



Homes Available

Bristol: \$200/mo. to share a home with a retired farmer who enjoys TV, cooking, and conversation. Seeking companionship, shared evening meals and help with the lawn and garden.

Burlington: Seeking a non-smoking woman to share a condo with a woman in her 50s. \$300/mo., dog-walking 3-4 evenings/week and shared housekeeping.

Burlington: Support an independent woman in her 30s with a brain injury. Pay no rent in exchange for 10-12 hours/week of cooking, transportation, and schedule reminders.

Grand Isle: Share a home with an active woman in her 80s who enjoys playing cards and conversation. Rent only \$100/month in exchange for some evening companionship, nighttime presence and occasional rides to go out for a meal or a scenic drive.

Monkton: \$400/month to share a home with a woman in her 50s interested in gardening, skiing, and NPR. Small sunny bedroom, private 1/2 bath. Must be cat-friendly.

Salisbury: Share a home with a woman in her 50s who enjoys traveling, cooking, and baking. \$400/mo. Must be dog and cat friendly.

And More.....Call us!

Other homes available in Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties

JUST Try IT!

Deb is a professional in her 60s who has worked as an insurance agent and customer service representative for over 20 years. She has a quick wit, a fun-loving nature and is proud to be a native Vermonter! Deb began homesharing when finding it a challenge to pay for a home on one income. When she found a roommate on her own who didn't work out, she decided to contact HomeShare Vermont the next time she was seeking a housemate. Safety and security were Deb's top priorities, and she knew she could benefit from HomeShare's screening and background checks.

Since then Deb has successfully found housemates through HomeShare Vermont for several years. For the past year, she has shared her South Burlington condo with Kristen, a kind, mature professional in her 30s. Kristen moved to Vermont from out of state and was surprised by the high housing costs. She rented her own apartment for a year but found that she was spending most of her income on rent. "When I found HomeShare Vermont online, I thought it was too good to be true!" She decided to give up her apartment and



Deb and Kristen

move in with Deb.

They both appreciate HomeShare Vermont's unique matching process. Deb shared, "I hadn't thought about many of the topics that HomeShare covers in their Introduction meetings. This was

.....
"When I found HomeShare Vermont online, I thought it was too good to be true!" - Kristen
.....

really helpful." Kristen added, "And the two-week trial period is a huge benefit."

Financially, homesharing has met both of their needs. Not only that, they've discovered lots of little pluses that make their match just the right fit. "Deb has been warm and welcoming since day one. It's so nice to come

home and have someone there," said Kristen. They communicate well and share a meal here and there, but they both love their quiet time in the evenings. Deb added, "I still have my privacy, and that's important to me." Kristen continues to pursue her interests of photography, spending time with friends and family, volunteering for a nonprofit, as well as studying for the CPA exam. Deb loves to garden, watch her favorite TV shows, and keep in touch with friends. They've discovered that you don't have to give up your privacy to share housing.

The arrangement has created a mutual benefit for these two women, and that's what homesharing is all about. Deb's advice? "Just be upfront about your needs, and try it!" ♦



HomeShare Happenings

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Spring Event a *Healthy Success*

In April, HomeShare Vermont hosted a spring fundraising event with guest speaker, Amy Welch, Associate Professor and Director of the Behavioral Medicine Lab at Johnson State College. Dr. Welch gave an inspiring talk entitled "How to Exercise for a Healthy Mind." From her talk we learned:

- Exercise actually generates new brain matter
- Exercise protects the brain and improves memory
- Moderate aerobic exercise 3x/week can show benefits in as few as 6 days

In terms of getting ourselves to exercise she suggested:

- It must be pleasant, especially at the end
- Start with an easy goal and gradually increase
- Make it social
- Choose your own activity

The event raised over \$10,000 to support our homesharing program and everyone enjoyed the delicious and healthy foods prepared by Catering By Dale.

Special thanks to our event sponsors:

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Concept 2



Dr. Amy Welch (center) with Board members Kate Baldwin and Kelly Deforge

Photo by Karen Pike

Rocker Raffle *Winners!*

Again this year HomeShare Vermont received a generous gift of a Vermont Folk Rocker, beautifully hand-crafted by Jim Geier in his Starksboro studio. You might have seen one of these wonderful chairs in one of the Vermont highway rest area buildings. Their quilted design makes them incredibly comfortable. This rocker was one of a kind with an autograph from the artisan himself! The rocker was valued at over \$1,500 and we sold over 200 tickets, raising over \$4,000 for our organization. The winning ticket was drawn at our spring fundraising event in April. The lucky winners were long time volunteers and supporters, Julie and Stewart Pierson—well deserved! Thanks to Jim and everyone who purchased tickets.



Julie and Stewart Pierson with dog Daisy, winners of our Vermont Folk Rocker raffle

Photo by Karen Pike

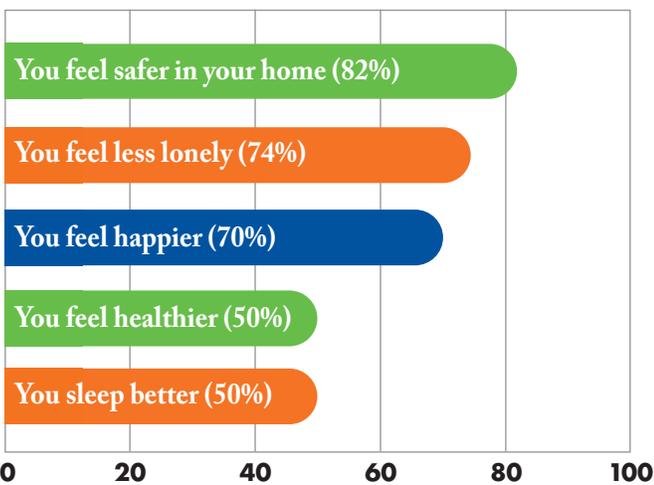
THE RESULTS *Are On!*

Since 2001 HomeShare Vermont has conducted a series of eight outcomes surveys with program participants and the findings have consistently shown benefits to those sharing their homes as well as to those who found housing.

Our survey uses results-based accountability (RBA) methodology to assess whether or not matched participants benefit from our program and, if so, in what ways. This year we surveyed participants who were in a match as of January 1, 2015 and we had a 77% response rate.

Over the years, HomeShare Vermont has consistently earned high satisfaction and recommendation rates. This year, our satisfaction rate is 99% and 97% of participants would recommend our services to a friend or relative.

Because of your match...



Outcomes and Quality of Life Indicators:

All participants sharing their homes were asked whether they agreed with various statements that indicated an improved quality of life as a result of being matched through HomeShare Vermont. Again this year we see impressive improvements in quality of life for those sharing their homes.

It's "very important" for 96% of home providers to remain at home and more than one-quarter of them reported that they would not be able to stay at home without a home sharer. Home providers received an average of 7 hours per week of assistance from their home sharers.

Rental Savings:

Those who found housing reported paying an average rent of \$206 per month with 25% not paying any rent in a complete exchange of service. When asked how much money they were saving on housing costs, 60% of home sharers estimated they were saving at least \$400 per month.

Before finding housing through HomeShare Vermont, participants faced challenges when looking for housing including:

- Cost of housing 95%
- Substandard conditions 50%
- Security deposit expenses 36%

Going Forward

All participants were asked how HomeShare Vermont could improve its services. 65% did not provide a suggestion, 13% encouraged more outreach and 10% would like more frequent check-ins at the beginning of a home share match. This year we have substantially increased our outreach efforts. Going forward, based on participant input, we will be increasing our match checks, especially at the beginning of home share matches.

Outreach at the Maple Parade in St. Albans

As part of our expansion of homesharing to Franklin County, HomeShare staff and volunteers marched in the fabulous Maple Parade to help spread the word about homesharing to thousands of onlookers. Special thanks to volunteer Kaki Hutchinson for organizing this for us. It was loads of fun, we got great visibility, and the marching band in front of us was inspiring! HomeShare Vermont will focus more effort on events this summer including local farmers markets, the Battery Park Concert Series and even door to door leafletting. If you know of a great outreach opportunity for a table or a speaker, please give us a call!



Connie, Radetta, Kaki, Shannon, Kirby, Amy, and Lisa



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



Upcoming Info Session

Tuesday, July 14 at Noon

Have you ever thought about sharing your home but were not quite sure it was right for you? Come to a **free 30 minute informational session** at our office to find out more. This is an opportunity to get some basic information as to how homesharing works, to meet the staff and ask any questions you might have. Please pre-register by calling **(802) 863-5625** as space is limited.

Community Outreach

For those of you who are out and about, we will have a table at the Burlington Battery Park Concert Series Thursday nights in July as well as local farmer's markets throughout the region. Please visit our website for a full listing of events at www.HomeShareVermont.org



HOMESHARE

Finding you just the right person!

