

## 100 and Still at Home

**A**s a retired social worker Joyce always gathered information about resources available for seniors and others. Thus, in her retirement she was deliberate in her plan to stay in her Essex home for as long as possible and in 1996 contacted HomeShare Vermont. It has now been 20 years that homesharers have helped Joyce achieve her goal of staying in her home.

Joyce is now celebrating her 100th birthday in her home. Joyce likes to offer visitors her four keys to longevity: good nutrition, exercise, genetics, and an upbeat attitude. One might venture to say that another piece of Joyce's living to celebrate the impressive birthday of 100 would be her devoted homesharer over the past seven years, Celine.



Celine and Joyce

Photo by Karen Pike

Celine came to HomeShare Vermont looking for housing during a divorce. She had lived and worked on a dairy farm for twenty-five years and leaving the farm was a huge transition that meant a change in both housing and work. When she applied to HomeShare Vermont Celine didn't have the funds to offer rent but was willing to help someone in any way and she could.

Joyce and Celine met and decided to do the "trial homeshare" together and quickly knew they were a "match." Joyce had asked HomeShare Vermont to find someone who enjoyed flowers, music and could help around the house

and yard. Celine certainly filled that bill and has been a consistent, caring companion for Joyce. Above and beyond the expectation of cooking, cleaning and being there at night, she finds ways to bring added joys to Joyce's life – everything from arranging flowers and planting a garden to taking Joyce to visit a colleague from long ago. From her time with Joyce, Celine discovered a love of working with elders. She has since earned her LNA certification, found caregiving work with a local agency and now helps other seniors during the day and then heads home to be with Joyce.

Although Joyce didn't have children of her own, her loving, extended family and daytime caregivers are important parts of her strong support network. Her great-niece Karen shares, "The connection that Joyce and Celine have is inspiring. They can count on each other through and through."

Celine found not only the affordable home she needed but also the joy of a caring and deep friendship. Looking back on their seven years together, Joyce shares, "I can describe Celine's companionship and our relationship in one word—tops." Joyce and Celine are a perfect example of homesharers not only experiencing a mutual benefit but also becoming like family.

### *Dear Friends,*

We all want to be home for the holidays. At HomeShare Vermont we focus on "home" all year long.

This past year we made or sustained 98 homesharing matches—the most ever! We know that the need for homesharing is growing and we have an amazing team of staff and volunteers ready to increase that number this year!

Please give the gift of safety, happiness and affordable housing to our neighbors by supporting HomeShare Vermont. Help us to grow and expand our services to help even more Vermonters in 2018.

Thank you for your ongoing support and best wishes in the New Year!

Kirby Dunn, Executive Director



HomeShare Happenings  
November 2017

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# Calling All Storytellers

Our 35th anniversary Evening of Storytelling in April was a sold out hit with standing room only, so we decided to do it again! This year's theme will be "Sharing." The event will once again be at the beautiful Sunset Ballroom in South Burlington on April 19, 2018. The highlights of the evening will be amazing storytelling, upbeat music provided by The Brevity Thing and plenty of wonderful desserts.

We are seeking storytellers like you for this event. Do you have an interesting short story about sharing a home? Many of us have lived with family, friends, or homesharers and have a story to tell! No experience is necessary. We will provide story workshops and support from two professional storytellers who will be also telling stories at the event. Susanne Schmidt is currently a host and the regional producer for The Moth in Vermont. Sue was named New England Public Radio's-Valley Voice's Story Slam "Best Storyteller" in 2015. Kevin

Gallagher was the winner of The Moth's Grand-SLAM event at the Flynn Theater in 2016 and 2017!

For those not familiar with the new wave of storytelling like the Moth Radio Hour or Snap Judgment on National Public Radio, storytelling events focus on true, first-person, short stories about real people and real events, usually around a theme. Sometimes the stories are funny, other times happy or poignant. Storytelling events have a history of being powerful, moving and transformational for tellers and listeners alike.

Interested in telling your story at our celebration? Contact Kirby at HomeShare Vermont (Kirby@homesharevermont.org) for a packet of information to submit a story concept. Kevin and Sue will be having workshops to help people get their stories ready. Deadline for submission is January 15th. We will let you know by January 30th about your submission and a few dates for the workshop/rehearsal.



**Storytellers Sue, Robyn, Kevin and Tom from our event in April**

## Welcome and *Thank You All!*

HomeShare Vermont has always had great community volunteers giving their time and talents to help nurture and grow our organization. This year the board said thank you to outgoing members Gail Rosenberg, Carol Miller and John Draper. Those were some hard shoes to fill but we have some great new additions to the board.

At our Annual Meeting in October, David Porteous rejoined the board and will head the Outreach Committee. David is a local Realtor and has been active with HomeShare Vermont for over fifteen years.

New to the board are Hobart Popick and Scott Johnstone. Hobart is an attorney with Langrock, Sperry and Wool and practices in the areas of estate planning and real estate law. He will be joining our Fundraising Committee. Scott comes to us after being the Executive Director for many years of a very successful non-profit, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC). Scott is now a consultant and he will be joining our Finance Committee.

Also at the meeting, Margaret Cicchetti was re-elected President and Zachary Manchester, Secretary. Kate Baldwin was elected Vice-President and Brian Stark, Treasurer.



David Porteous



Hobart Popick



Scott Johnstone

# Going Mobile

HomeShare Vermont launched a new, mobile friendly website in October thanks to our friends at Burlington Bytes and with design advice from Futura Design. Please check it out! We would love any feedback you have. You can now apply online, donate online or find lots of great information about homesharing at [www.homesharevermont.org](http://www.homesharevermont.org)



## *Recognition of an Amazing Volunteer*

At our Annual Meeting in October, the HomeShare Board of Directors elected Ruth Barenbaum as board member emeritus for her amazing and dedicated work on behalf of homesharing. Ruth was the driving force in bringing the program to Addison County. She came to Burlington for weekly case conference meetings for over a year to learn how the process worked. She recruited other volunteers, gave public talks, showed our video to anyone who would watch and got stories in the local papers. She put up flyers and distributed brochures and got others to do the same. Not only did she help get things going, she along with other volunteers, worked with our staff to help make and support dozens of homesharing matches.



Photo by Karen Pike

Ruth shares, “Each of us has something to give to our community. It’s our responsibility as citizens. I find it thrilling to see how people learn and work things out. HomeShare hosts and guests come to us with various needs. HomeShare Vermont is useful in helping people to help each other.”

In addition to over a decade of volunteering with HomeShare Vermont, Ruth has also volunteered for twenty years with Meals on Wheels, taught Tai Chi for Seniors for six years and was an instructor and literacy tutor for twenty-five years. Ruth is also a collage artist and avid gardener.

Ruth’s commitment to community involvement and her interest in helping people made her an invaluable part of the volunteer team at HomeShare Vermont. In the past year she has resigned from her volunteer role but continues to be a great supporter. Thank you Ruth!

Due in large part to Ruth and her efforts, HomeShare Vermont has now served Addison County for eleven years. Ruth was also on the HomeShare Board of Directors from 2006 to 2011.

## *Gifts of Appreciated Stock: Good for You & Good for HomeShare!*



This is the time of year to think about reducing income taxes for 2018 by donating gifts of appreciated stocks or mutual funds. By donating securities to a tax-exempt organization like HomeShare Vermont, donors can get a double benefit: there is no capital gains tax due on the appreciated value of the stock and a tax deduction for a charitable gift at the full value. With the stock market on a record breaking year and

with the uncertainty of tax reform, including discussions of possibly losing the charitable tax deduction, now might be a great time to donate stock or mutual funds to your favorite charity.

HomeShare Vermont works with Community Bank and can gladly accept donations of stocks or mutual funds. Please contact Kirby Dunn at the HomeShare office if you have questions or would like donation instructions.

*Holiday Appeal!*

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



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

## HomeShare *Classifieds*

**H**ere are a few of the homes that we have available. If you know someone looking for housing, please send them our way. Go to our website for more information or to complete our easy online application. As soon as we hear from you we will schedule an interview and start reference and background checks.

**Burlington:** Seeking female to share South End home w/gentle woman in her 70s. Some weekday availability needed to make med. appts, return phone calls & do light housekeeping. \$175/mo. (all inc). Shared bath. No deposit.

**Hinesburg:** Share a home with a professional & young daughter who enjoy hiking, dance, art and yoga. \$400/mo. (all inc.). Seeking someone to provide childcare 2 eves/week. Shared bath. No deposit.

**South Hero:** Share a home with a social senior man who enjoys playing cards & conversation. \$200/mo. plus cooking 3 meals/week, providing some companionship, and helping with errands & light cleaning. Shared bath. No deposit.

**So. Burlington:** Share apartment with active woman w/ Down syndrome. No rent (small share of utils.) in exchange for cooking 2 meals/wk, companionship & shared housekeeping. Some evening & weekend availability needed. Shared bath. No deposit.

**Essex:** Share a home with an outgoing senior man who enjoys cooking & baseball. Share some conversation, meals and occas. transportation in exchange for minimal rent. Must be cat-friendly. No deposit.

**Vergennes:** Share a home with a family. Seeking help with child care weekday afternoons in exchange for no rent, just share of utilities. Experience with special needs preferred. Private bath, no deposit.

**St. Albans:** Share a home with an upbeat, social woman in her 80s who loves basketball, old movies and conversation. No rent in exchange for help with some evening meals, and provide a nighttime safety presence. Must be cat friendly! Private bath. No deposit.

**And more....**