

Still Dancing IN ADDISON COUNTY

Sharing their home was something Lauraine and her husband, George, always loved to do. They often housed graduate students during his career as a professor. When George became ill, the family thought that Lauraine could benefit from a loving presence in the home and contacted HomeShare Vermont. The day when Lauraine met her first homesharer, George passed away. The family wondered if perhaps George decided his wife would be in good hands. Having someone in the home helped Lauraine as she grieved. Her homesharer

brought companionship and made cream custard when that was all Lauraine wanted to eat. Her family felt peace of mind having someone there at night, but they worried when the homesharer decided to move out of state.

But then they met Alex. Alex, 22, came to Vermont for college and had recently graduated with a degree in neuroscience. Her experience as a hospice volunteer, as well as her respect for elders, brought her to HomeShare Vermont. She liked the idea of homesharing to help her get to know the local area and people. Her love for rock-climb-



Alex and Lauraine

Photo by Karen Pike

ing, hiking, and everything outdoors made Lauraine's home a perfect fit.

On the day we visited, Alex practiced her harp while Lauraine enjoyed a home cooked meal. Alex writes notes, decorated with elaborate, colorful drawings, to remind Lauraine of the day's activities. "I get such a kick out of these!" Lauraine says. The attention Alex gives to those notes provides just a little glimpse of the consideration and care Alex brings to their relationship.

Lauraine brings just as much joy to Alex's life. "She and her family are so wonderful. They've taught me of the importance of relationships in leading a full, happy life."

She's learning the value of the little things in life by seeing the joy Lauraine gets from her evening can of Dr. Pepper and watching the birds at the feeders.

"Seventy years ago, dance brought me together with George," Lauraine recalls about the man she would later marry. Seven decades later, music and dance continue to bring her joy. Lauraine and Alex discovered that they met once before at a Celtic dance prior to homesharing, and this summer they attended an Addison County street dance together. Lauraine, now 91, continues to dance, most recently to Frank Sinatra in the living room, with Alex. ♦

A Letter from our President

I have been fortunate to be President of the Board of Directors of this amazing little gem of a non-profit again this year. It was a very good year for HomeShare Vermont. Our Executive Director was honored to present a keynote address at the 4th International HomeShare Congress in Melbourne Australia. Since then HomeShare has taken on the role of hosting and revitalizing the National Shared Housing Resource Center, a resource for shared housing programs around the US. In the next year we hope to work to develop resources to promote best practices for existing homesharing programs and to develop resources for new start-ups.

In 2017 HomeShare Vermont will be turning 35. HomeShare Vermont is one of the oldest and strongest homesharing programs in the country. Our success is the result of great staff, tireless volunteers and generous donors. The most inspirational are the program participants who share their lives and help each other. I am looking forward to the 35th anniversary celebrations and supporting the continued growth of this organization in the years to come.

Kelly Deforge, Board President





HomeShare Happenings

September 2016

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How You Can Help HomeShare Vermont

We rely on volunteers and fundraising to do our important work. If HomeShare Vermont is of value to you, please help us to help others. Refer friends and neighbors who can use our services. Be our ambassador, help spread the word, encourage others to give us a call.

Attend our events

Raise money or awareness by joining us at one of our fun events including our Raffle, Anniversary Event or Open House.

Volunteer

Lend a hand with outreach, event planning, fundraising or community education. A little bit of your time makes a huge impact.

Gifts in lieu of flowers

Designate HomeShare Vermont for remembrance gifts in lieu of flowers and communicate to others that you value the work we do.

Friend us on Facebook

Keep up to date with what we are doing and tell others about us.

Legacy

Consider a bequest or other gift and become a member of our Polly Rowe Legacy Society to help ensure homesharing services will be available to future generations.

A Legacy of Caring The Polly Rowe Society

Thanks to bequests received from Polly Rowe, Libby Downer and Alex Ribak, 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 —

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Our partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation enables us 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.

We wish to acknowledge Futura Design (design and production) and Vantage Press (printing) for their work on this Annual Report and HomeShare Vermont's 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.

Sharing "Bottle Washing" in Chittenden County

Del is a talkative 88-year-old retiree from GE and IBM. His days are packed full with exercise class, yard work, tending his large veggie garden, keeping his online dating profile updated, lunch with friends and family, and endless handyman projects. He says, "It's all self-inflicted! I make myself this busy!" He has lived almost 60 years in the area and loves his rural Williston home where his handyman projects abound.

When Del contacted HomeShare Vermont, he hoped to find a housemate for some conversation and companionship. And he said he was tired of being the "chief cook and bottle washer." He was quite open-minded about who this potential homesharer might be, just hoping they would share an interest in health and fitness. His wife passed away the year prior and he and his family found it therapeutic to transform her former painting studio into a bright, lovely living space.

HomeShare Vermont introduced Del to Geoff, an upbeat 22-year-old Saint Michael's graduate with a degree in philosophy. Geoff's days are busy at a local outdoor gear store and during the summer he also works as a camp counsellor. He is an avid skateboarder and plays percussion in a band at his church. Geoff brought a good sense of humor and a thoughtful

consideration of what he offers as a homesharer to his meeting with Del.

They decided to go forward and during the two week trial match they saw right away it would work. Geoff heads home after work most days for dinner with Del. They take turns cook-

ing and then get situated with TV trays to enjoy an episode of M.A.S.H. together while they eat. Del explains, "I have all 256 episodes and we're up to season 9. We both love it." They enjoy philosophical discussions and have started hiking together. Del has spent time with Geoff's parents and grandparents and he adds with a smile, "Geoff's friends all want to meet his 80-year-old roommate."

Like any housemates, they don't see eye to eye on everything but "agree to disagree" and have a great respect and fondness for one another. Del, who is happy to share those cooking and "bottle-washing" duties with his new housemate and friend, describes Geoff as a man of his word who will help out in any way he can. "He's that kind of guy," Del says. Geoff has found what he wanted from homesharing as well: the opportunity to offer companionship and outdoor work in exchange for sharing a comfortable, affordable home. Geoff says, "I'm having a great time living with Del and I'm looking forward to staying with him for quite a while!" ♦



Geoff and Del

Photo by Karen Pike

We're Better Off Together Than Alone!

Since 2001, HomeShare Vermont has conducted a series of nine outcomes surveys with matched program participants and the findings have consistently shown benefits to those sharing their homes (HomeShare Hosts) as well as to those who found housing (HomeShare Guests). This year we surveyed participants in matches as of April 1, 2016 and had an 82% response rate.

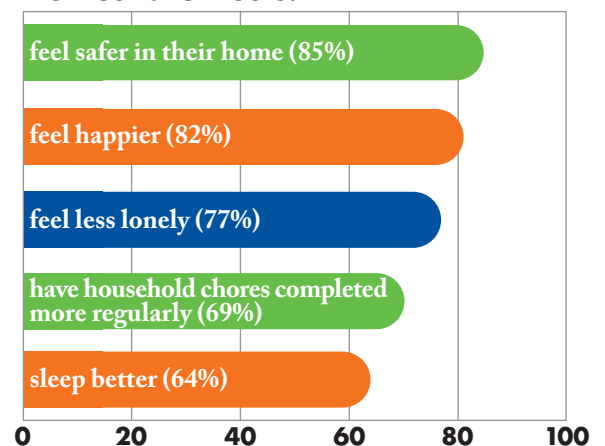
The surveys show it's "very important" for 89% of HomeShare Hosts to remain at home and more than one-third of them reported that they would not be able to stay at home without a

home sharer. Homeshare Hosts received an average of 8 hours of assistance per week from their Guests.

HomeShare Guests were asked how much money they were saving on housing costs and nearly three-quarters thought they were saving \$400 or more per month.

Over the years, HomeShare Vermont has consistently earned high satisfaction and recommendation rates. This year, 92% of respondents indicated they were "very satisfied" and 96% would recommend our services to a friend or relative.

Homeshare Hosts:



FY16 Accomplishments

◆ Very affordable housing

The average rent of all homesharing matches this year was \$221/month and of the total matches 30% were no rent exchanges, just service.

◆ We serve all ages!

This year our homeshare hosts ranged in age from 27-99 with the average being 68. Our homeshare guests ranged in age from 23-71 with the average being 46.

◆ Screening & Matching Process

This year, staff & volunteers:

- processed 364 applications
- made over 1,000 reference checks
- performed over 1,500 background checks
- interviewed 253 new customers (many in their homes) and
- facilitated 99 in-home introductions

◆ Service to our Neighbors

Those who found housing through HomeShare Vermont provided approximately 26,000 hours of assistance to our neighbors.

◆ Supplemental Income

By sharing their homes, low income seniors and others received \$111,000 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, yard-work 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.



HomeShare staff & Chittenden County volunteers: (standing) Ellie, Lisa, Carol, Kirby, Cathy, Amy, Radetta; (sitting) Joan, Holly, Barbara & Shannon.

Photo by Karen Pike

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 the assistance of 14 staff volunteers who each dedicated an average of 8 hours per week to our organization. Working closely with Amy Jelen, Homesharing Coordinator, our staff volunteers assisted with everything from interviewing new applicants to creating 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!



Addison County Volunteers: Ruth, Judy, Diana, Becky, Connie & Many

Photo by Karen Pike

Financial Report

July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016



We have again ended the year in the plus column thanks to a record year in donations and fundraising. Without taking additional contributions into account, our investments decreased slightly in value during the fiscal year, a period of relatively flat market performance, but these are long terms investments and we expect them to do

well over time. The State of Vermont, the City of Burlington and the United Way of Northwest Vermont continue to be important funding partners for us and we are grateful for their ongoing support. In addition to being great neighbors, we want to thank Cathedral Square Corporation for continuing to provide us with donated bookkeeping services this year.

John Draper, Treasurer

Income

United Way	\$ 29,648
State and local government grants	203,554
Contributions and special events	139,316
Fees and rental income	9,605
Donated services	22,254
Investment earnings	(6,978)

Total \$397,399

Complete Audited Financials for FY 16 can be found on the About Us page on our website at HomeShareVermont.org.

Expenses

Salaries	\$217,014
Payroll taxes & benefits	59,087
Volunteer service	22,254
Advertising	23,940
Occupancy/depreciation	14,026
Postage & printing	18,388
Insurance	4,313
Professional services	6,375
Travel	3,460
Misc.	10,308
Equip., telephone, supplies	8,161

Total \$388,036

Increase in unrestricted net assets \$9,363

Feeling Younger in Franklin County

Elizabeth, age 84, has lived in her rural Franklin County home since 1974 enjoying the beautiful mountain views and her fragrant gardens. An independent and lively woman, Elizabeth wasn't sure she wanted a housemate. However, her daughters were concerned about her living alone on a dirt road and urged her to contact HomeShare Vermont.

HomeShare Vermont introduced Elizabeth to Laura who was searching for a quiet, affordable place to live where she could focus on her studies. At their introduction, Elizabeth and Laura knew pretty quickly that they would be compatible housemates. "I couldn't believe how similar we were. Life experiences, books we've read, programs we watch—we have so much in common," says Laura. They decided to live together and became HomeShare Vermont's first match

in Franklin County!

Laura admires Elizabeth's adventurous spirit, "Elizabeth is so brave. She went skydiving which is something I would never do!" Elizabeth remembers, "My grandson convinced me to do it. I leapt into space and it took my breath away but I wasn't a bit scared. We even did twists and twirls!" Elizabeth enjoys her time with Laura reflecting, "When you mix with younger ages, it helps you to feel that age again."

Although they're generations apart, Elizabeth and Laura have similar experiences and interests which have created a strong bond. "My friendship with Elizabeth is one of the best I've ever had," beams Laura. Elizabeth agrees, "Laura is like one of the family and I'm very lucky to have her here." ♦



Elizabeth and Laura

Photo by Karen Pike

Individual Donors

Thank you to our donors at all levels of giving who have generously supported us this year (July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016).
Donations account for nearly one third of our income and are instrumental to our success.

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Leadership \$10,000 & above
Platinum \$1,000-\$9,999
Gold \$500-\$999
Silver \$250-\$499
Bronze \$100-\$249
Community Up to-\$99

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, 2016 will be acknowledged in next year's annual report.



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