

Just Having *Someone There*

Ray, 72, has been sharing his home through HomeShare Vermont for four years, minus about a half day gap between his first successful homeshare match moving out and his second housemate moving in. For Ray, he appreciates having company in his Essex Junction home, especially these days with the pandemic and his children having their own family responsibilities to focus on.

Stepan, 32, has also been in the HomeShare program for years and is now in his second match as well. He has enjoyed how he's able to choose to live with someone compatible. After moving in with Ray just over a year ago, he now lives within walking distance of his workplace.

Despite the difference in age, Stepan and Ray enjoy chatting and talking politics civilly with one another. Ray likes learning from Stepan's unique perspectives having grown up in Ukraine, while Stepan asks Ray to clarify some English phrases he doesn't understand. And more importantly, Stepan also has someone to come home to. Stepan has ten siblings, but he hasn't seen his family for five years because traveling to and from Ukraine

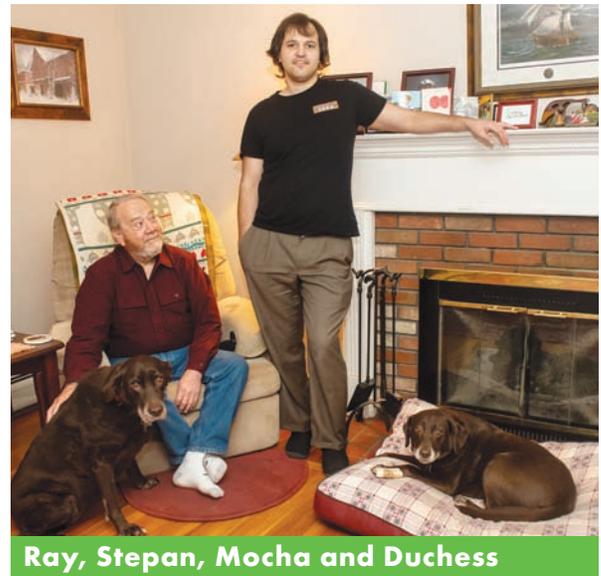


Photo by Karen Pike

Ray, Stepan, Mocha and Duchess

is cost-prohibitive. So, Ray invited Stepan to his family's Thanksgiving last year, and Stepan appreciated being around others for the holiday. "I think it's nice to say hi to someone in the morning or the evening," Stepan said.

Ray, an ardent conversationalist, agrees. But he is not the only one who benefits from Stepan's presence. Ray has two older dogs, Mocha (13) and Duchess (9). Because Ray and Stepan work opposite schedules, there is usually someone home with the dogs for at least 20 hours each day. That's helpful to Ray since he knows the dogs will be fed or let outside if he's not around. Stepan also helps with light housekeeping, answers Ray's technology-related questions, carries heavy household items, and pays an affordable rent. "It's nice to have someone to chat with. I like to talk and Stepan knows that. It's good to have activity in here. It's good to have activity for me, it's good to have activity for the dogs," Ray said.

Stepan, an avid basketball player in his free time between work and going to school for an engineering degree, also encourages Ray to live healthier. The two will take the dogs out for walks around the neighborhood together. Stepan was also there for Ray during a minor health scare when Ray had a bad reaction to a blood pressure medicine he was on. Ray believes his family gets a sense of relief having Stepan in the home, but so does he.

Dear Friends,

2020 has been a tough year, there is no doubt about it. To help lighten the mood, we decided it was time for our first-ever homeshare newsletter pet issue!

Pets are becoming a bigger reason why people decide to homeshare. In our outcomes surveys this year, we found that over 30% of our matches had a service component dealing with pets, so we decided to showcase a few of their stories here.

Please give the gift of safety, happiness and affordable housing to our neighbors by supporting HomeShare Vermont. Help us to grow and expand our services to help even more Vermonters (and their critters) in 2021.

Thank you for your ongoing support and best wishes in the New Year!

Kirby Dunn, Executive Director



HomeShare Happenings
November 2020

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Have You Considered Homesharing?

Below are just a few of the homes we currently have available to share. If you know someone looking for a place to live and able to help someone else, please send them our way. Our application is on our

website and it is free to apply. Background checks, references and in-depth interview are required. Most homes are no new pets, no smoking with no security deposits.

Barre: Share an apartment with a lovely senior couple needing an overnight presence, occasional weekend meal prep, and some friendly companionship in exchange for no rent. Furnished bedroom & private bath. Dog considered!

Montpelier: Professional couple interested in social justice & gardening, seeking housemate w/limited exposure outside home due to COVID. \$550/mo. plus sharing snow & yard work. Private bath.



Burlington: Share lovely home with a lively 80-year-old who enjoys the arts & current events. Seeking female housemate to share some meals, walks & help around the house. \$300/mo. Familiarity w/memory loss preferred. Private bath.

Orwell: Musical senior gentleman who enjoys keeping up on world events, with home to share 25 min. to Middlebury. \$300/mo. plus light help with outdoor work & companionship. Must be dog-friendly!

Burlington: Share apartment w/active woman in her 30s who enjoys VPR & farmers markets. Assist w/transportation, cooking & other household support, in exchange for no rent. Shared bath.

St. Albans: Private bath, furnished bedroom, tv/sitting room to offer in mobile home with a senior woman needing help with cooking, housekeeping, companionship, errands. No rent; small utility share.



Cabot: Enjoy homesteading w/community and social justice-oriented couple on small farm. \$450/mo. & utility share, plus help w/household & farm chores. Lovely, furnished bedroom. Shared bath.

Vergennes: Seeking female housemate to share tidy apartment w/woman in her 60s who enjoys Hallmark Channel & oldies music. \$450/mo. plus utils. Shared bath. Must be dog-friendly.

Colchester: Share a tidy mobile home w/ independent gentleman in his 90s who enjoys NASCAR, history shows & family. \$350/mo. plus prepping 3-4 meals/week & caring for the yard in summer.

Warren: Share condo with a professional woman and her pets. Minimal rent in exchange for housekeeping, pet care and occasional transportation. Furnished bedroom, private bath.

Fletcher: Delightful, travelled senior gentleman sharing his rural home in exchange for help w/meals, laundry, errands, & property maintenance. Private bath. \$200/month.

Williamstown: Share a lovely home with a senior gentleman looking for companionship, cooking & light housekeeping in exchange for no rent just small utility share. Dog considered!



Middlesex: Share a beautiful, older home w/woman needing periodic assistance w/cooking, housekeeping, errands, and some companionship. Furnished bedroom. No rent; small utility share.

A Few of the HomeShare Animals



Ryan, Violette & Isabel

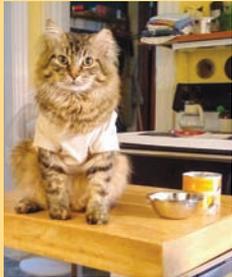
"As a part of my Homesharing agreement, I walk Isabel four times a week. I love dogs and I love being of service, so this works out well for me, and for Isabel."



Photo by Karen Pike

Kirby, Nicky & Moose

"When Moose was adopted from a kill shelter down south, he was a handful. Doggie day-care didn't take. Being home alone 40+ hours a week was not an option. HomeShare found the perfect housemate for us for over 4 years now. Nicky gives Moose lots of attention and brings him special treats."



Bruiser, Dani & Paul

When Bruiser's owner had to leave her home for assisted living, she worried about who would care for her home and, most importantly, her cat. Her two homesharers make sure Bruiser is well cared for as he waits for his owner's eventual return! They report that Bruiser loves when they feed him and dangle a string, and he entertains them with his mischief!



Barbara & Julian

"My homesharer Elizabeth is a big help with Julian! She drives him to the vet. He is a smart cat and knows when she has the day off and can spend extra time with him. He likes having two people to shower him with love!"



Photo by Karen Pike

Rebecca, Jacki, Mia, Warden & Charlie

"Thankful to Rebecca for noticing Charlie was not well, being such a great help, keeping an eye on him when she's home and letting both dogs out early in the morning. Costly vet bills made possible by having a housemate. Rebecca has been great!"



Photo by Karen Pike

Martha, Penny and the Farm

"I can't imagine living in a house without animals. But sharing my house with a human animal brings its own special gifts: actual conversation, laughter, help with indoor and outdoor chores, chocolate confections, and community. That Martha loves animals, the outdoors, and the beauty of this area add that much more specialness to the equation."

Keynote Shares Homesharing Research

We were thrilled to have Dr. Ernest Gonzales be our keynote speaker in October at our first-ever Annual Meeting using Zoom. He is Associate Professor at New York University, Silver School of Social Work and is now working remotely from Vermont! He shared with our board, staff and volunteers his research on homesharing and his experience with a new homesharing program at NYU.

Several colleges and universities across the country have been part of an intergenerational consortium on homesharing organized by AARP and Generations United. They are looking at meeting the housing needs of low-income students by matching them with



seniors living alone. In 2018, NYU and a local non-profit engaged in a pilot program to explore how intergenerational homesharing enhances affordability of higher education and housing among graduate students at NYU and older adults. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has temporarily stopped these programs from making new matches until colleges can again have in-person classes.

Dr. Gonzales also shared with us how the NYU program got started and offered advice on how HomeShare Vermont might work more closely with local colleges and UVM. We look forward to working with the consortium sharing our experiences creating many more homesharing matches.

Holiday Appeal!

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



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

Welcome Alison!

At our October annual meeting, the board of directors elected Alison Friedkin of Duxbury to a three-year term on the Board. Alison is currently the Director of Food Resources at the Vermont Foodbank. She brings a wealth of knowledge of affordable housing issues to the board and was until recently the Director of Real Estate Development at Downstreet Housing and Community Development. “I am honored to be part of the HomeShare Vermont Board. Housing issues are important to me and I hope my years of experience working in the affordable housing field will be of value to the organization,” said Alison. As our first board member from our new central Vermont service area, Alison is going to help us with outreach. “I hope to bring a voice from central Vermont to the table. I look forward to sharing the important work of HomeShare Vermont with my colleagues and friends in central Vermont,” noted Alison. Thank you for joining our team!



Photo by Karen Pike

Gifts of Appreciated Stock: *Good for You & Good for HomeShare!*

This is the time of year to think about reducing income taxes for 2020 by donating gifts of appreciated stocks or mutual funds. By donating securities to a tax-exempt organization like HomeShare Vermont, you may get a double benefit: there is no capital gains tax due on the appreciated value of the shares and a tax deduction for a charitable gift at the full value. With the ups and downs of the stock market, now might be a great time to donate stock or mutual funds to your favorite charity. Please contact Kirby Dunn at the HomeShare office if you have questions or would like donation instructions.

