



## Helping Each Other While Helping Families

In looking at a few of the matches we have shared with you this year, helping families and creating extended families are a constant theme of what homesharing is all about.

Your gift to HomeShare Vermont helps us help our neighbors and their families. Please consider making a gift to HomeShare Vermont.

## A Daughter's Testimonial by Louise B.

Last year around this time, it became quite evident that our 94 year old mother was not comfortable being home alone at night any longer. She had expressed her fears and also was dealing with macular degeneration which most probably added to her anxiousness as well as ours.

Our mother has been a widow for 18 years and has lived alone in her home. She expressed her desire to remain there for as long as possible. After discussing her situation with her and our family, we decided to contact HomeShare Vermont.

Within a short time, our mother was matched with someone who had a lot of similar interests and seemed very compatible. To our mother's relief as well as ours, the match has turned out to be as 'perfect' as we had hoped for. Our mother's anxiety has subsided. She enjoys having someone in her home who is there for companionship but also someone she has come to admire and is very fond of.

Our family is so pleased to see our mother happy and still enjoying her home. Needless to say, our family is at ease knowing that our mother is not alone and there is someone who she trusts that is there for her. We feel very fortunate to have such a caring and respectful individual who sees to our mother's needs."

HomeShare Vermont: Improving lives and communities by bringing Vermonters together to share homes.

## Here are a few of the matches from this past year:



Photo by Karen Pike

Nabil, Alyce and Liliane

### Three's Company in Winooski

Homesharing has created a caring bond for three wonderful people. Alyce says, "I would not be able to stay at home without them. They're a big help and I'm glad to have them here."

### Mom's Safe and Sound

Barbara's daughter told us, "Ha cared for my mother in a manner that allowed her to live in her own home safely and preserved my mother's dignity through the end of her life. I am so grateful."



Photo by Karen Pike

Barbara and Ha



Photo by Karen Pike

Kaitlyn and Kate

### Friendship Set to Music

Kate's Mom shares, "They are a terrific match. Kaitlyn is delightful and has added a whole new dimension to Kate's life. The arrangement has really enriched her world." Kaitlyn says it goes beyond just a new home and that Kate and her family have added so much to her quality of life.



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# A LITTLE HomeShare FAMILY

Those who knew Sam often heard his response “I am persisting” when asked how he was doing. Most would agree that Sam did much more than just persist, right up until he passed away at age 96. He was a gentle man and a lifelong social activist who cared deeply about the state of humankind.

Sam devoted himself to his writings on what he called “his theory of compassion.” For anyone willing to listen, Sam loved to discuss his philosophy about how people might be more connected to one another and how this might save the world.

Sam was very active in Middlebury’s various faith and peace communities, meditation and poetry groups, and had hope that we could all find a way to step outside ourselves to commune with a larger sense of family and community. At least once a week, Sam fasted to remember there are people who don’t have enough. Sam cared deeply.

At age 91, Sam and his family thought it would be helpful to have someone with him to help out and engage in conversation. They worked with HomeShare Vermont to find just the right housemate. We introduced Sam to Kevin, a man in his 40s pursuing a graduate degree in sustainability and working on solar projects for a local company. Kevin liked the “win-win” nature of home-sharing relationships—people helping each other. He needed a home where his son

Asher, an active 2 year old, could stay with him part of each week. Always open-minded, Sam decided he was willing to try it out.

Kevin moved in with the understanding that he would take Sam grocery shopping, share some meals, and assist with typing and editing his book

on the computer in exchange for sharing Sam’s home. A couple of years later, Sam welcomed Jen, Kevin’s partner, into the home as well. Each of them brought their own strengths to the household. Kevin continued providing tech support, such as setting up his

Sam’s Facebook page, and Jen organized their former “bachelor pad” and went with Sam to appointments.

Sam’s daughter remarks on how fortunate she felt, living out of state, knowing there were eyes and ears in the home watching out for her dad. Hugely important was having interaction and stimulating conversation,

and Kevin and Jen often times felt like whetstones for his new ideas. When HomeShare Vermont checked in with Sam, he would say he felt so safe having his “little family” there.

Sam was ever present in the world and with the people around him. Kevin, Jen and Asher experienced the gift of walking alongside Sam for the last several years of his life and helped make it possible for him to spend those years at home.



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Thank You

for considering a gift to our 2016 Annual Appeal  
so that we can continue to make great homesharing matches!