

# A Letter from HOME

## HomeShare Wins National Award

HomeShare Vermont has received national recognition from the Federal Administration on Aging (AoA) as a 2008 National Aging Program Champion. This designation highlights programs and initiatives in States and communities that demonstrate the principles of the AoA's efforts to modernize community-based long term care and provide supports that enable older Americans to maintain their independence in the community for as long as possible.

The nomination for this award came from our partner and funder, the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living.



Staff and AmeriCorps members.

"HomeShare Vermont provides an innovative approach to helping individuals remain in their homes, and supports the Agency of Human Services' mission to ensure more older Vermonters are able to live full, independent lives within their own communities," noted Secretary of Human Services Cynthia D. LaWare. "We're very pleased the AoA has recognized this valuable Agency partner for their excellent efforts."

"We appreciate this recognition of our success and hope it will encourage more people to consider sharing their homes," said Kirby Dunn, Executive Director of HomeShare Vermont. 🏠

## Planning for the Future

Our Board of Directors just completed a comprehensive strategic planning process and set the goals for HomeShare's next four years. Coming out of a whirlwind four years of change, the Board decided it was time to take stock of where we are at, what the needs in the community are and what our goals should be for the near future.

Over a six month period, the Board solicited input on HomeShare Vermont from board members, staff and volunteers. They held a community meeting with four of our key partners to hear their evaluation of our services and what needs and opportunities existed in the community. They also reviewed outcomes data, client satisfaction surveys, and detailed client statistics.

After a review of many potential new services, the Board affirmed the current service and

geographic focus, essentially making the choice to go deep instead of broad, and to concentrate our efforts at growing the number of



HomeShare Vermont Board of Directors

home providers in the places where home seekers want to live-near the busline. "This effort clarified and validated our core mission" said board member Bill Drislane, who headed up the planning process.

The Board developed the following specific goals with specific strategies:

- GOAL #1: Increase the pool of home providers in the urban core, in order to increase the number of homesharing matches we make and help more people.
- GOAL #2: Make homesharing an option more people consider when they are younger and healthier when life transitions are easier to make.
- GOAL #3: Maintain the unique self-directed caregiving programming and services in Chittenden County.
- GOAL #4: Increase the sustainability of HomeShare Vermont focusing on: Finances, Leadership Succession Planning, Risk Management and Volunteers.
- GOAL # 5: Explore the feasibility of developing a consulting service to help expand homesharing services elsewhere.



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*Planning for the Future, continued from page 1*

This four-year strategic plan will be used to guide the work of the staff, board and volunteers. Several committees will follow up with specific tasks.

A very special thank you to our key partners who participated in this planning process including: AARP Vermont, Cathedral Square Corporation, the United Way of Chittenden County and the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent

Living. Thanks also to all the Homeshare Vermont clients who took the time to complete outcomes and satisfaction surveys. And, thanks to the volunteers, board members and staff persons who also participated in this process. This project would not have been possible without a special projects grant from the United Way of Chittenden County which allowed us to hire Debby Bergh to help us facilitate this project. 🏠

**MISSION:**

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.

**Did You See Us in the *New York Times*?**

On July 16 in a front page article, the *New York Times* highlighted the fact that people around the country are taking in boarders to help pay their housing bills. Kirby Dunn was interviewed for the article and noted that HomeShare Vermont is seeing an increase in people who are looking for homesharers to help with rent and/or utility costs. While homesharing arrangements are more than just renting a room and usually provide a service component, they can be helpful to people who are willing to charge an affordable rent or who simply need some help with paying the utilities.

As houses get larger and fewer people are living in them, there is an untapped housing resource out there. While most people are reluctant to take in a stranger, the screening and matching process of HomeShare Vermont makes that an easier thought to consider. Homeshare Vermont has no age or disability requirements for people to offer a room in their home. If someone charges under \$400/month in rent and the home is in good condition, we can work with you to find someone to move in and help with what you need. Just give us a call!

***New Video Produced by CCTV***

With a generous grant from the Wurster Family Foundation, HomeShare Vermont has a new promotional video thanks to CCTV Productions! The video is used during Interviews to give applicants a little more information about homesharing from people who are in a match. It is also used as an outreach tool when we go out and talk with groups such as senior meal sites, Rotary Clubs etc. The Video is only ten minutes long, so if you are a member of an organization whose members would like to hear more about homesharing, give us a call!



*Stars of our video.*

## Service Report

July 1, 2007–June 30, 2008

|               | <b>HOMESHARING</b> | <b>HOURLY CARE</b> | <b>LIVE-IN CARE</b> | <b>Totals</b> |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| INTAKES       | 388                | 70                 | 61                  | 519           |
| APPLICATIONS  | 142                | 49                 | 41                  | 232           |
| INTERVIEWS    | 111                | 33                 | 27                  | 171           |
| INTRODUCTIONS | 96                 | 45                 | 26                  | 167           |
| MATCHES       | 54                 | 99                 | 39                  | 192           |

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This year we saw a 28% increase in Matches over the previous year. This shows a huge growth in the need for our services. The numbers above also show how labor intensive the matching process is. While our goal is to match everyone who comes in for services, sometimes our programs aren't a good fit, and other times we just don't find what someone is looking for. Also note that Introductions and Matches count events, not people.

**A Personalized Service:** In both Homesharing and Caregiving our services are tailor made to the individual and we stay actively involved in all our matches to help with changing needs or any issues which may arise. We provide comprehensive screening including criminal and abuse registry checks and require at least three positive reference checks.

**Homesharing** is an old-fashioned bartering arrangement where someone with a spare room in

the home needs a little help, such as companionship, help with meals or simply a protective presence in the home, and is matched with someone who is looking for an affordable place to live and can offer an average of ten hours a week of service. An affordable rent or help with utilities can also be part of the exchange.

**Caregiving** serves people who need more help than a homesharer can provide and they hire a caregiver to provide personal, non-medical care in the home on either an hourly basis, or as a live-in companion who works full-time in exchange for a salary plus room and board. Our caregiving program is unique in that it is based on the self-directed model of care where the caregiver works directly for the care receiver. In this way you get to decide who comes into your home.

### Our Screening & Matching Process

With over twenty-five years of experience, HomeShare Vermont has developed a comprehensive and client driven process to make the best in-home matches possible. It is 100% up to people in our program to decide who they want to live or work with.

- Each applicant completes a written application.
- A comprehensive Interview is scheduled to get to know what the person's needs are.
- Background checks are done and references checked.
- If approved for the program, staff starts to look for a match.
- When we have someone we think might be a fit, we call and tell them about each other.
- If they would like to meet, we arrange an Introduction with staff present. Very often several Introductions might occur before the right person is found.

- If both agree, a Trial Match is set up, typically for two weeks.
- If that succeeds, a Match Agreement is signed, outlining the expectations of both parties.
- HomeShare staff stay in regular contact and are available if needs change or issues arise.



Weekly case conference meeting with volunteers.

## Sharing and Saving!

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Built in 1795, Jean's home looks out over the town green and bears a welcome sign inviting visitors inside. Jean shared the home with her husband for 37 years before he passed away. She raised her five children there and hosted her grandchildren. In essence, Jean's life evolved and grew out of this home and the idea of leaving it just doesn't cross her mind.

Yet, as times changed, children moved away and years passed, Jean began to miss the hustle and bustle of a full house. "I was looking at a number of options because I didn't really need the house to myself," said Jean. "but there were so many options. You could go this way and that way. Then a friend mentioned HomeShare Vermont." After listening to the benefits of a homeshare, Jean decided to give it a try. "The particular thing I liked most about HomeShare Vermont is that they did so much background research," Jean said and looked over at Kevin, her homesharer, with a smile "they wanted to make sure I didn't have a criminal record." The room chuckled.

Kevin was looking for a con-

venient, quiet place to focus on his last semester of college at Castleton State. "Living with three other guys so close to campus was not a good environment for being serious about school. I wanted to accomplish things," says Kevin. He saw the HomeShare Vermont listings in



Jean and Kevin

the local paper and decided that sounded like the peace of mind he needed. "It's nice to be in a friendly atmosphere, have my own space and really prepare for grad school auditions and for student teaching. This arrangement has helped a lot."

Kevin was also able to save money for further schooling by paying Jean an affordable \$300 dollars per month and doing some light chores around the house.

During their trial match Jean and Kevin learned that Kevin's grandfather had once worked with Jean at the YMCA. This connection, among others (such as their love for Kevin's tortellini and Jean's omelets) sealed the deal for Kevin and Jean and after the initial trial period they started their match in November of 2007. "Once we worked out the time schedules and defined our space it became a pleasure to see Kevin's friendly face everyday," says Jean "and it's also nice to have a little bit more income to play around with so the things that need to get done around the house get done." But saving is only one of the benefits Jean and Kevin shared, friendship was a second. "It's good to know I have someone to wave hello and goodbye to and we don't get into each others' hair too much." 🏠

## Off to a Good Start in Addison County

HomeShare Vermont expanded its service area to include Addison County almost two years ago and has been successful in making several matches, including Jean and Kevin featured above. Staff Volunteers provide the majority of the service delivery overseen by the South Burlington staff, including client interviews and reference checks, flyer and brochure distribution, and attending a biweekly case conference meeting. Staff and vol-

unteers work together through ongoing trainings and discussions on how best to screen, interview and match home seekers and providers. Referrals from other service providers are increasing and the HomeShare Vermont name is becoming more well-known throughout the county. Thank you, Addison County, off to a successful start!



Amy Jelen (L) with HomeShare Vermont Volunteers. Seated: Joyce H., Ruth B., Julie; Standing: Connie, Carol, Katie, and Becky S.

# Homesharing Brightens up Two Lives

It was a little too quiet here," Sandy says of living alone in her cozy apartment in Williston. "I was open to having someone live with me right away!" Sandy, 50, has dealt with the challenges of cerebral palsy all her life. The muscle tightness and limited movement associated with the disease contribute to a fear of falling, and this has kept her from trying to do many of the things that she wanted to. Sandy lived with her parents her entire life. After they passed away she found life to be a little lonely. "Companionship is what I really needed." Her brother directed her to HomeShare Vermont. It took a few months before the right match was found, but when Sandy and Donna met, they both knew it was a good fit.

Donna is an energetic, upbeat woman in her late 40s. She is strong in her faith, speaks passionately about helping people, and volunteers at a local residential care home for seniors. She was looking for an affordable home, but she also came to HomeShare Vermont with a desire to make a positive impact in another person's life.

Their homeshare match began this past winter. Thanks to Donna, a great home-style cook and a former professional baker, Sandy is eating fewer prepackaged meals. "I don't refuse any of Donna's cooking." Although Sandy says her major challenge is



Sandy and Donna

housekeeping, the apartment is more organized than ever. The benefit is mutual, and Donna has found a way to live affordably and loves Sandy's sense of humor, her gentleness and big heart.

When living alone, Sandy pretty much kept to herself. Since Donna moved in, both women have developed friendships with their neighbors. Sandy smiles, "My social life has improved. I play bingo. I go out walking every day if the weather's good and am planning to start physical therapy. Donna even got a movie night started for residents here!"

Life has become less quiet for Sandy, and that's a good thing. 🏠

## Caregiving — Home at Last!

Daniel was 10 years old when he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. By the end of high school he was having difficulty walking, and by age 22 he was in a wheelchair. In his early thirties, Daniel came down with a serious case of pneumonia and had to be hospitalized. The illness permanently damaged his respiratory system and left him in need of a respirator. After many months he was well enough to come home from the hospital, but only if around the clock care was put in place. His Dad could help, but he had a dairy farm to run, and Daniel's Mom was also living with MD. "They didn't have any way to get me home," says Daniel. "We were talking to the hospital staff and someone finally suggested that we call HomeShare Vermont for someone to live-in."

Meanwhile, Josué and Eleonore had just applied to HomeShare Vermont. Originally from the Republic of Congo, Josué had been living with his cousin, Eleonore, in a small apartment in Burlington that was in need of repair. "Eleonore and I were in a desperate situation," recalls Josué. Josué heard about HomeShare Vermont and made the call. Josué had been a practicing physician in Africa, and was studying for his licensure exams in the US, and Eleonore had experience working as an LNA. MaryLou, HomeShare Vermont's

Caregiving Coordinator, realized that they would make an excellent team for Daniel who needed high tech care.



Josué, Daniel, and Eleonore

Photo: Karen Pike

Even with caregivers now in place it was not easy to get Daniel home. He needed a lot of care, including nursing staff during the day. "Sometimes we would get discouraged because some pieces weren't falling into place," remembers Daniel's Mom. "MaryLou would say, 'we're going to keep trying.' She was always an encouragement and a help."

*continued on page 8*

# Building Endowment Fund

6 July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008

As part of our Capital Campaign to build a new home for HomeShare Vermont, we included a healthy reserve account. Now that our Capital Campaign is over, this fund has since been renamed the Building Endowment Fund. As we moved into our new home in the end of the last fiscal year (May 2007) we had some settling-in and deferred costs which are included in this fiscal year. Some of these costs include phones, furniture, technology, legal and one-time property tax payments. Below is a summary of the activity in this fund this year.

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance | \$108,607 |
| Donations         | 450       |
| Interest          | 3,313     |
| Expenses          | (22,309)  |
| Ending Balance    | \$ 90,061 |



Our home in South Burlington.

## Polly Rowe Memorial Fund

The Polly Rowe Memorial Fund was developed in 2002 after the passing of one of our founders and long-time volunteers, Polly Rowe. Polly volunteered for HomeShare for over eighteen years and her work resulted in hundreds of home-sharing matches and the evolution of the program and services. She not only volunteered her time but was also a homesharer herself. The goal of the Polly Rowe Memorial Fund is to seed an endowment which can provide income to help support HomeShare Vermont in future years.



Many thanks to the donors listed here who are helping to assure that HomeShare Vermont will be here to help future generations. Please consider adding HomeShare Vermont to your estate plans.

A special thank you to the following donors who have given so generously this year:

*Anonymous*

*Safford Adams*

*Roberta Baker*

*Sr. Mary Boiselle*

*Peter Cameron*

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*Phyllis Graves*

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### POLLY ROWE MEMORIAL FUND

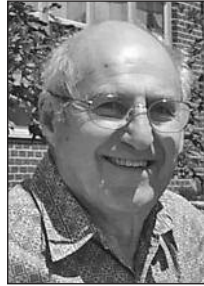
*July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008*

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Beginning balance | \$ 131,510 |
| Donations         | 1,745      |
| Interest          | 7,293      |
| Ending balance    | \$140,548  |

# Financial Report

July 1, 2007–June 30, 2008

As treasurer I am pleased to report that fiscal 2007-2008 ended with a surplus. There were many reasons such as unspent budgeted salary, a shared phone system with CSC, generous contributions and not the least of which is our new office. Owning our condo is dramatically less costly than renting. Thank you all for contributing to our capi-



*George Mona,  
board treasurer*

tal campaign; your investment returns about 3%/year.

We share more than adjoining offices and a phone system with Cathedral Square Corp. of whom we were a part of until January 2005. CSC does our payroll accounting and bookkeeping. Thank you CSC.

Finally, I thank the executive director and my finance committee for the close, periodic monitoring of expenses and investments.

## Audited Statement of Financial Position 6/30/08

ASSETS:

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Current Assets               |                   |
| Cash & cash equivalents      | \$332,331         |
| Grants receivable            | 1,607             |
| Prepaid insurance            | <u>410</u>        |
| Total Current Assets         | <u>334,348</u>    |
| Office Facility, at cost     | 202,352           |
| Office furniture & equipment | 14,525            |
| Accumulated depreciation     | (6,836)           |
| <b>Total Assets</b>          | <b>\$ 544,389</b> |

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Current Liabilities  |                   |
| Accounts payable   | 888               |
| Accrued payroll  | <u>3,310</u>      |
| Total Current Liabilities                                    | <u>4,198</u>      |
| Net Assets   |                   |
| Unrestricted net assets                                      |                   |
| Undesignated   | 97,541            |
| Polly Rowe Memorial Fund                                     | 140,548           |
| Office facility, furniture<br>& equipment, less depreciation | <u>210,041</u>    |
| Total Unrestricted Net Assets                                | 448,130           |
| Temp. Restricted Net Assets                                  | 2,000             |
| Restricted Net Assets  |                   |
| For Capital Expenditure                                      | <u>90,061</u>     |
| Total Net Assets   | <u>540,191</u>    |
| <b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>                    | <b>\$ 544,389</b> |

## INCOME

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| United Way            | \$ 59,134        |
| State Grant           | 77,545           |
| Municipal Grants      | 20,700           |
| Foundations & Grants  | 18,800           |
| Sustaining Fund Drive | 18,252           |
| Inns Raffle           | 9,485            |
| Spring Party          | 13,159           |
| Donations             | 16,756           |
| Business Donations    | 6,227            |
| Customer Fees         | 5,380            |
| Interest Income       | 2,877            |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>\$248,315</b> |

## EXPENSES

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Salaries            | \$125,672        |
| Payroll Benefits    | 27,778           |
| Addison County      | 12,500           |
| Advertising         | 5,486            |
| Occupancy           | 5,615            |
| Postage             | 4,383            |
| Training/AmeriCorps | 6,463            |
| Fundraising Exp.    | 2,866            |
| Audit/Legal/Ins.    | 5,030            |
| Strategic Planning  | 3,000            |
| 25th Anniversary    | 3,071            |
| Video               | 5,910            |
| Printing            | 11,693           |
| Equipment           | 2,607            |
| Supplies            | 1,576            |
| Telephone           | 1,555            |
| Mileage             | 2,806            |
| Misc./General/Fees  | 4,632            |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$232,643</b> |
| <b>Net Surplus</b>  | <b>\$15,672</b>  |

## A Taste of Home was really DELICIOUS!

8 For those of you who could not attend our May 9th event, A Taste of Home, you missed a great party! Delicious food donated by some of Burlington's best restaurants, quality silent auction items and good company made this one of HomeShare's most successful fundraisers ever.

This year we decided to take our annual spring fundraising event to The Lake and College building in Burlington which turned out to be a big hit with all who attended. Views of the lake, a beautiful day and great

music by our DJ, Evan, made it easy for people to relax and go shopping! Some of the biggest items up for auction included Red Sox tickets, beautiful art work by Bonnie Acker and Amy Jelen and a portrait session by photographer Karen Pike. Many fabulous items on our pink, green and yellow tables were purchased for much more than we had hoped—people were really in the giving mood!

As the music played, guests sipped on drinks, tasted foods from around the globe and watched as

the sun set behind the Adirondacks. One of the highlights was the drawing for a dinner for eight in your home donated by Leunig's Bistro. Congratulations to Paula Coletti who won this fabulous prize. "This was the best meal I ever had in my life" said Paula. Everyone had a great time.

**SAVE THE DATE:** A Taste of Home 2009 will be held on Friday, May 22. Due to this year's fantastic turn out we are in search of a bigger venue! But don't worry, Lakeviews are a top priority. 🏠



At the dinner at Paula and Larry's home, with Chef Donnell and sous chef Amy.



Seated: Dot and MaryLou, Standing: Dave, Amy, Becky, Kirby, Kira, Jane, & Peter C.

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### Caregiving — Home At Last!, continued from page 5

After 14 months in the hospital, Daniel was finally able to return to the farmhouse that has been in his family since his great-great grandfather's time. Eleonore and Josué moved in, and quickly got used to the new routine. "We came here and were very welcomed. It was just like we knew them for a long time. In Africa we share a lot, and it's the same way here." says Josué. Josué enjoys the peacefulness of farm life. Already a guitar player, he's now also taking piano lessons from Daniel's aunt. Eleonore's English is improving and she

is "learning how to cook American food."

Daniel says that his caregivers are very nice. "They really care about me and they are good people to be around." Of being home at last, Daniel says that he feels "more independent because I have people here to help me. I'm just happier here because it's home." Says Daniel's Mom, "If we didn't have live-in caregivers, Daniel wouldn't have been able to come home. It was a real blessing that HomeShare was there." 🏠

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### GoodSearch and Shop to Raise Money for HomeShare Vermont!

GoodSearch is a search engine that works just like Yahoo except that every time you search, GoodSearch gives a donation to HomeShare Vermont when you choose us from the list of eligible nonprofits. There is also a shopping section to the site, called GoodShop. If you visit an online vendor by clicking on its link in

GoodShop, HomeShare Vermont will receive a donation from the vendor based on the size of your purchase. You can help HomeShare Vermont everyday just by searching or shopping online as you normally would. Visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) today to learn more and start searching and shopping for HomeShare Vermont!



# Thank You!

*We'd like to thank our donors at all levels of giving, who have faithfully supported us again this year. HomeShare Vermont gives a special thank you to the staff, volunteers and donors of the United Way of Chittenden County.*

United Way of  
Chittenden County



|   |                             |                                    |                                 |
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