



Upcoming Events

Info Session

Considering sharing your home but want to learn more first? Join us for a free 30-minute informational meeting with staff who will explain our program and answer questions. Space is limited so please pre-register: (802) 863-5625 or home2@sover.net. Check our website for future meetings. *Tuesday, September 16 at Noon At the HomeShare Vermont office*

Franklin County Kick-Off

Meet with program staff, learn about our services and celebrate our expansion into Franklin County! *Thursday, September 18th, 10am St. Paul's Methodist Church 11 Church Street, St. Albans*

Fight Fraud, Shred Instead

HomeShare Vermont and AARP are teaming up to provide a free shredding event open to the public. Secure Shred trucks will be providing on-site shredding. All types of paper are accepted including documents with staples and binding. Please limit materials to 3 bags or boxes per person. *Saturday, September 20, 9 am to Noon HomeShare Vermont parking lot behind Walgreens*

Open House

Come to an Open House, meet staff and board members and enjoy some seasonal treats! *Wednesday, October 22, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm At the HomeShare Vermont office*

AN *Aha* MOMENT

I had an aha moment!" quipped Jean who lives in the New North End with her two dogs—Daisy, a yellow lab, and Oliver, a corgi-mix. Jean travels frequently and was hiring dog walkers while she was away until she thought, "Why not share my home in exchange for help with the dogs?" She contacted HomeShare Vermont to find a dog-friendly housemate.



Homesharers Katie and Jean

Photo by Karen Pike

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"It's a great idea because many people live alone and would rather not," says Katie.
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Meanwhile, Katie had moved to Vermont from Florida to attend nursing school. She was looking for a quiet place to stay where she could focus on studies away from the college scene when a friend recommended

HomeShare Vermont. "It's a great idea because many people live alone and would rather not," says Katie.

Jean and Katie were introduced and hit it off right away. "We have common interests and values and a similar political view," explains Jean. Among her other talents Katie is also a stellar dog walker. "I take them out every day and we walk at least two miles. I enjoy it," says Katie. Jean adds, "The woman is a road warrior! Snow, ice, rain she walks through it all. The dogs have never been happier!"

Katie has since completed her studies and is now working as a registered nurse. She and Jean lead busy lives and

mostly cross paths in the evenings. For them home-sharing is a lifestyle choice that allows flexibility. "Many people have the misconception that HomeShare Vermont is only for the elderly, but people of any age could benefit," says Jean. "I have this house that's too big for just me and I'm delighted to be sharing it." ♦



Photo by Karen Pike



Photo by Karen Pike



HomeShare Happenings

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Thank You MaryLou!



Photo by Karen Pike

MaryLou Thorpe

MaryLou Thorpe started working for HomeShare Vermont when our office was on St. Paul Street in Burlington back when we were called Project Home! MaryLou had been working for another non-profit down the hall from our office and we often worked with the same clients so we got to know her well. When a staff position opened up, our Executive Direc-

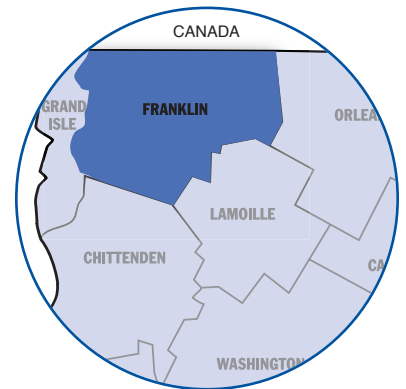
tor immediately went down the hall and offered MaryLou the job.

MaryLou was a major reason our Caregiving Program was such a success. During her tenure the program grew 300% in thirteen years. It was due to her empathy and her personal relationships with both those needing care and those offering care that our Caregiving Program was held in such high regard. MaryLou is one of the most caring people on the planet and will be missed by our clients, staff and board. We wish her lots of happiness in her travels and time with the grandkids. Thank you MaryLou!

HomeShare Expands North to Franklin County

As of July 1st HomeShare Vermont began offering homesharing services in Franklin County. We have been meeting with a variety of organizations to tell folks about homesharing and will have an official kickoff in September where people can come and learn more about

what we do (*See page 1*). Already we have several new participants looking for someone to move in and before long we will have our first match to the North! Special thanks for a grant of \$1,500 from People's United Bank to help us get started.



Looking for New Staff Volunteers

As we expand our services to Franklin County we are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping us work with potential homesharing participants. This volunteer role has been critical to our success in Chittenden, Addison and Grand Isle counties. Staff volunteers play an essential role in the matching process. From interviews to introductions, volunteers work closely

with staff in an effort to help people find just the right housemate. Training is provided.

HomeShare Vermont currently benefits from the assistance of 14 staff volunteers who dedicate an average of 10 hours per week to our organization. With over 250 active participants in our homesharing program at any given time, staff volunteers play a crucial role ensuring that our process runs

smoothly and efficiently. Several of our current volunteers have been helping us for over a decade, in part because it's a fun and rewarding experience and they enjoy the friendships they have developed amongst the group.

If you live in Franklin County and might be interested in learning more about our volunteer opportunities, please give us a call!

5,000

REFERENCES AND COUNTING

If you've stopped by our office you might have seen Barbara and her guide dog Herbie. For the past five years they have been coming twice a week to volunteer with HomeShare Vermont. After she retired in 2009 Barbara wanted to give back to the community, but finding a volunteer job was not as easy as she had hoped. "There didn't seem to be many opportunities available for those who are blind or visually impaired," says Barbara.

Barbara contacted RSVP, an organization that helps people 55 years and older find volunteer opportunities, and RSVP contacted Kirby Dunn at HomeShare Vermont. After hearing about Barbara's skills, Kirby was very interested in meeting, and Barbara jokes, "I knew I'd like it because my guide dog's name is Herbie which



Barbara, our amazing volunteer, and Herbie

rhymes with Kirby!"

As part of HomeShare's screening process we call at least three references for each applicant and we needed help making those calls. Barbara's skills and experience were a perfect fit for this volunteer

position we had open. Since 2009 Barbara has called and skillfully interviewed more than 5,000 references. Thanks to Barbara's assistance, we can quickly process applications and help those who want to homeshare.

"Barbara has been an outstanding member of our team and we appreciate all the work she does here. There was minimal effort involved to make the job accessible for Barbara. We installed screen reading software on the computer and hooked up a headset to the telephone. That was all it took," says Kirby.

There are many supports available that can make a job or volunteer position accessible. Organizations like Vermont Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) and the Division of the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI) can offer resources and advice.

Oftentimes, people who are visually impaired already have the technology they need and could bring it along when they volunteer.

Organizations should consider all their options

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Since 2009 Barbara has called and skillfully interviewed more than 5,000 references.
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when in need of volunteers. Barbara urges, "Lots of people who are blind or visually impaired are proficient with computers, can answer the phone, and have other skills. Don't forget about the blind and visually impaired community when looking for volunteers!" ♦

Here are just a few of the invaluable resources in our community:

VABVI

www.vabvi.org
60 Kimball Avenue
South Burlington, VT 05403
Phone: 802-863-1358

Vermont Council of the Blind

Carolyn Clapper, President
clappercarolyn@yahoo.com
Phone: (802) 895-2973

Division of the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI)

www.dbvi.vermont.gov
110 Cherry Street, Suite 2-1
Burlington, VT 05401
Phone: (802) 863-7530

RSVP

www.unitedwaycc.org/volunteer/rsvp
Phet Keomanyvanh
phet@unitedwaycc.org
Phone: (802) 861-7831

By the Numbers

Average rent in
Chittenden County

\$1,003
a month

Average
HomeShare
rent

\$208
a month

Current homesharers
have saved over

\$700,000
during fiscal
year 2014



412 Farrell Street, Suite 300, South Burlington, VT 05403



United Way of
Chittenden County



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.

A SAMPLE OF HOMES AVAILABLE

In **Burlington**, provide companionship and cook and share a couple meals each week in exchange for a reduced rent, with a lovely woman in her 20s with Williams Syndrome. Transportation needed, on occasion. A small pet would be considered!

Share a home in **Grand Isle** with a woman in her late 80s who enjoys going out for lunch, playing cards, and sharing conversation. Pay a reduced rent of \$100/month (utilities and cable included) in exchange for providing a nighttime presence and occasional rides together to go out for a meal or a creemee! Clean, comfortable home and large yard.

Share a **Monkton** home with lovely mountain views with a woman in her 50s interested in gardening, skiing, and reading. Convenient to Bristol and Hinesburg (about 9 miles to each). \$450/month includes all utilities and internet. Private half bath, large screened in porch. Must be cat-friendly!

In **St. Albans**, seeking a companionable female to share an apartment with a senior woman. Pay no rent in exchange for providing a nighttime presence, cooking 3-4 meals a week and reminding her to take medications. Knowledge of memory loss is a plus.

Share an apartment in **Colchester** with an independent man in his 50s with muscular dystrophy who is interested in music, sports, philosophy, physics, and writing. Looking for a roommate who can pay \$350/month (utilities/cable/internet included) and do the house-keeping. Must be cat-friendly.

Share a home in **Essex** with a woman in her 80s, an excellent cook who enjoys sports and history shows on TV. Seeking a housemate who can provide housekeeping and share meals on occasion. \$300/month, all included.

I
could
use
rental
income.

HOMESHARE
Finding you just the right person!

HomeShare Vermont (802) 863-5625

www.HomeShareVermont.org