

HomeShare Vermont Makes it *Easier to Apply*

In an effort to encourage more people to share their homes, HomeShare Vermont has eliminated our \$30 application fee. The application fee was originally put in place to offset the costs of criminal background checks. "Background checks are a critical part of our screening process," said Executive Director Kirby Dunn. "However, now we will be covering these costs from grants and fundraising."

Applications can now be completed and submitted electronically on HomeShare Vermont's secure website which keeps your information safe and confidential. For those who prefer it, paper applications are still available.

There are no age or income requirements to share your home – anyone with a spare bedroom can benefit. We provide comprehensive screening and matching services to introduce people who have homes to share with those looking for housing. We also provide ongoing support to both parties for as long as the arrangement continues. You can't get that on Craigslist!

FRIENDSHIP SET TO *Music*

Kate is a bright, upbeat and engaging woman in her 20s who grew up in Chittenden County. She is an active volunteer, works at a local school, and likes to play piano and ski. She also serves on the Williams Syndrome Association's Board of Trustees. After Kate moved from her parent's home, she had her own apartment for a few years and managed quite nicely, but it felt a little lonely. "Sometimes I found myself just staring at the clock. I really wanted someone to talk and cook with and to share my home and my life."

Kate and her family discovered Burlington's Co-Housing Community. She moved into Co-Housing which was a perfect fit for her—a respectful and active community of people who want to know and socialize with their neighbors. Once Kate settled into this new community, she was ready to look for a roommate and contacted HomeShare Vermont.

Kate told us of her affinity for music and the fact that many individuals with Williams syndrome are touched by music in ways not usually seen in the general population. We started looking for the perfect match



Kaitlyn and Kate

Photo by Karen Pike

fun times and silly moments like old friends. Music continues to be a bonding force in their friendship and together they organize jam sessions with their neighbors where 10 to 20 people show up and play everything from handmade instruments to

for her, and last spring introduced Kate to a young woman named Kaitlyn who had recently graduated from college with a degree in music therapy. Kaitlyn had just moved here for a job in children's mental health. With few local connections she applied to HomeShare Vermont hoping to find a safe place to live and to follow her desire to help someone.

Kate and Kaitlyn quickly developed a friendship. They made plans for grocery shopping, teas, hikes and movies together, as well as preparing and sharing meals a couple times each week. Kaitlyn learned about the Burlington area with Kate's help. They talk about their

piano.

Homeshaaring is about people helping each other and that's exactly what it's done for these two. 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's comforting to be with Kate. And it goes beyond just us in our apartment—her family and Co-Housing have added so much to my quality of life." And as for Kate, she now has someone to talk and cook with and to share her home and life, just like she wanted.



HomeShare Happenings

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Board Happenings

A special thank you to outgoing board member **Peter Lawlor** who had been on the HomeShare Vermont Board of Directors and the Finance Committee since 2009. Peter brought unique insights as a compassionate doctor and small business person and helped to shape our strong financial position.

Julie Burger Pierson has again joined the Board of Directors and will bring her many

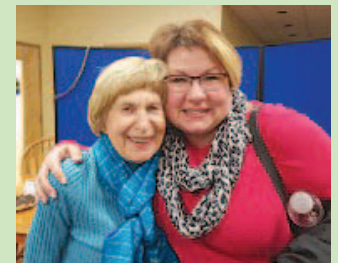
years of insider knowledge as a Staff Volunteer. She will focus on outreach and promotion of homesharing.

Margaret Cicchetti was elected Vice-President of the Board. Margaret knows firsthand the benefit of our services as her Mom was able to remain at home for several years due to several successful "matches."

2016 Inns Raffle Winners Announced

A Mardi Gras themed celebration was held for board members and volunteers where raffle ticket sellers were recognized and the winning tickets were drawn by emeritus board member, Estelle Deane. Special recognition was given to board members and volunteers who sold 50 or more tickets which included Kate Baldwin, Kelly Deforge, Kaki Hutchinson, Gil Livingston, Carol Miller, Cathie Merrihew, Radetta Nemcosky, Julie Burger Pierson and David Porteous. All these efforts culminated in the sales of nearly 1,400 raffle tickets which raised over \$10,000 to support homesharing! Thanks to everyone who sold or bought tickets!

Below are the lucky winners and the wonderful inns who participated this year. Many thanks go to the Innkeepers who so generously donated. Please think of these Inns for your Vermont vacations or when you have friends visit.



Board members Estelle Deane and Kelly Deforge

WINNER

Sandy Anderson
Carolyn Petite
Bonnie Acker
Judy Steacy
Heather Torre
Craig Austin
Monica LaFayette
Neil Mickenberg
Dan Farnham
Becky Arnold
Jim Nellis
Matthew Reed
Ann-Marie Cunningham
Helen Murdock
Carrie Shamel
Laura Asermily
Peter Modley
Raymond Sicotta
Bette Lehneman
Eric Farrell
Steve Terrill
Gretchen Meyer
Vicky Smith
Evelyn Wetzel
Carol Miller
Mary Dattilio
Daniel Feeney
Mike Wasko
Fred Peet

INN

506 on the River Inn
Adams Landing Bed & Breakfast
The Arlington Inn
Brandon Inn
Catamount B & B
The Charleston House
The Charleston House
Courtyard Burlington Harbor
Couture's Maple Shop & B & B
The Dorset Inn
Echo Lake Inn
The Essex, VT's Culinary Resort & Spa
Ferry Watch Inn
Firefly B & B
Inn on the Green
Lang House on Main Street
Middlebury Inn
North Hero House
One Cat
Phineas Swann Bed & Breakfast
Shore Acres
Sinclair Inn
Thomas Mott Homestead B & B
Thomas Mott Homestead B & B
Three Stallion Inn
Timberholm Inn
Townplace Suites by Marriott
Waitsfield Inn
Willard Street Inn

TOWN

Woodstock
Grand Isle
Arlington
Brandon
Williston
Woodstock
Woodstock
Burlington
Westfield
Dorset
Ludlow
Essex
Grand Isle
Lincoln
Middlebury
Burlington
Middlebury
North Hero
Brattleboro
Montgomery Center
North Hero
Jericho
Alburgh
Alburgh
Randolph
Stowe
Williston
Waitsfield
Burlington

Hanging On TO EVERY WORD

Our very own Kirby Dunn attended the recent international homesharing conference in Australia as an invited speaker. It's clear she is much respected in the homesharing community and HomeShare Vermont's program is considered one of the best in the world! So much to be proud of!

-Kelly Deforge, Board President

HomeShare Vermont was invited "Down Under" to showcase its success at the 4th World Homeshare Congress held in Melbourne, Australia. Executive Director Kirby Dunn was a keynote speaker at the conference in which she presented *The HomeShare Vermont Model – a 30 Year Success Story*.

"Kirby is one of the most senior and experienced practitioners that we have in the worldwide Homeshare community and is a gold mine of knowledge and wisdom," noted Rhian Bradley, Chair of the Board of Trustees of HomeShare International. "At the World Congress in Melbourne, people were hanging on her every word, eager to learn as much from her as they could," said Bradley.

Ms. Dunn joined over 100 delegates from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, the UK, and the USA to examine the role homesharing can play in retirement living,

help for the aging, disability services and student housing as well as fostering intergenerational understanding.

"The conference was a wonderful opportunity to share best practices," noted Ms. Dunn. "This biennial conference is so important in meeting the needs of aging populations and expanding homesharing around the globe.

We were honored to participate and are humbled by how highly regarded HomeShare Vermont is around the world."



Kirby Dunn delivers a keynote address in Melbourne, Australia

To see all the presentations and papers from the 4th World Homeshare Congress you can go to the website: www.worldhomesharecongress2015.org.au

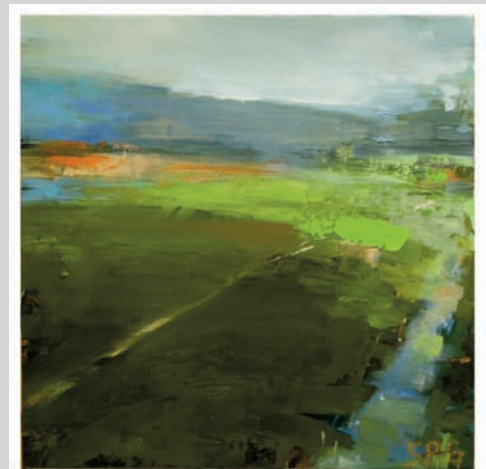


HomeShare Vermont Noted as Promising Approach to Aging

The Vermont Community Foundation recently published a report entitled **Opportunity: 11 Critical Paths For Philanthropy in Vermont**. The report focuses on intersectional giving and on the programs and strategies that meet multiple goals. One of the 11 critical paths is to Confront the Realities of an Aging Population. Under this goal they highlight HomeShare Vermont as one of four Promising Approaches to addressing this need. Thank you Vermont Community Foundation for this acknowledgement of our work.

Art Sale Proceeds Benefit HomeShare Vermont

Last summer one of our wonderful Staff Volunteers, Jane Goodman, announced she and her husband Steve were moving out of Vermont to be closer to family. As she and Steve began to clean and pack in preparation for the move they formulated an idea to benefit HomeShare Vermont. Steve, a talented painter, decided that instead of packing and moving all of his paintings he would hold an online sale of his work to benefit HomeShare Vermont. Thanks to their generosity, we received a generous gift of \$2,200 from the sale. We are so grateful for this wonderful donation and wish Jane and Steve all the best in their new home.



Italy: view from a train #3. Oil on canvas 12"x12" Steven P. Goodman



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

AARP Survey Shows Strong Support for Homesharing

A recent report from AARP shows increased interest in homesharing and provides important insights to expanding homesharing services. The report, *The Path to Livability: A Citizen Survey of Burlington, Vermont*, is based on surveys of Burlington residents age 45+.

Regardless of home ownership, four in five respondents strongly agreed with the statement "What I'd really like to do is remain in my own home for as long as possible." In fact, over half would consider the concept of homesharing as a way to stay at home (56%) up from 36% in a similar 2006 survey of Burlington residents. The report also showed that the high cost of living is the biggest concern for those wanting to remain in their homes.

HomeShare Vermont *Highlighted as a High Performing Non-profit*

Last fall, Nan Stone, former editor of the Harvard Business Review, was the featured speaker to over 100 non-profit leaders at Common Good Vermont's 10th Annual Nonprofit Luncheon in South Burlington. Common Good Vermont is the only statewide organization in Vermont dedicated to uniting and strengthening all of the mission-driven organizations that serve the Green Mountain State.

This year's event showcased five high performing Vermont nonprofits, including HomeShare Vermont, as part of The Performance Imperative, a national initiative to improve nonprofit efficiency and effectiveness. High Performance is defined as "the ability to deliver, over a prolonged period of time, meaningful, measureable and financially sustainable results for the people the organization is in existence to serve." Thank you Common Good Vermont for this recognition!