



Helping Each Other

Following the death of her husband, Ida lived alone for six years before her children persuaded her that it was safer to have someone else living in the home with her. For the past three years Ida, now 92, has grown accustomed to sharing her Randolph home with Ben, a 58-year-old Randolph native. Despite still being mostly independent, Ida knows that without her housemate, she would not be able to live alone. Instead of having to pack up 47 years' worth of memories, Ida gets to continue enjoying her home and making new memories, including the time last year when a mother bear and her cubs walked through her backyard. Ben gets a kick out telling that story. While Ida likes to give Ben the "dickens" from time to time, she let the bear have it that day, opening the door to tell that "big bruiser to go home."

Besides allowing her to remain in her home, Ida's homeshare with Ben provides her with safety and companionship. Ben also helps with shoveling, keeping the birdfeeders replenished, and making the occasional run to the grocery store. Ben benefits from the arrangement as well. He now lives walking distance from work, saves a sizeable amount on rent, and gets to live in a comfortable home rather than in an apartment alone. For someone with no family in Vermont, that's especially important to Ben and he appreciates how welcoming Ida's family and friends have been.



Photo by Ben DeFlorio

Ben and Ida

Ben's work schedule allows him to get home early enough to run errands for Ida if she needs anything, but it gives her plenty of alone time during the day for reading, doing chores, and watching her favorite soap opera. She also gets around town thanks to the Stagecoach Transportation Service, and she'll go for walks in the neighborhood when it's nice out.

Ida and Ben have found a good balance during their three years living together. You might see them walking around the farmers market in the summertime. They also share the occasional meal together.

Yet they still value their privacy and alone time. Ben doesn't feel tied to the home, and he'll attend hockey games at Norwich and Dartmouth or go work out. Even when they're home together, they still give each other space. Ida watches Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune on her television, while Ben tunes into a Red Sox or Bruins game in another room. And like most successful homeshare matches, Ida and Ben appreciate each other. Ben likes being able to help someone out, and he said it makes him feel good when Ida says she now sleeps better having someone at home with her.

HomeShare at the Statehouse

On **Friday, March 27th**, HomeShare Vermont will be at the **Vermont Statehouse** thanking legislators for their support and letting them know how our service expansion into Central Vermont is progressing. Our staff and volunteers will have a table in the Card Room, near the entrance to the cafeteria, so if you are around, please stop by and say hello.

Outreach is one of our greatest challenges so please help us spread the word about the benefits of homesharing and the screening and matching assistance we can offer to our neighbors.





HomeShare Happenings
March 2020

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Is an ADU Right for You?

In February the City of Burlington changed their planning and zoning regulations to make it easier to develop an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on the lot of a single-family home in any neighborhood in the city. The new rules eliminate the need for additional parking and increase the maximum size of a unit up to 800 square feet for smaller homes. Now with funding from the



Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, HomeShare Vermont is working with a group of ADU advocates to provide technical assistance to help homeowners in Burlington determine if an ADU might be feasible on their property. Soon a guidebook and educational workshops will be available as well. Please contact Kirby at the HomeShare Vermont office if you are interested in learning more.

Thank You Ellie Campbell!

Ellie Campbell joined HomeShare Vermont as a staff volunteer in 2003. Little did we know, she would devote sixteen years of service! A former professional caregiver with hospice experience, Ellie's patient, gentle way made her a caring advocate for homeshare Hosts and Guests. Ellie was also a vital part of training new volunteers when the program expanded into Addison County in 2006. Ellie will be dearly missed!



Photo by Karen Pike

Rewarding and Unique Volunteer Opportunities

Staff Volunteers have been a cornerstone of our service delivery since we opened our doors in 1982. Working closely with our Homesharing Coordinator, our staff volunteers assist with everything from interviewing new applicants to creating matches. Each Volunteer donates an average of 4 hours of service per week and receive a 3-6 month training before having their own caseload of clients. Our Staff Volunteers, often retired social work-

ers, teachers or guidance counselors, bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to our team. With about 400 active participants in our homesharing program at any given time, staff volunteers play a crucial role ensuring that our process runs smoothly and efficiently. We are particularly looking for volunteers in Addison and Washington Counties. If you are interested in learning more, contact Amy Jelen our Homesharing Coordinator.

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



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Fly, Fly, *Fly Away!*



Thanks to a generous donation from JetBlue, one lucky person will win two round-trip travel certificates which can be redeemed for flights between any two domestic cities with nonstop or connecting JetBlue-operated service as published on jetblue.com. HomeShare Vermont will be selling only 500 raffle tickets at \$35 each or 4/\$100. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn on April 15.

Some restrictions apply. Travel must occur by April 15, 2021.

To purchase tickets:

Call our office at (802) 863-5625 **or**
Visit our website at homesharevermont.org