate. In order to acknowledge the wonderful contributions of these and future donors, HomeShare Vermont has created the Polly Rowe Society.



— Members of The Polly Rowe Society —

Becky & Stewart Arnold

Peter Cameron

Margaret L. Cicchetti

Estelle Deane

Manya & Tom Dickinson

Libby Downer*

Kirby Dunn

Helen Head

and Tom Mercurio

Diane and Douglas Jones

Julie Burger Pierson

and Stewart Pierson

Alex Ribak*

Polly Rowe*

David Ryan

Anonymous

* Gifts Received

With our partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation we are able to offer donors not just the option of a bequest, but also more sophisticated financial instruments which we could not otherwise offer as a small non-profit organization. Please join us. For more information contact Kirby Dunn, Executive Director at (802) 863-5625.

Sharing's The Way To Go

Alyssa is a warm, bright young woman who has combined homesharing and car sharing to live affordably, help someone and do her part for the environment. Alyssa is both an employee and a member of CarShare Vermont, as well as a homesharer supporting a young woman in Burlington.

A bit tired of the rotating door of apartments and roommates throughout college, Alyssa decided to try something new. She loved how homesharing seemed to be a very intentional matching process focused on compatibility. The idea of contributing time to help someone else really appealed to her.

Her involvement with CarShare and HomeShare is a natural fit. For her homeshare housemate, Alyssa provides transportation to the grocery store and to visit family. The home they share is just a five minute walk

to the nearest CarShare “pod,” the catchy name for the various vehicle parking spots. Not interested in owning a car because of the expense and hassle, car sharing has really made this particular homeshare possible for Alyssa because providing driving was the primary service needed.



Alyssa with the snazzy orange CarShare vehicle she often drives, aptly named Ginger.

Photo by Karen Pike

Alyssa loves exploring nature, taking art classes and babysitting while her roommate's a little more of a homebody. Although their interests are different, Alyssa says they're great as roommates. "HomeShare's process is helpful because you talk through what you're both looking for. That doesn't always happen with roommates." Alyssa says she feels thankful for the opportunity to live

with a wonderful person who she might not have met otherwise, and to share a great apartment at an affordable price. "I hope we'll always have a friendship!" ♦

Volunteers Play a Unique Role

Volunteers have been a cornerstone of our service delivery since we opened our doors in 1982. This year, HomeShare Vermont benefitted from 15 staff volunteers who each dedicated about 10 hours per week to our organization. Working closely with Amy Jelen, HomeShare Coordinator, our staff volunteers assisted with everything from interviewing new applicants to creat-

ing matches. With about 300 active participants in our homesharing program at any given time, staff volunteers play a crucial role ensuring that our process runs smoothly and efficiently. You always know when it's Wednesday in the office as the volunteers are meeting and the office is abuzz with activity, laughter and energy. *Thank you staff volunteers!*



Chittenden, Franklin/Grand Isle volunteers: Cathy, Kaki, Ellie, Radetta, Carol, Julie & Joan

Photo by Karen Pike

Accomplishments

◆ Very affordable housing

For the new homesharing matches made in FY 15 the average rent was \$226/month. Of those new matches, 30% were no rent, just service.

◆ Our matches last!

Our average match length for the matches that ended this year was 386 days, exceeding our goal of 365 days.

◆ Screening & Matching Process

This year, staff & volunteers:

- processed 291 applications
- made over 800 reference checks
- performed over 1,400 background checks
- interviewed over 200 new customers (many in their homes)
- facilitated 105 in-home introductions

◆ Serving those most in need

Of the people who applied for services this year, 88% were considered low income by federal standards.



Staff: Lisa, Holly, Kirby, Shannon & Amy

Photo by Karen Pike

◆ Service to our Neighbors

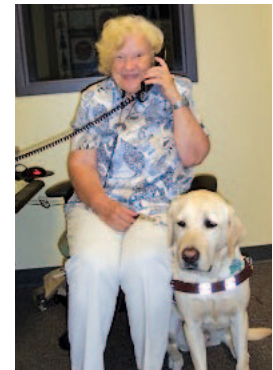
Those who found housing through HomeShare Vermont provided approximately 26,500 hours of assistance to our neighbors.

◆ Supplemental Income

By sharing their homes, low income seniors and others received \$251,982 in rental income to help them make ends meet.

◆ What we do

Homesharing is an old fashioned bartering arrangement. Someone with a spare room in their home is matched with someone looking for an affordable place to live who offers help around the home. This can include help with meals, yardwork or simply a protective presence. Rental income and help with utilities can also be part of the exchange. Every match is unique based on the needs and wants of the participants.



Office volunteer Barbara with Herbie



Addison County volunteers: Connie, Diana, Becky, Manya, Ruth & Judy

Photo by Karen Pike

Financial Report

July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015

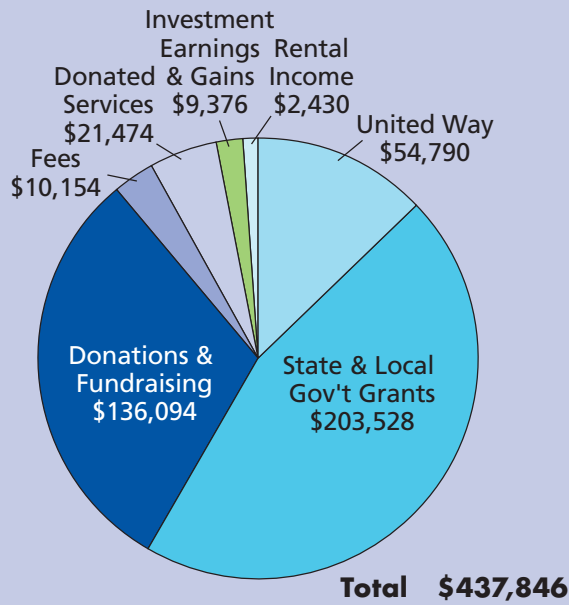


This has been another strong year financially for HomeShare Vermont. Going into the year we had budgeted for a deficit due to one-time program closure expenses which would have been covered by reserves. However, our grant revenue and fundraising efforts substantially exceeded our goals and we have successfully ended the year in the black. Special thanks go to the

United Way of Chittenden County who continued to fund our caregiving services and allowed us to responsibly ramp down this program. Our investments, including the Vermont Community Foundation Fund, have continued to provide additional sources of revenue as well.

John Draper
Treasurer

Income



Statement of Financial Position 6/30/15

Assets

Cash & cash equivalents	322,249
Grants receivable	18,409
Cash restricted to building exp.	60,600
Fund held by VT Community Foundation	360,936
Investments held by Merchants Trust Co.	209,096
Office facility, at cost	221,028
Office furniture & equipment	19,854
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(59,347)</u>
Total Assets	\$ 1,152,825

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	3,592
Accrued payroll	<u>10,906</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>14,498</u>

Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets	
Undesignated	190,314
Designated by Board	344,942
Used for office facility, furniture & equipment, less depreciation	<u>181,535</u>
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	716,791
Fund held by VT Community Foundation	360,936
Restricted Net Assets	
for building related expenditures	<u>60,600</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>1,138,327</u>

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$1,152,825**

Complete FY 15 audit for HomeShare Vermont is available on our website at www.HomeShareVermont.org

Expenses

Salaries	\$203,219
Payroll taxes & benefits	54,218
Volunteer service	21,474
Advertising	24,612
Occupancy/depreciation	14,258
Postage & printing	22,645
Audit/insurance	9,183
Education & workshops	12,519
Consultant & tech support	3,588
Travel	5,456
Misc.	10,628
Program change exp.	15,697
Equip, telephone, supplies	9,642
Total	\$407,139

Increase in unrestricted net assets 30,707

Individual Donors

Thank you to our donors at all levels of giving who have faithfully supported us this year. Donors to the Polly Rowe Memorial Fund are noted with an *asterisk. In addition, HomeShare Vermont gives a special thank you to all the staff, volunteers and donors of United Way of Chittenden County. All donors from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

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If we have omitted anyone or included anyone who would prefer to be anonymous, it is unintentional, and we would appreciate your notifying the HomeShare Vermont office. Anyone who contributed after June 30, 2015 will be acknowledged in next year's annual report.

We wish to acknowledge Steve Alexander and Phyllis Bartling of Futura Design the design and production of this Annual Report and many of our other printed pieces.

Our programs and services are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, place of birth, ancestry or national origin.



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