

Facing Life's Changes *Together*



Photo by Karen Pike

Jeri and Dan

Jeri and Dan both lost their spouses unexpectedly and turned to HomeShare Vermont during the COVID-19 pandemic to stabilize their housing situations. Jeri was worried she

would be forced to sell her long-time Milton home, while the stress from being homeless led to a trip to the hospital for Dan. Now nearly a year into their homeshare match, Jeri and Dan have found peace in their lives as well as devoted UNO playing partners.



Photo by Karen Pike

Nancy, Ken and Jason

Nancy and Ken have been married for more than 50 years, but when Nancy noticed Ken's Alzheimer's disease pro-

gressing, she knew they would need help keeping up their rural Williston property. Nancy and Ken came to HomeShare Vermont in search of someone who could help with home maintenance, provide companionship for Ken while Nancy ran errands, and pay some extra rental income. Jason, a sociable and engaging man in his 40's, moved in and instantly added joy to their lives. The homeshare match has gone so well that Nancy and Ken invited Jason to move in with them when they downsized into a lower-maintenance home.



Photo by Karen Pike

Thelma and Anna

When Thelma began suffering memory loss, her daughter, Marie, remembered a promise she made her mother years earlier. Thelma, 91, would remain in her

Brandon home for as long as possible. With the help of home health aides and some family nearby, Thelma had many of her needs met, but Marie wanted to make sure there was someone reliable living in the home to fill in the gaps, so she turned to HomeShare Vermont. Anna, a 24-year-old licensed nursing assistant and med tech moved in and has provided a trusted presence, helping with check-ins and providing companionship for Thelma during the isolative times of the pandemic.

Dear Friends,

Despite the pandemic, this past year we helped 191 Vermonters experience the benefits of homesharing. Although Vermont was hit by a housing crisis, the average rent in our program this past year was only \$323/month, and the average match lasted just under two years. Over the past year, those who shared their homes received nearly 25,000 hours of help from their homesharers and 46% of them said they could not live in their home safely and comfortably if not for their homesharer.

During this holiday season, I hope you will consider a gift to HomeShare Vermont, enabling us to continue this work that is changing lives every day.

Kirby Dunn, Executive Director



HomeShare Happenings
November 2021

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Homes Available

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

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

Adamant: Share a farmhouse w/independent, open-minded woman and her cat. Furnished BR, shared BA. \$300 all inc. in exchange for some help w/ household chores. An active, neat/tidy housemate appreciated.

Bristol: Share a newer home w/ senior man who enjoys scenic drives & neighborhood walks. Reduced rent of \$300/mo. in exchange for healthy meal prep 2-3x/week, grocery shopping & light household help. Private 1/2 BA.



Burlington: Just a short walk to bike path & lake! Share a home w/woman in her 70s who enjoys swimming, meditation, and the arts. \$650/mo. Private BA, furnished bedroom.

Charlotte: Senior woman, interested in literature & classical music, seeking a housemate to cook 2-3 meals/week, help w/snow & yard work, and share companionship. \$300/mo. Private BA. Must be cat-friendly!

Hyde Park: Share a mobile home w/ independent woman in her 80's who loves yard sales & laughter. Looking for companionship, help w/lifting & errands, and overnight presence. \$400/mo. Shared BA.

Marshfield: Enjoy country views w/independent senior woman seeking a little companionship and help w/ cooking in exchange for no rent (possible utility share). Lovely family home w/furnished upstairs 2BR space, private BA.

Middlebury: Share a modest home w/a senior veteran. Reduced rent of \$100/mo. in exchange for cooking a few meals each week, sharing companionship & overnight presence. Private BA.

Middlesex: Easy access to Rte. 2 and I-89! Share a beautiful, older home w/woman seeking assistance w/general household upkeep. Furnished BR, shared BA. \$500/mo., possible utility share.



Milton: Rustic, rural home to share w/Host in her 70s who enjoys nature, photography & Mahjong. \$450/mo. Seeking eco-friendly housemate to share lawn mowing & snow removal. Well-behaved dog would be considered!

Montpelier: Share a lovely home, walkable to downtown, w/active, senior gentleman looking for companionship, help w/meals and household chores. Furnished BR, shared BA. \$400/mo.

Morrisville: Enjoy peaceful living sharing a lovely home w/independent senior woman. Seeking minimal assistance from a quiet female in exchange for furnished BR and shared BA. \$550/mo.

Northfield: Enjoy a private 2-BR, 1-BA upstairs space in lovely home while providing support to a woman in her 60's. Close to downtown. Help with morning check-in and evening meal. An overnight safety presence is key. Experience w/memory loss a plus. Good communication skills and a patient, caring attitude are a must. No rent.

So. Burlington: Condo to share w/ professional in her 50s who enjoys live music & family time. Seeking neat and tidy female who will chip in on cleaning. \$650/mo. (all inc.) Shared BA.

South Hero: Well-travelled senior woman seeking a housemate to provide simple evening meal prep, light housekeeping & errands in exchange for no rent (\$100/mo. utils). Private BA.

St. Albans: Seeking LGBTQ-friendly housemate to share a home w/music-lover in her 60s. \$500/mo. Lending a hand with minor renovation projects would be a plus! Shared BA.



Waterbury: Share a home w/ easy-going woman seeking some companionship and a bit of help around the house. Only 2 miles from I-89. Partially furnished BR, shared BA. \$500/mo.

Williamstown: Share a cozy, country home w/active, senior gentleman who enjoys tinkering and sharing stories about his '51 Chevy truck. Help with cooking, occasional transportation, and some companionship in exchange for furnished BR w/private bath. No rent, possible utility share.

Wolcott: Share a Vermont farmhouse with a dynamic, energetic woman in her 90's. Help w/cooking, laundry, shopping, transportation, & feeding cat. Furnished BR, shared BA. Internet. No rent, possible utility share.

and many more...



Photo by Karen Pike

WELCOME *Kelly*

Kelly Stoddard Poor of Montpelier recently joined the HomeShare Board of Directors. Kelly is the Associate State Director for AARP-VT where she leads the livable community work, establishing a vision and action steps for Vermont communities to meet the needs of its aging population. “I’m excited to join the board of an organization that’s really making a difference in the lives of both Vermonters needing housing as well as those who want to live at home as they age,” noted Kelly.



Photo by Karen Pike

WELCOME *Mary*

Mary Harwood of South Hero also joined the board in October. Mary brings an extensive resume of volunteering and consulting for Vermont non-profits with a special focus on marketing, grant writing and fundraising campaigns. Most recently she led the capital campaign for the beautiful new community library in South Hero.

Thank You Julie

In 1998, Julie Burger Pierson and her husband retired back to her home state of Vermont. Having volunteered all her adult life, she was naturally looking for volunteer opportunities. Hoping to engage her clinical social work skills and simply have the pleasure of giving back to the community, HomeShare Vermont was the perfect match. “The organization and group of colleagues offered a challenging and fulfilling experience like none other,” according to Julie.

For the past 22 years, Julie has volunteered 5-8 hours a week, working directly with HomeShare



Photo by Karen Pike

program participants. As a Staff Volunteer, she attended weekly case conference meetings, interviewed clients, introduced potential matches and provided ongoing support to her “chickens” as she endearingly calls her clients. Julie also served on HomeShare Vermont’s board of directors for many years.

Julie and her husband have moved out of state, and we will miss her more than we can say. Her contributions to HomeShare Vermont on so many levels are one of the reasons we are a strong and vibrant organization. Thank you, Julie!

New Volunteers Wanted

HomeShare Vermont has been blessed with some amazing volunteers over the years, and we are looking for some new folks to join us in the role of Staff Volunteers. If you have 4-7 hours a week of time and enjoy helping others, please reach out to us. We are looking for volunteers who have good people skills and enjoy working with people of diverse backgrounds. Many of our best volunteers have been retired social workers, nurses, teachers and guidance counselors. We are seeking volunteers in Washington, Chittenden and Addison counties. If you are interested in learning more, contact Amy Jelen, Homesharing Coordinator, at (802) 863-5625 or check out our short video on our website: *The Matchmakers: HomeShare Vermont Volunteers – YouTube*.

Holiday APPEAL!

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



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

**Did
You
Know?**

VERMONT
ASSISTIVE
TECHNOLOGY
PROGRAM

The Vermont Assistive Technology Program has all sorts of accessible solutions for Vermonters, enabling people with disabilities to fully access their home, job, and community. You can even try out their available Assistive Technology (AT) at Tryout Centers around the state. An AT Access Specialist will demonstrate devices and answer questions to help you make the best choice for you. Call 1-800-750-6355 for more information about their Tryout Centers in Burlington, Waterbury, and Rutland/Castleton.

Interested in taking home some AT? You can borrow equipment for up to 30 days. Over 2,000 pieces of AT are available for loan and demonstration. Visit www.vt.at4all.com to see the inventory. If you have AT or durable medical equipment that you don't use anymore, you can also buy and sell equipment on that website through the AT Exchange.



*Make **Homesharing**
Your New Year's
Resolution!*

IN 2022, DO YOU WANT TO:

Save money

Eat better

Feel happier

Feel safer

Find a better place to live, or

Simply help someone else?

*If so, consider homesharing!
Let us help you find just the right match.*

Call us at (802) 862-5626 or visit our website
to complete an application.