

A NEW VOICE *On the Family*

Sharon, 80, spent most of her life in Florida where she was a school teacher, raised her son and worked in several businesses she owned with her husband. Interestingly, she took pilot lessons and enjoyed flying. She was widowed in 2000 and moved to Vermont several years ago after she was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer. She required a laryngectomy and can no longer express herself verbally and relies on writing to communicate. She moved into a Burlington du-

plex apartment below her son, his wife and their 2-year-old twins so that they might help her if she needed it. After years of independence, Sharon didn't want to burden her son and his wife who were busy with family and their jobs. She turned to HomeShare Vermont to find someone who would provide companionship as well as help her schedule appointments and return phone calls.

Sarah, 30, who was living with her mom in Montpelier, was looking for housing closer



Sarah and Sharon

Photo by Karen Pike

A Letter from our President

This has been another exciting year at HomeShare Vermont. We have broken another record: 105 homesharing matches which surpassed last year's record of 98! A special thank you to the volunteers and staff for their commitment to strive to help more people each year.



When I tell people about HomeShare Vermont, I often hear that they wished they had a program like that where their mother or father lives. Unfortunately, homesharing programs are few and far between. We are pleased that we can share our knowledge and expertise with others around the country by supporting the National Shared Housing Resource Center and proud of our work in helping to create a guidebook for new homesharing programs.

Please join with me to support HomeShare Vermont in whatever way you can-by sharing your home, volunteering, attending an event, donating or considering a planned gift. Together we can share our way to a better world!

Margaret Cicchetti, Board President

to her job in Burlington. Sarah, a former Peace Corps volunteer, is an avid knitter and salsa dancer. She hoped to live with a mature person who "didn't party" and liked the idea of living with someone older as she had done a lot of elder care and enjoys getting to know seniors. As it turns out Sharon lives two blocks from where Sarah works. A match was made.

Sharon has enjoyed getting to know Sarah. She no longer needs to depend on her family to "be her voice" as Sarah schedules Sharon's appointments and helps Sharon communicate with nurses and doctors. "It helps my family because they don't worry

about me with Sarah here," Sharon explained. In addition, they enjoy each other's company and spend time together, watching cooking shows, playing Scrabble, going to the library, enjoying an ice cream and attending concerts and dance performances.

Meanwhile Sarah has achieved her goal of living affordably in Burlington and eliminated a long commute to work. As for Sharon's family, her daughter-in-law wrote to HomeShare Vermont, "I couldn't be more pleased with HomeShare Vermont. Sarah has quickly become part of our family! Her sharing a home with Sharon is a win-win for everyone involved!"



Annual Report
July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

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Meet Donor *Peter Cameron*



Peter Cameron has been a long-time supporter of HomeShare Vermont and knows first-hand of the benefits of the program. In 1992 he found himself homeless after dramatic personal and professional life changes. At the time, a friend of Peter's suggested he call us to find a place to live. Soon after, Peter was matched with "Monty" who was able to stay in her Jericho home through the end of her life, thanks in part to Peter's help. Peter's young son and daughter became like her grandchildren.

"Sharing a home with Monty enabled me to start a new life and career and provided a safe and comfortable home for my children during a difficult time of transition," Peter said.

"Homesharing changed my life and I became committed to giving back," Peter explained. Peter volunteers on the board and helps with fundraising and outreach. Most recently, Peter made a planned gift in his estate to HomeShare Vermont. "Hearing the wonderful stories of matched participants which start all board meetings reminds me of the struggles and opportunities people face every day and of my good fortune in finding HomeShare Vermont."

PREPARING TO SERVE *the Next Generation*

HomeShare Vermont is supported in great part by the generosity of donors to its annual appeals, but it also has been the recipient of some generous bequests from longtime supporters. These bequests, through investment income, will prove to be the key to sustainability as they allow Homeshare Vermont to weather the ups and downs of the market and economy, to make up for changes in public funding, and allow timely and innovative program development as needed.

Like many other nonprofits, Homeshare Vermont is a more stable and healthy organization by having a safety net provided by an endowment. The usual and most reliable source of endowment funding is planned gifts such as

bequests.

Thanks to bequests received from Polly Rowe, Libby Downer and Alex Ribek, HomeShare Vermont has been able to seed a growing endowment fund to generate income for HomeShare Vermont, now and into the future. Others have told us of their plans to include HomeShare Vermont in their will or estate. In order to acknowledge the wonderful contributions of these and future donors, HomeShare Vermont has created the Polly Rowe Society in memory of one of our founders.

Please join us to ensure that HomeShare Vermont is here to help future generations share housing and create friendships.

— *A Legacy of Caring: The Polly Rowe Society* —

Becky & Stewart Arnold

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& Stewart Pierson

David Porteous

Alex Ribak*

Polly Rowe*

David Ryan

Anonymous

** Gifts Received*

Coming Back Home

Kathleen, a single parent in Vergennes, was looking for someone to help when her 13-year-old son with special needs came home from school and she was still at work. She interviewed several candidates but couldn't find the right match on her own, so she turned to HomeShare Vermont.

Bernie, 65, was in the middle of a major life transition and looking for affordable housing. After her husband passed away she moved back to Vermont to be closer to family. She had a friend who homeshared for years and enjoyed it, so she decided to give it a try.

Connie, our HomeShare Volunteer, drove Bernie to Kathleen's home so they could meet each other. As they pulled into the driveway, Bernie was overcome with emotion. It turns out that Bernie had spent nearly 20 years in this house which her husband helped build. In this house they had cared for seniors, children with disabilities, and foster children. Now she was staring up at her longtime home again, 10 years after moving and nine months after losing her husband. "I was totally shocked. I wasn't sure I wanted to come up to the house to be honest, but then I thought about how we had a lot of good years and memories here. I really think somehow he directed me to come here because he knows I love the place," Bernie said.

Kathleen was admittedly a little taken aback when she saw Bernie's tears. But once she heard Bernie's story, she knew it was meant to be.

There was still one important question left for Kathleen and Bernie. How would Kathleen's son, Isaiah, respond to Bernie? "Isaiah, who doesn't warm up quickly, just absolutely adores her. It takes a truly special person to do what I'm asking. He benefits so much from her companionship and guidance," Kathleen said. If Isaiah had to choose his favorite thing about Bernie, he'd pick her cooking, especially her homemade macaroni and cheese. "From HomeShare, I thought I was going to get a helper for my son and maybe occasional help around the house. What I got was a new best friend. She's just part of the family. I got way more than what I signed up for. If you had asked me to paint the perfect scenario, I couldn't have gotten it this right," Kathleen said.

As for Bernie, she lives rent-free with her own space downstairs while sharing the upstairs with Kathleen, Kathleen's teenage daughter, and Isaiah. And remarkably, she has been able to create additional good memories and friendships in the place she called home for so many years.



Kathleen, Bernie and Isaiah

Photo by Karen Pike

VOLUNTEERS Play a Unique Role

Volunteers have been a cornerstone of our service delivery since we opened our doors in 1982. This year, HomeShare Vermont benefitted from the assistance of 14 amazing staff volunteers. Working closely with Amy Jelen, Homesharing Coordinator, these volunteers assisted with everything from interviewing new applicants to creating matches. With about 350 active participants in our homesharing program at any given time, staff volunteers play a crucial role ensuring that our process runs smoothly and efficiently. Thank you staff volunteers!



Photo by Karen Pike



**Left: Diana, Judy, Becky, Amy, Connie & Manya
Above: Cathy, Julie, Ellie, Joan & Radetta**

Photo by Karen Pike

FY18 Accomplishments

What We Do:

Homesharing is a simple idea where two or more people share a home to their mutual benefit. The home can be an apartment, condominium, mobile home or traditional single family house. A person offers a private bedroom and shared common area in exchange for rent, help around the house or a combination of the two. Every homesharing arrangement is unique; it depends on the needs, time, interests and abilities of the people involved. It differs from a typical roommate situation because, at its core, it is about two people helping each other.

Who We Served:

This year people who shared their homes (hosts) ranged in age from 29-100 with an average age of 67. Those

who found housing in our program (guests) ranged in age from 21-77 with an average age of 45. Nearly 75% of those matched were considered low income by HUD standards and over 60% were female.

How We Do It:

Our Screening & Matching Process

- Processed **422** applications
- Made over **1,500** reference checks
- Performed over **2,200** background checks
- Interviewed **280** new participants (many in their homes)
- Facilitated **131** in-home introductions
- Resulting in **198** matched participants!

We're Better Off Together than Alone!

Since 2001, HomeShare Vermont has conducted outcomes surveys with matched participants and the findings have consistently shown benefits to those sharing their homes (Home-

Share Hosts) as well as to those who found housing (HomeShare Guests). Below are this year's results.

How Much?

Unduplicated # of Persons in Match	198
# of Housing Units Created	123 homes available to share
# of Service Hours Exchanged	26,752 hours of assistance to seniors & others

How Well?

Homeshare Average Match Length	499 days or 16.4 months
Participant Satisfaction	97% very satisfied
	100% would recommend us to family or friends

Is Anyone Better Off?

Affordability of Housing	Average Rent: \$287
Ability of Seniors & Others to Stay Safely at Home	Nearly 50% of those sharing their home reported they would not be able to live safely and comfortably at home without a homesharer
Improved Quality of Life: Those having someone live with them report they...	Feel Less Lonely: 74%
	Feel Happier: 81%
	Feel Safer in their Home: 74%
	Eat Better: 52%
	Feel Healthier: 46%

Leadership in Growing National Movement

HomeShare Vermont get dozens of calls each month from individuals and organizations interested in setting up a homesharing program. At one time there was a national association of shared housing programs which had an office and staff to promote homesharing and offer advice to such inquiries. For 15 years there has not been funding or staff for this association. Instead, individual homesharing programs have tried to fill this gap. During this time, the number of homesharing programs across the country has decreased by over 50%.

To turn that tide, two years ago, HomeShare Vermont's Executive Director, Kirby Dunn, worked with a half dozen homesharing program directors around the country to reorganize the national association with the goal of developing materials to help program start-ups and to promote best prac-

tices among existing and new organizations. Now, the National Shared Housing Resource Center (NSHRC) is hosted at the HomeShare Vermont office with regional board members assisting across the country.

Thanks to HomeShare Vermont's leadership, NSHRC just released a Resource Guide for Establishing a New Homesharing Program. The guide is available from national-sharedhousing.org and a fee of \$100 for the guide will be a source of revenue for the association.

There is growing interest from universities, health centers, government and others to see what role homesharing can play in their communities to meet the needs of an aging population and the crisis of affordable housing. We look forward to sharing our knowledge and learning from others to promote homesharing around the country.



Top Row: Amy, Aaron, Lisa
Bottom Row: Holly, Kirby, Barbara and Annalee

FY18 Financial Report

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018



As I wrap up my first year as board Treasurer, I am pleased to report that we have once again ended the year in the plus column. Funding from private foundations continue to play a greater role in our revenues and we are particularly grateful to the Amy E. Tarrant Foundation who generously provides major operating grants. This year we had projected using some of our savings for two special projects, a updated website and a new guidebook on

starting a homesharing program, but our income surpassed our expectations and we did not have to dip into our investment income to fund these projects. We are grateful for the integral support of all of our partners including but not limited to the State of Vermont, the City of Burlington and United Way of Northwest Vermont as well as individual donors at all levels. Thank you.

Brian J. Stark, Treasurer

Income

United Way	\$ 20,976
State & local government grants	199,290
Donations & special events	101,643
Foundations	102,500
Fees & rental income	13,090
Donated services	17,832
Investment & interest earnings	48,043
Other	3,207

Total \$506,572

Complete Audited Financial Statements for FY 18 can be found on the About Us page on our website.

Expenses

Salaries	\$224,664
Payroll taxes & benefits	62,526
Volunteer service	17,832
Outreach/marketing	24,514
Occupancy/depreciation	14,441
Postage & printing	22,202
Insurance/professional services	16,443
Miscellaneous	12,995
Equipment, phone, supplies, travel	18,181
Special projects	12,844

Total \$426,642

Increase in unrestricted net assets \$79,930

Individual Donors

Thank you to our donors at all levels of giving who have supported us this year (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018).

** signifies donations to the Polly Rowe Fund.*

Leadership

\$ 15,000 & above

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Serena Foundation
State of Vermont, Department of Disability, Aging and Independent Living
Amy E. Tarrant Foundation
United Way of Northwest Vermont

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If we have omitted anyone or included anyone who would prefer to be anonymous, it is unintentional, and we would appreciate your notifying the HomeShare Vermont office. Anyone who contributed after June 30, 2018 will be acknowledged in next year's annual report.

We wish to thank Futura Design and Vantage Press for the design, production and printing of this Annual Report and HomeShare Vermont's other printed pieces.

Our programs and services are available to all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, place of birth, ancestry or national origin.



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



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

Sharing *Stories*, *Music* and a *JetBlue Raffle*

In April, we again partnered with Sue Schmidt and Kevin Gallagher of Say It Forward Productions for a fabulous evening of songs and stories around the theme of sharing! Sue and Kevin were joined by Kate Larose and Bobby Stoddard with stories that were heartfelt and hilarious. The band, The Brevity Thing, was a highlight of the evening. Special thanks to The Sunset Ballroom and all our sponsors for help-

ing us to raise over \$29,000 for our homesharing program. A special thank you to JetBlue who donated two round-trip tickets good for travel anywhere in the United States. The winning JetBlue raffle ticket was drawn by Charlie Perrillo of Community Bank, our lead sponsor. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Ginger Williamson of Shelburne!



Kate Larose, Bobby Stoddard, Sue Schmidt, Kevin Gallagher

Photo by Jude Domski



The Brevity Thing

Photo by Jude Domski