

Cooking Up a Match in Shelburne

The routes our hosts and guests take to HomeShare Vermont are all unique. For guest Amelia, it was her parents who nudged her in our direction.

"Just after I graduated from UVM, my parents – who are wonderful people – said, you've got your degree, it's time for you to go," Amelia explained. "It was said with all the love in the world. I had seen a HomeShare Vermont flyer at the UVM Medical Center building where I was working, so I signed up. I got a call back and they said they found a host they'd love for me to meet."

That host is Susan, a retired fourth grade teacher who lives in Shelburne. Susan originally contacted HomeShare Vermont years ago when she was living in Wells River. Alas, our service area hadn't reached there yet. But she did apply once she moved to Shelburne.

"I thought I could use a little more income and it's great having someone else in the house at night," Susan said. "I'm not able to do much of the charity work that I have in the past. With the lack of housing right now, this made sense and it feels like something I can do for someone else. Amelia is my third homeshare guest and she is great company!"

After the trial period, Amelia decided "I don't want to be anywhere else. We got along so well!"

Amelia works from home, taking calls for the gastroenterology and general surgery department for UVMHC, a job she takes great satisfaction in. "It's very rewarding when, at the end of the call, I hear a huge sigh of relief over the

phone and I know that I've taken an enormous weight off of their chest.

"Living here allows me to save for the future because I avoid the cost of driving back and forth to work everyday. No longer commuting 40-minutes is also a great time savings. Now, at 5 o'clock, I clock out and I'm home."

The pair share cooking responsibilities, but dinner needs to be ready exactly at 7. "We try to do dinner and Jeopardy every night," Susan said. "The cooking schedule is on the fridge. We want to sit down for dinner just as the show starts."

Amelia has learned to cook great Italian meals from her father and there are times that a dish gets sent home with her, like a tray of delicious lasagna.



Susan and Amelia

Photo by Karen Pike

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"I thought I could use a little more income and it's great having someone else in the house at night."

The two plan to garden together this summer and then can vegetables in the fall. Amelia has "an insane collection of makeup" so she is teaching Susan new techniques. Amelia has also become fast friends with Susan's cat Precious.

Susan is grateful for the company, the extra income and to Amelia's parents. "They are the most wonderful people and have raised a really nice daughter."



HomeShare Happenings
June 2025

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A Note from Connor

A few months ago, a longtime friend of HomeShare called me with some concern. Their annual gift hadn't been highlighted on our donor list in our Annual Report as a Polly Rowe Fund gift. These things can happen, so I apologized and looked into it with them. Over the course of the conversation, it became clear they assumed that all their gifts would show up that way because they are a member of the Polly Rowe Society. And then I understood; **we have a naming issue here at HomeShare Vermont.** Because we assume others have had this same question, I'll outline the differences between the Polly Rowe FUND and the Polly Rowe SOCIETY.

The Polly Rowe Fund

This is HomeShare Vermont's endowment fund. Started by one of our organizational Founding Mothers (Polly) through a generous bequest, this fund acts as a safety net against any number of challenges that might come our way. Donors can earmark their gift for the endowment fund, but otherwise gifts are used to offset program costs. Going forward, we will be referring to this as the **Polly Rowe Endowment Fund.**

The Polly Rowe Society

This is a select group of donors who have generously decided to include HomeShare Vermont in their estate plans (and have informed us). Some folks choose to include us in their will; others will name us as the beneficiary for their IRA, 401K or life insurance plans. There are a variety of tax advantages to some of these options, so we recommend speaking with a professional to look over your choices with care.

We remain deeply grateful to all our donors, no matter how you support HomeShare Vermont. Our current funding climate is easier to navigate owing to the foresight of folks like Polly Rowe. We could not face these challenges as confidently without your support.

If you are interested in learning more about the Polly Rowe Society, please feel free to reach out to me at connor@homesharevermont.org or 802-865-4151.

Thank You Marty!

HomeShare Vermont hosts and guests have benefitted from Marty Garrett's care, attention and energy over the past six years. So, we are sad to announce that she has decided to step away from her position as a Staff Volunteer.



of being matched, Marty learned more about the role of HomeShare case manager, and applied to be a Staff Volunteer in 2019.

"Marty's experiences as a guidance counselor and life coach brought unique skills to build con-

Marty's first connection with HomeShare Vermont was actually as a Host, looking for someone to share her lovely Burlington home. She was matched with a local professional who shared her love for the outdoors and meditation. In the process

nections with Hosts and Guests and to make homeshare matches," Program Director Amy Jelen said. "We're so grateful to have had Marty's expertise and dedication. We'll miss Marty and her input at our weekly case conference meetings."

Our 2025 Experience Vermont Raffle Winners

This year, our annual raffle reflected many of the wonderful experiences enjoyed by Vermonters. We had a dozen prizes that will provide our winners with delightful inn stays, outdoor adventures, delicious dinners, a shopping spree, artistic performances and even a sauna visit!

We sold almost 900 tickets this year and raised over \$35,000 for our homesharing program.

Our livestreamed drawing was held at The Media Factory studio in Burlington and is available to view on the Home-

Share Vermont YouTube page.

Below is a list of this year's great prizes and the lucky winners. Please consider supporting these generous businesses when you plan your own Vermont experience.

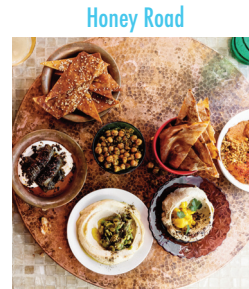
Many thanks to everyone who bought tickets, donated prizes or sponsored the raffle. And we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Meg Pond, Mary Gleason, Mary Harwood, Troi Bachmann, Joyce Touchette and Ric Cengeri who spent hours making sure this event was a success.



Blind Tiger
Susan Lourie, Charlotte



Bristol Suites
Mary McKearin, Burlington



Honey Road



FLYNN

Burlington Night Out
Adrienne Hoffman, Duxbury



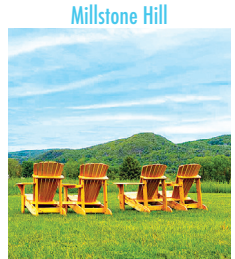
Lake Morey Resort
Bill Driscoll, West Haven, CT



Middlebury Inn
Angelica McLennan, Shelburne

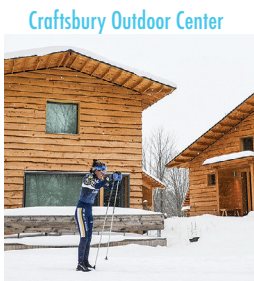


Barre Opera House

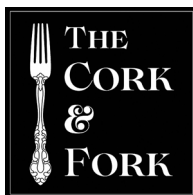


Millstone Hill

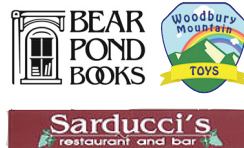
Millstone Hill
Madigan Rollins, North Ferrisburgh



Craftsbury Outdoor Center



NEK Package
Sheila Page, Natick, MA



Sarducci's restaurant and bar
Montpelier Package
Peter Cameron, Essex



North Hero House
Elizabeth Sengle, Hinesburg



Solo Marathon Package
Kaki Hutchinson, St. Albans



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



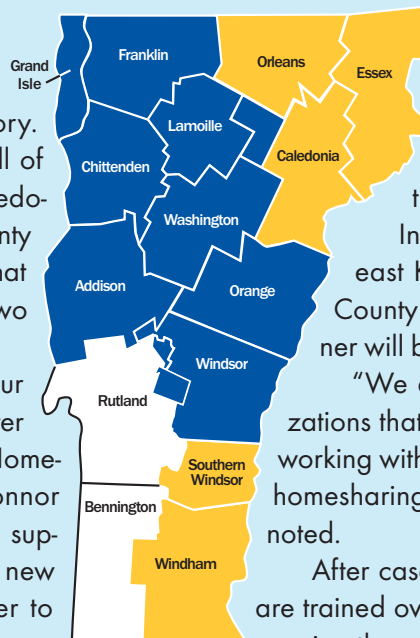
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HomeShare Reaching More Corners of Vermont

We are excited to announce the largest geographic expansion in HomeShare Vermont's 43-year history. HomeShare will soon begin serving all of the Northeast Kingdom (Orleans, Caledonia and Essex Counties), Windham County and the remainder of Windsor County that wasn't covered with our expansion two years ago.

"This is a major step forward in our long-term goal of serving every Vermonter who can benefit from the program," HomeShare Vermont Executive Director Connor Timmons said. "Through the additional support of the State Legislature and our new strategic partners, we are much closer to realizing that goal."

Of course, being HomeShare Vermont, we will be leveraging connections and job sharing to cover these new areas. Much like the successful partnership that was



formed in 2023 with the Thompson Senior Center in Woodstock, we will embed HomeShare case managers within organizations that have long histories of serving their respective communities.

In the NEK, we will partner with the Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging. In Windham County and in southern Windsor County, our partner will be the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust.

"We are so fortunate to work with two organizations that know these regions well and are already working with many of the people who can benefit from homesharing – either as a host or a guest," Timmons noted.

After case managers from these two organizations are trained over the next few months, we hope to begin serving these new areas by the end of the summer.

If you live in a town in our new service area, we'd love to hear from you about any local outreach opportunities, so we can spread the word about homesharing!