

A Letter from HOME

Another Successful Party for HomeShare

In May, HomeShare Vermont hosted our major fund-raising event of the year, A Taste of Home, at Union Station on Burlington's waterfront. The event raised nearly \$15,000 for our homesharing and caregiving programs. Many thanks to everyone who attended. The silent and live auctions were a huge success thanks to over 100 local businesses and artists who donated terrific items. One of the highlights of the evening was the great food donated by generous restaurants and caterers including:

- A Single Pebble
- bevo
- Leunig's Bistro
- Pulcinella's
- Wildtree Culinary Products

We sold over 160 tickets to the event. Senators Tim Ashe, Susan Bartlett and Peter Shumlin helped us draw

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HomeShare Board Creates Endowment Program

The HomeShare Vermont Board of Directors has recently established an Endowment Program. Gifts which have been made to the Polly Rowe Fund are part of this endowment program. Polly was a founder and long-time volunteer who passed away in 2002. Gifts from Polly, Libby Downer and their dear friends have now grown to over \$175,000.

The Endowment Program will:

- develop a steady stream of reliable income for the organization;
- give greater investment flexibility with a larger pool of asset;
- provide new opportunities for donor stewardship; and
- offer greater protection against fluctuations in other revenue streams.

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Newsletter photos by Karen Pike



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Homesharing and Caregiving— What's the Difference?

Very often people call looking for help to stay at home but are not aware of the two very different programs we offer. In both homesharing and caregiving the service we provide is one of screening, matching, and on-going support with the goal of helping elders stay at home. Here is a very simple outline of the differences.

Homesharing—A Bartering Program

- A screened, qualified applicant—chosen by the elder or person wanting assistance—moves in, and provides up to 10-12 hours/week of help. This might include cooking a few meals per week, driving for errands, housekeeping, laundry, or pet care. In exchange for the service, the homesharer is provided with a low or no-cost place to live.
- Homesharers who move in are typically busy professionals or students.
- Homesharing works best for seniors who are still very independent and can be safely home alone. No personal care is provided by homesharers, and homesharing is not appropriate for people with advanced memory loss.

If you are interested in learning more about the Homesharing Program call Amy at 863-0274.



Amy Jelen

Caregiving—An Employment Program

- Our Caregiving Program provides non-medical, personal care services that you hire on an hourly or full-time, live-in basis. Hourly caregivers are paid with an hourly wage. Live-in caregivers move into the home and provide around-the-clock care for a salary plus room and board. Live-in caregivers must have some respite care arranged for time off.
- Our program is based on the self-directed model of care, where a caregiver works directly for the person receiving care. In this way, it is often more cost-effective to those paying for care, and caregivers are able to earn a higher wage.
- Live-in care can be a good alternative for people needing round the clock care but who want to stay in their home.
- We strongly encourage using a payroll service or other similar service. Care receivers either direct their own care, or have a family member or paid professional oversee the care.
- Caregivers are often experienced with Alzheimer's, dementia, physical illness and end-of-life care. They offer a range of assistance from cooking and companionship to bathing, dressing and transferring.

If you are interested in learning more about the Caregiving Program call MaryLou at 865-4153. 🏠



MaryLou Thorpe

HomeSharing for Over a Decade

At 98 years old, Fran is an amazingly spry lady and a veteran homesharer, recently starting her third successful HomeShare match. Fran is an outgoing woman with no shortage of daily visitors; the postal carrier who also fills her birdfeeder, her meals on wheels volunteers who bring lunch and family, friends and neighbors who drop by on a regular basis. Her favorite season—baseball season—has arrived, where she doesn't miss a game with her #1 team, The Boston Red Sox.

Since 1944, Fran has enjoyed her Essex Junction home and has no intention of leaving. After her husband passed away her doctor recommended homesharing. To stay in her house, she knew she needed someone to provide a protective presence, companionship, light housekeeping, and hoped to find a special person who also enjoyed watching movies and baseball or going out for a drive.

In the fall of 1998, HomeShare Vermont matched Fran and her first homesharer. Fran so adored her match that over three years later, she didn't want it to end when her homesharer was ready to move on. But not even a month later, Fran was matched with another woman who provided help and companionship for seven years! That brings us to her third match, Sandy, who joined Fran's home this past winter.



Fran

When Sandy found out about HomeShare Vermont, she knew it would be just the thing she needed to bring her back to New England, closer to her daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren, and give her the chance to make a difference in someone's life. Most of her life

was in upstate New York, but she had lived the past year in Myrtle Beach, and the southeast didn't feel like home. She missed the mountains and the four seasons. Excited to find a homeshare opportunity near her family's Jericho home, Sandy jumped at the chance to share her life with Fran.

Having cooked in restaurants and resorts most of her career,

Sandy was well-equipped to make occasional meals for the two of them. She's started a garden of flowers in Fran's favorite colors and next on the list are window boxes. After Sandy visits her three grandkids during the day, she and Fran relax to Jeopardy and baseball in the evening and always have ice cream together before bed. They love to talk about their grandchildren and look at family photos. Fran's family rests well knowing that she has someone there at night and appreciates all the little things Sandy does to make Fran feel special. Fran sums it up well; "I never thought I'd find someone like Sandy! She's so good!" 🏠

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the winning ticket for the raffle. Congratulations to long-time HomeShare supporter Gil Livingston who won two box seat tickets for a Red Sox game in August. Special thanks to our dear friend Stuart Arnold for being such a great auctioneer! Thanks also to Karen Pike for donating her photography services to our event.

Thanks to these generous sponsors, all of our expenses were covered and all the money raised will go directly to programming:

Bemis Appraisal Services
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North Country Federal Credit Union
Paul Frank + Collins
The Law Offices of Fred Peet
TruexCullins Architecture
Vermont Folk Rocker 🏠

Speaking the Language of Dementia



Carrie Shamel

In January, Carrie Shamel, MSW, case manager with the VNA, discussed a disease that hits home to a lot of us, Alzheimer's & dementia. Carrie gave family members, caregivers, and homesharers a better understanding of Alzheimer's disease and dementia as well as practical tips for day to day life. We learned about the progression of the disease, how to communicate with someone experiencing memory loss and how to deal with difficult behaviors. This was one of the many trainings HomeShare Vermont provides for our caregivers and homesharers.

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4 Fund Established at the VT Community Foundation

As the Polly Rowe Memorial Fund has grown and as ACD rates have dwindled, we needed a way to put our growing resources to work for us. In March, the HomeShare Board of Directors established the "HomeShare Vermont Fund" at the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF). They seeded this Fund with twenty-five thousand dollars from the donations given in Polly Rowe's memory. "As this Fund grows, we believe this partnership with the VCF will give us new opportunities to invest our resources and generate a reliable source of income for the future of HomeShare" said board treasurer George Mona.

These funds will be invested and monitored by the VCF and the income will be distributed back to Home-

Share Vermont. These funds will be pooled with other funds at VCF giving us professional fund management and access to investments not currently available to us.

This partnership will allow HomeShare staff to focus our efforts on what we do best-provide services to our clients and their families.

Partnering with the VCF, donors also now have access to more sophisticated financial and legal vehicles to make gifts to HomeShare. For instance, donors can now use charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trust and charitable lead trusts to support HomeShare Vermont.

If you are interested in learning more about supporting HomeShare Vermont's endowment program please give Kirby a call at (802) 865-4151. You can also contact Tom Smith directly at the Vermont Community Foundation at (802) 388-3355. 🏠

Many thanks to Steve Alexander and Phyllis Bartling of Futura Design for donating the design and production of this newsletter.

View our website at www.HomeShareVermont.org

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.



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United Way of
Chittenden County

