



Finding a Good Balance

Phil, 82, moved into his family's rural Underhill home nearly 20 years ago to help his aging mother after his father died. Several years later, his mom passed as well, and despite being tucked back into the woods, he never felt isolated as he enjoys some solitude.

Still, he had heard horror stories where people had fallen in their homes and couldn't call for help. He didn't want to be one of those people found days later. So with worries that his Parkinson's would eventually affect his stability, he reached out to HomeShare Vermont last year.

During that same time, Leon, 64, was going through a life transition as he and his wife decided it was time to part ways. Leon saw an ad that sounded interesting and heard from work colleagues that HomeShare Vermont was a good organization, so he decided to give it a shot since he didn't want to live alone. After meeting last June, Phil and Leon



Photo by Karen Pike

Leon and Phil

decided to homeshare. They knew right away they'd made the right decision.

"For me it's been fantastic. It's been much better than I ever would have anticipated," Leon said. "Within my first week here, we were sitting out on the screened-in porch having a beer and a moose walked right down along the side of the house. It was quite an affirmation that it was going to be alright."

Both Phil and Leon have a background in education. Phil taught at UVM for 30 years, while Leon is a co-principal at Winooski Middle and High School. But it's their shared appreciation for a healthy balance of social interaction and personal privacy that makes their match work. And of course that nightly beer they drink together that has become a tradition – Phil with his Long Trail Double Bag and Leon with his IPAs. They then sit down for a shared dinner. Leon has also become a big fan of Phil's cookies and lemon dessert. Along with providing friendship, Leon pays a small amount of rent and helps around the house with the more physically taxing chores. Leon makes himself available to be helpful, but respects and honors Phil's independence and the fact it's his home. "I just feel really comfortable with Leon. I couldn't ask for better," Phil said.

Info Sessions to Learn More about Homesharing

Most people think you must need care or be of a certain age to homeshare. Not True! Last year our homeshare hosts ranged in age from 29-100. Anyone with a spare bedroom can share their home.

HomeShare Vermont has over 35 years of experience matching people who want to share their homes with compatible housemates. Let us do the interviews, background checks, and reference checks for you. We will introduce you to pre-screened candidates and you decide who to live with.

If you or someone you know could benefit from homesharing, join us for a free 30-minute informational session at our office. Staff will explain our program and services and answer your questions. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided.

**Tuesday, March 12th, Noon – 12:30 or
Thursday, March 28th, 9:30-10 am**

Please reserve your spot by calling (802) 863-5625.



HomeShare Happenings
February 2019

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Some of the reasons our Hosts share their homes include:



Burlington to Host National Homesharing Training

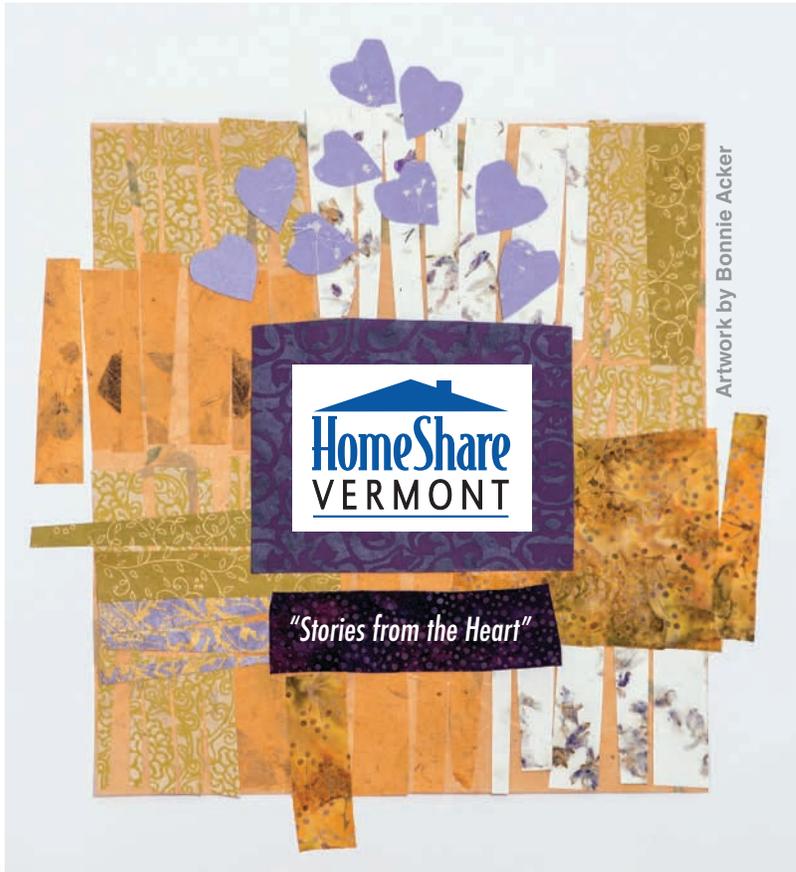
Homesharing seems to be an idea whose time has come! Hardly a week goes by without a national news article on alternative living arrangements like the “Golden Girls” for aging boomers. Our office gets dozens of calls each month from individuals, government employees and organizations wanting information about starting a new homesharing program.

In response to this ever-increasing interest, last year HomeShare Vermont, working with the National Shared Housing Resource Center (NSHRC), put together a handbook on how to develop a new homesharing program. This year,

in collaboration with NSHRC, we plan to follow that up with a two-day training here in Vermont to give people hands on skills in homesharing program design and development. This June 2019 training will be for new and emerging non-profit homesharing programs that want to create the comprehensive screening and matching services developed by HomeShare Vermont and already replicated as far away as Australia. We hope to help 25 new programs get started with the guidebook and the training in the next two years.

"Stories from the Heart"

Our 3rd Annual Evening of Storytelling



Artwork by Bonnie Acker

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Doors open at 6 pm • 7 pm Stories begin

Sunset Ballroom above the Comfort Suites
1712 Shelburne Road, South Burlington



Storytellers

Moth award-winning storytellers Sue Schmidt and Kevin Gallagher will headline the event and feature new stories on the theme of "Home Plate."

Music

Live music by The Brevity Thing. Dave Ball (*guitar, harp*), Jom Hammack (*mandolin*), Steve Goldman (*upright bass*)

Food & Drink

Appetizers • Coffee • Cash bar

Tickets

\$35 each

TICKET ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime phone _____ Email _____

Storytelling Event tickets @ \$35 each = \$ _____

I would like to make a donation to HomeShare Vermont = \$ _____

Red Sox raffle tickets @ \$50 each = \$ _____

Total Amount = \$ _____

Enclose check, payable to HomeShare Vermont, or pay by credit card.

Visa/MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____

Total Amount = \$ _____

Cardholder's name (please print as listed on card) _____

Signature (required only for credit card transactions) _____

The fine print on tax-deductibility: \$20 for event tickets, and \$0 for raffle tickets.

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TO ORDER TICKETS BY MAIL:

HomeShare Vermont, 412 Farrell St., Suite 300
South Burlington, VT 05403



TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SALE:

On our website: HomeShare Vermont.org

Or by calling our office at (802) 863-5625

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



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

Win a raffle for 4 Box Seat tickets !!!



See the Boston Red Sox vs. the Toronto Blue Jays on Sunday, June 23 at 1:05 pm. These seats are incredible, 8 rows from the field, behind the visitor's dugout.

Raffle Tickets: \$50/each. Only 400 tickets to be sold.

These will sell out so buy your tickets soon!

Drawing at our storytelling event April 18th.

(No need to be present to win).

Tickets: See order form inside.