



A Home of *Tranquility* and *Teaching*

Neil came to Vermont as a refugee from his war-scarred homeland of the Republic of Congo. Since coming to Vermont he has continued his education by taking classes at Community College of Vermont with the goal of eventually attending graduate school at The University of Vermont.

Bob, a retired UVM comparative religion professor in his mid-eighties, loved teaching. He contacted HomeShare Vermont after his beloved wife, Joan, passed away last spring and he found himself wanting a presence in the house. His cherished early experiences living in ashrams, communes and shared living arrangements with other families made homesharing an obvious choice.

Bob was introduced to Neil and opened his small lake-side cottage to Neil last July. Bob has readily stepped back into a teaching role by helping Neil with English translation



Neil and Bob

Photo by Karen Pike

of the texts he is reading. The two sit together up to five nights a week in Bob's cozy living room full of greenery and collectibles with Neil reading aloud and asking questions and Bob offering commentary.

"Some days it feels like a graduate seminar here," says Bob with a smile.

The homesharing arrangement, in which Bob enlists Neil's help with housekeeping and grocery duties, yard work and transportation, has been advantageous for both. Neil enjoys the quiet setting of the Colchester home and he thrives on Bob's philosophical enlightenment and his commitment to life and people. The reserved and polite refugee, who speaks French, Congolese and English, spends his days at the library studying and upon arrival home he has a housemate and academic mentor.

The affordable rent helps Neil further his studies, but he sums up the major benefit of living with Bob in one word: "Peace."

In Memory of Katie



Katie Schmidt, a longtime volunteer with HomeShare Vermont, passed away in January at age 94. We will remember Katie as a petite package of energy, independence, good humor and intellectual curiosity. Everyone was in awe of her amazing memory for names, dates, historical events and local lore. Katie seemed

to know everyone in Middlebury and throughout Addison County—one of many qualities that made her invaluable as a volunteer. In fact, Katie was instrumental in bringing homesharing services to Addison County, working tirelessly to do outreach, recruitment and training of other volunteers. Due in large part to her efforts, HomeShare Vermont has now served Addison County for over 10 years.

HomeShare Vermont was one of many organizations to benefit from Katie's help. Katie will be greatly missed by her friends at HomeShare Vermont and throughout the community.



There's No Place Like Home

See back page for details



HomeShare Happenings
March 2017

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Why We Made A Legacy Gift

by Becky & Stewart Arnold

We see homesharing as an elegant solution, bringing people together with complementary needs. And we're so very proud of HomeShare Vermont having developed a time tested model over 35 years and a national reputation for excellence.

I was invited to join the Advisory Board of what was then Project Home 25 years ago. It has been a wonderful association where I met so many great people all helping to further HomeShare's mission and make matches, one after the next.

Stew and I do what we can to support HomeShare annually; however, we wanted our support to carry on beyond our lifetimes. We chose my IRA as the vehicle to make an estate gift. In this way we could do it ourselves by simply completing a change of beneficiary



form. It's tax-wise too as those funds will not be taxable to HomeShare Vermont, as a 501(c)(3) organization, but would be taxable to our family when we're gone.

We thank Kirby and her fabulous team, and we feel gratitude in making HomeShare Vermont part of our "family" and part of our legacy.

Homes Available to Share

Below are just a few of the homes we currently have available. If you know anyone looking for a place to live, please send them our way. We are always in need of great candidates. No security deposits required. Our application is on our website and it is free to apply.

Bristol: Share a spacious, comfortable home with a woman and her son who enjoy reading and VPR. \$400/month, plus pitching in on housekeeping and yard work.

Burlington: Share a home with a professional in her 60s who loves biking, yoga, healthy eating and live music. \$475/month.

Colchester: Share a lakeside home with senior couple. Seeking female housemate to provide

nighttime safety presence and some light cleaning. \$200/month. Shared bath/kitchen.

Shoreham: Share a unique and spacious country home, 25 minutes to Middlebury, with professional in his 40s interested in cooking, NPR, reading, hiking. \$400/month plus utilities.

Swanton: Share a village home with an active retired senior who enjoys volunteer activities and spending time with family. \$300/month.

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SONGS AND LAUGHTER MAKE A *Homeshare*

Linda's father calls her every day to tell her a joke and she loves sharing them with others. Laughter is the perfect medicine for Linda, who was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in her early forties. Now in her mid-sixties, the outgoing former banker participates in Friday night socials at her 55+ housing complex, relishes shopping trips and delights in singing, art and swimming. Last summer she turned to HomeShare Vermont when she decided she no longer wanted to live alone.

Around the same time, Becky returned to Burlington after many years in Florida where she took care of her ailing parents. Her homesharing history goes back to the 1980s when she enjoyed two housing matches through HomeShare Vermont (formerly Project Home). Those experiences shaped her commitment to helping others. Upon her return to Burlington after a roommate opportunity fell through at the last minute, she again contacted HomeShare Vermont.

Becky and Linda have been sharing Linda's apartment since September, and after six months of learning each other's



Becky and Linda

Photo by Karen Pike

habits, preferences and personalities, the friends find they now complete each other's sentences. As Becky knits and Linda methodically chooses colors for her coloring book, the two say their similar interests are what bond them. Linda is also teaching Becky how to hook rugs and takes pleasure in joining her on shopping outings with the two laughing about Linda's need for speed when driving her mobility scooter around downtown Burlington.

"Linda might not walk fast, but I have to run to keep up with her when she's on that scooter," Becky said.

Shared childhood memories of 1960s popular culture have also strengthened their relationship with the two spontaneously breaking into a classic 60s jingle at a moment's

notice. Their musical encounters continue with occasional impromptu sing-a-longs featuring Linda on vocals and Becky on guitar.

"Linda has a beautiful singing voice," says Becky. "She's always singing. Eventually, I pitch in and sing too because life is about enjoying the experience."

SASH and HomeShare: Stronger Together

HomeShare Vermont and Cathedral Square Corporation have a long history of working together. You may know we currently share an office building in South Burlington but not everyone knows that HomeShare Vermont was actually a program of Cathedral Square from 1983 until 2005 when we became an independent corporation. HomeShare Vermont is now an official community partner with Cathedral Square's successful SASH program.

SASH (Support And Services at Home) is an innovative housing and health program pioneered by Cathedral Square to provide personalized care coordination and wellness programs to help adult participants stay safely at home. SASH Care Coordinators and Wellness Nurses work together with



Lisa Meyer (HomeShare) and Molly Dugan (SASH)

community provider partners and primary care offices to help support Vermonters who wish to live independently at home. SASH is available statewide, operated out of twenty-two non-profit and public housing authority organizations. The SASH program has shown

proven health care savings through increases in immunizations, controlled hypertension and reductions in falls.

HomeShare Vermont and SASH have very similar goals:

- to help elders and others age in place;
- to promote prevention and wellness programs for older Vermonters; and
- to support and expand affordable housing options for seniors and others.

Last year we began a process to refer eligible clients to each other's services. Now twenty shared clients have the added support of both programs working together to help seniors and others live safely at home.

If you would like more information on SASH visit www.sashvt.org or call 863-2224.

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



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

There's No Place Like Home

A Celebration of 35^{years} of homesharing in the Champlain Valley

An evening of storytelling and live music.

Hors d'oeuvres, desserts and cash bar.
\$35

April 20, 2017, 6-9pm

Sunset Ballroom, 1712 Shelburne Road, South Burlington

Program begins at 7pm



Paper-collage artwork was created for HomeShare Vermont and donated by artist Bonnie Acker
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