

A Letter from HOME

Our 28th Year and Going Strong

HomeShare Vermont held our Annual Meeting in October and it was clear that the organization has never been stronger. This year's meeting was in honor of our caregivers who work in the home. We decided to focus on our Caregiving Program as most people don't understand this service that we offer which is very different than Homesharing. Our Caregiving and Homesharing Programs both support our mission of helping people stay at home and both provide the same services of recruiting, screening, matching and staying in touch. Our Caregiving Program, which includes the Live-In Program and the Hourly Care Program, is unique in that caregivers work directly for the person receiving the care, not for a third party. Our outcomes show these results:

- lower cost to people receiving care.
- better wages for the caregiver.
- higher satisfaction and quality of care.

A Bit of History

HomeShare Vermont's Caregiving Program was developed five years after Homesharing as our elderly home providers' needs were increasing beyond what their homesharers could meet. First, we developed the Live-in Care component where we "matched" people with

paid caregivers who lived in the home and provided full time care in exchange for salary plus room and board. Soon we found caregivers needed some respite beyond what families could provide, so we developed the respite or Hourly Care component where families can hire caregivers on an hourly basis to provide personal non-medical care in the home.



Louise Dietzel

Photo: Karen Pike

There's No Place Like Home

Staying at home lets people lead a more normal life. Simple things that most of us take for granted like eating when you want, getting up when you want, enjoying your pets and staying with loved ones are life affirming and life altering. Getting to decide who cares for you and building a relationship with those who care for you are other benefits. When it is possible, staying at home results in having more dignity at the end of life.

Honoring Those Who Care For Others

Our dear friend, psychologist Louise Dietzel, gave a

heartwarming talk about the critical and loving work that caregivers do. We had about twenty of our caregivers attend to receive our thanks and acknowledgement for their great work. The caregivers' service with HomeShare Vermont ranged from less than a year to seventeen years.

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Some of the Caregivers recognized at our Annual Meeting.

Photo: Karen Pike





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Winning Ticket Spreads Love!

Larry and Elizabeth were thrilled to have won the HomeShare Vermont's Country Inns Raffle. Why? As newlyweds, they elected to use their winning ticket on their honeymoon at the lovely Charleston House in Woodstock. By adding several more nights, they enjoyed a wonderful honeymoon in Vermont.

This year the Charleston House has donated not one but two gift certificates and joined 21 other inns participating in this year's raffle with the goal of raising \$10,000 for HomeShare Vermont programs. So now it's your turn to win! Inns Raffle tickets are on sale for \$10 per ticket or three for \$25. Buy some for yourself or surprise someone else with a holiday gift of raffle tickets. Call (802) 863-5625 to order your tickets today or stop by the office to pick them up. The drawing for the winning tickets will be January 28, 2010. You could be the next person to enjoy a fabulous stay at one of our beautiful Vermont inns!

Participating Inns:

The Arlington Inn, Arlington
Blueberry Hill Inn, Goshen
Brandon Inn, Brandon
Charleston House, Woodstock
Couture's Maple Shop, Westfield
Craftsbury Inn, Craftsbury
Echo Lake Inn, Ludlow
Elliot House, Shelburne
The Essex, Essex
Firefly B&B, Lincoln
Hartwell House, Burlington
Inn Edelweiss at Snow Mt. Farms, W. Wardsboro
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The Lang House, Burlington
Sleepy Hollow B&B, Huntington
Snowed Inn, Killington
Stowe Mountain Resort, Stowe
Thomas Mott B&B, Alburg
Top Notch Resort, Stowe
Vermont Inn, Killington
Willard Street Inn, Burlington
The Wildflower Inn, Lyndonville

Welcome Holly!



We are just thrilled that Holly Reed joined our staff as Office Manager in November. She comes to us after 11 years at the United Way of Chittenden County where she most recently served as the director of the United Way of Chittenden County Volunteer Center which includes the Volunteer Connection, the Foster Grandparent Program and RSVP of Chittenden County. Holly will be stepping in to fill big shoes as Dorothy "Dot" Howe, who has been with us for nearly twelve years, will be cutting back to just one day a week. Holly will be a great addition to our team. Holly reflects, "I am excited to be joining Homeshare Vermont and contributing to a mission that makes such a difference for so many people in our community." Holly has been a Vermont resident for 27 years and resides in South Burlington with her husband Brian.

More Than Just a Home

Darlene's home sits on a hill overlooking the mountains in Lincoln, Vermont. She and her husband Bill fell in love with the state, so they left Maine, and Bill designed and built their home. The sun pours in the windows and the wood stove heats up the living room. Darlene's blue glass collection makes the kitchen and dining room light up with color.

When her husband passed away two years ago, the house felt too quiet. Darlene sat surrounded by Bill's wood carvings and their kids' and grandkids' photos with her dog resting loyally by her side. She knew that she didn't want to live anywhere else.

But her gardens were becoming more than she could manage and she didn't like living alone. Darlene had no reservations about looking for someone to share her home.

After talking with a volunteer at HomeShare Vermont, she liked the idea of the two week trial to get acquainted before making a final decision. Darlene was matched with a young couple for about a year. She is now in a second match with a warm, smiling woman named Jaclynne.

Jaclynne, a massage therapist in Middlebury, had

considered finding a homesharer to move into her own house, but decided instead to put her home on the market and move into a homeshare herself. Although she knew it was a smart financial decision, she hadn't

realized the intangible benefits. "I lost my own mom long ago, and Darlene has really filled that gap in my life." It was hard for Jaclynne to leave her own gardens behind, but she was able to move many of her perennials to Darlene's lovely yard. "I feel blessed to live in this beautiful spot. I look forward to coming home to see Darlene."

What makes homesharing successful is when both parties feel that they benefit.

Listening to Jaclynne and Darlene and hearing them giggle like a couple of school girls shows that it's working for them. Darlene calls Jaclynne her guardian angel. "I feel very fortunate to have found her." Jaclynne provides a wide array of help from vacuuming to wood splitting but Darlene most appreciates her loving spirit and companionship. "I woke up one morning to the sound of Jaclynne whistling while she weeded the garden! I don't have to ask her to do a thing, and she does it with a smile." ▲



Homesharers Jaclynne and Darlene

Our 28th Year, continued from page 1

A Strong Board!



Welcome Zach!

During the business portion of the meeting the board elected Zachary Manchester, a CPA with the firm Davis & Hodgdon Associates, to the board. Reelected to the board were Ruth Barenbaum, Estelle Deane, John Draper Esq., Peter Lawlor and Cathie Merrihew, bringing the board to eighteen members. Treasurer George Mona reported on a strong balance sheet, the recent favorable audit and the need for the board to develop an endowment to assure we will be here for another twenty-eight years! ▲

Brightening Our Special Occasions

The floral department at the Price Chopper on Hinesburg Road and the floral manager Erin Tucker have been good friends to HomeShare Vermont over the past two years. Erin has donated her time and incredible floral creations on numerous occasions. Most recently she donated fifty individual roses to thank our caregivers at the Annual Meeting. Thank you Erin and Price Chopper!

DID YOU KNOW?

- HomeShare Vermont is the only homesharing program in the country that also includes a self-directed Caregiving Program.
- We have a strong pool of caregivers. Last year we assisted 61 elders with Caregiving and we had 195 caregivers come into our office to participate in our program.

Holiday Giving Crucial to Our Success

Individual donations account for nearly one-third of HomeShare Vermont's operating budget. Very few places in the country have homesharing programs, in part because they are difficult to fund. But thanks to our generous community HomeShare Vermont thrives! Your holiday or year-end gift will help us to provide our unique homesharing and caregiving services. Thank you!



Welcome Stephanie!

Photo: Karen Pike



HomeShare Vermont would like to welcome its newest AmeriCorps member, Stephanie Baer. Stephanie's position was made possible by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding given to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB). Originally from Massachusetts, Stephanie recently graduated from the University of Vermont. During her four years at UVM she was highly involved in volunteer programs like the DREAM Program and Food Salvage.

DID YOU KNOW?

- *In-home caregiving continues to increase by leaps and bounds! Our caregivers provided over 335,000 hours of in-home care last year; up nearly 100% in two years.*

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

