

Technically A GREAT MATCH

I had a very narrow vision of what homesharing could be,” Sally explained. “I didn’t know that computer help could be on the spectrum of services until I talked with Kirby Dunn at HomeShare Vermont. This was a revelation!”

Sally is a warm and energetic woman in her early 70s with an abundance of skills and experience. Professionally, she’s worked in development and now teaches college writing and public speaking courses. She’s working on

building her online health business but often found herself frustrated with the technological side of this—updating her website, maintaining a social media presence, and organizing electronic files were among the things she needed help with. That was when the conversation with Kirby gave her the idea to homeshare.

HomeShare Vermont introduced Gillie, a social worker in her late 20s. Gillie could have rented her own



Homesharers Sally and Gillie

Photo by Karen Pike

A Letter from our President

Here at HomeShare Vermont while one chapter has closed another exciting one has opened. For decades we have served Vermonter’s through two different programs: Caregiving and Homesharing. Over the last twenty plus years we have helped hundreds of families stay at home with paid caregiving services and found employment for caregivers. However, due to federal regulatory changes, we are no longer able to offer caregiving services. Over the past months we have worked to successfully transition all of our caregiving clients to meet their care needs. Homesharing has been the heart of our work for over 30 years and now once again will be 100% of our focus.



By focusing exclusively on homesharing we can begin our much anticipated work to expand homesharing services to other parts of Vermont and serve even more people. In fact, as of July 1, 2014 we have added Franklin County to our service area. Homesharing is a very timely and practical solution to the needs of many people and we plan to help many more Vermonters benefit from homesharing. It’s about neighbors helping neighbors.

These are exciting times and we look forward to the future.

Dan Stanyon, Board President

apartment, but saw homesharing as a wonderful way to make a connection and save money to put toward buying a home someday. Having mentored a young girl for several years, intergenerational relationships have always been important to her.

Wellness, nutrition, fitness and politics are just a few of the things they had in common. The social media and technology help sought by Sally was a piece of cake for Gillie. Like many twenty somethings, this was second nature to her. She’s now expanding her skills and helping to create Sally’s blog page, *SavvySallySays.com*, which aims to provide fun and encouraging health tips. It will even feature Gillie’s posts on

intergenerational living.

While computer help was the agreed upon homesharing exchange, the relationship has become so much more. “We laugh a lot. We cook together. Gillie is conscientious, reliable, collaborative, cheerful, and fun!” And although Sally is quite connected with the younger generation via her teaching, she sees Gillie as a sort of translator for the age group. “I’ll Google that” has become part of her vocabulary.

And as Gillie puts it, “I couldn’t be happier to share a home with someone as supportive, gifted and open as Sally. At times in your life when you’re looking for extra connection, homesharing is a wonderful answer.” ♦



HomeShare Happenings

Annual Report 2014

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Survey Says...

Along with knowing how many people we've served, HomeShare Vermont also wants to know how helpful our services are. To do that we conducted a survey with our matched clients using results based accountability (RBA) methodology. A total of 113 program participants were surveyed by staff, volunteers, or board members yielding an 80% response rate. HomeShare Vermont earned an astounding 99% satisfaction rating from survey respondents.

Service:

Homeshare arrangements often offer reduced or no rent situations in exchange for a variety of service which makes homesharing unique and different from just living with roommates. According to survey respondents, some of the most frequently provided services are companionship (68%), housekeeping (63%), and running errands (51%).

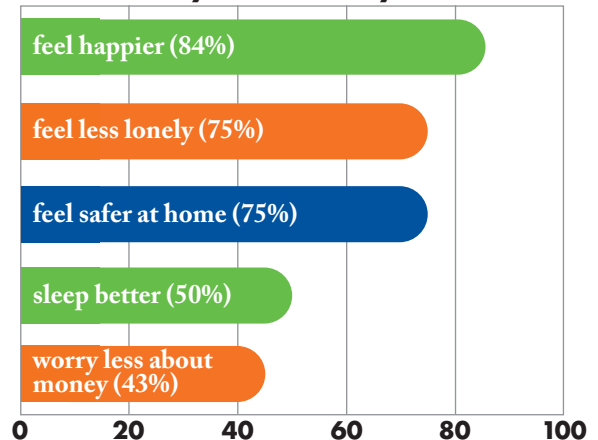
The service component enables seniors and adults with disabilities to stay in their homes. Since 2009 nearly half of all home providers (42%) reported that they would not be able to live safely and comfortably at home without the help they received from their housemate.

Outcomes and Quality of Life Indicators:

Those offering their homes were asked whether they agreed with various statements that indicated an improved quality of life such as feeling happier, feeling safer at home, or sleeping better as a result of being matched through HomeShare Vermont. It is important to note

that 100% of those surveyed, including those who were only charging rent and did not want or need service, indicated an improvement of quality of life in at least one area. The table below shows a sample of responses.

Because of your match, you



Benefits to Home Seekers:

Those looking for housing have consistently listed affordability as the most important benefit of homesharing and 100% of home sharers from 2009 to 2014 have agreed that HomeShare Vermont helped them find affordable housing.

In 2013 we learned that 33% of those who found housing would either be homeless or in an unsafe environment if they had not been matched through HomeShare Vermont. This year that trend continued and increased to 38%. ♦

The Polly Rowe Fund

The Polly Rowe Fund was developed in 2002 after the passing of one of our founders and long-time volunteers, Polly Rowe. Polly volunteered for HomeShare for over eighteen years. She not only volunteered her time but was also a homesharer herself. The goal of the Polly Rowe Fund, a board designated fund, is to generate income to help sustain HomeShare Vermont. To reach that goal, a portion of the Polly Rowe Fund has been placed in the HomeShare Vermont Fund



Polly Rowe

at the Vermont Community Foundation. Special thanks to those who have dedicated their gift to the Polly Rowe Fund. They are listed with an * next to their name in the donor list.

The Polly Rowe Fund

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 553,509.89
INTEREST	2,804.16
DONATIONS	500.00
LOSS/GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	58,569.68
CD TRANSFER IN	55,558.54
ENDING BALANCE	\$670,942.27

Sharing Her Home

Jean has lived in her 1800s farmhouse in Lincoln for about 50 years and has been sharing it since she had a fall several years ago. Thankfully she was OK, but it made her more aware of the fact that she was living alone in the country with no nearby neighbors. She contacted HomeShare Vermont hoping to find a housemate who “lives lightly on the land,” as she does.

Over the years she has found three housemates through HomeShare Vermont and jokes that having someone there makes her kids feel better about their aging mother. She heads to Arizona for part of each winter to volunteer on a nature preserve and likes having the house occupied while she’s away. “It’s not only having help with the utility bills, but also having someone reliable in the house who I know will take good care of it,” said Jean.

Jean enjoys life with her current homesharer, a man in his 60s who works two jobs and enjoys making music. Their lives



Photo by Karen Fike

Homesharing coordinator Amy Jelen walks with Jean on her Lincoln property.

intersect the most in Jean’s vast veggie and flower garden where her homesharer helps with planting, weeding, collecting seeds and harvesting. They also cross paths at the dining room table. Not so much with sharing meals—they both like to do their own thing in the kitchen—but with sharing stories. Jean appreciates their wonderful conversations with a lot of discussion about social issues. “He’s a kind, caring, and considerate man, and we have a real emotional bond.”

Although Jean is independent and doesn’t need or want a lot of assistance, she does feel added security having someone there. “He calls to tell me when he’ll be home, but I know he’s really checking in to make sure I’m OK,” she said with a smile.

Companionship, help with utilities, and not least of all, security—that’s peace

of mind for Jean and the reason she continues homesharing year after year. ♦

How You Can Help HomeShare Vermont

We rely on volunteers and fundraising to do our important work. If HomeShare Vermont is of value to you, please help us to help others. Refer friends and neighbors who can use our services. Be our ambassador, help spread the word, encourage others to give us a call.

Attend our events

Raise money or awareness by joining us at one of our fun events including our Inns Raffle, Spring Event or Open House.

Volunteer

Lend a hand with outreach, event planning, fundraising or community education. A little bit of time makes a huge impact.

Gifts in lieu of flowers

Designate HomeShare Vermont for remembrance gifts in lieu of flowers and communicate to others that you value our work.

Friend us on Facebook

Keep current with what we are doing and tell others about us.

Legacy

Make a bequest or other gift to our Polly Rowe Fund to assure homesharing services will be available to future generations.

OUTREACH *Success*

Over the years we have had up to four times as many people looking for housing than we have had homes available. During the second half of this year we initiated a new marketing campaign aimed at getting more people to consider sharing their homes. We developed new materials including a

series of display ads, a PSA and a brochure. These efforts have had terrific results. Our applications are up substantially from last year. We expect to see an increase in matches in the upcoming year. Special thanks to Futura Design, our new Outreach Committee and the Kelley Marketing Group.

Accomplishments

◆ Meeting an increasing need.

1,225 persons served! This was our highest number of clients ever, and a 26% increase over last year.

◆ Very affordable housing.

For new homesharing matches the average rent was \$208/month. Of those new matches, 44% were no rent just service.

◆ Our matches last!

Our average match length for the matches that ended this year was 479 days well in excess of our goal of 365 days.

◆ Serving those most in need.

Of the people who applied for services this year, 71% were considered very-low

income by federal standards.

To do this, 13 staff volunteers and our staff processed 370 applications, made over 1,000 reference checks, performed over 1,700 background checks, interviewed nearly 300 new clients, often in their homes, and facilitated 180 in-home introductions.

What we do:

Homesharing is an old fashioned bartering arrangement where someone with a spare room in the home needs a little help, such as companionship, help with meals or simply a protective presence in the home, and is matched with someone

who is looking for an affordable place to live and can offer an average of ten hours a week of service. An affordable rent or help with utilities can also be part of the exchange.

How we do it:

Our personalized service is tailor made to the individual and we stay actively involved in all our matches to help with changing needs or any issues which may arise. We provide comprehensive screening including nine different background and reference checks.

Volunteers Play a Unique Role

Volunteers have been a cornerstone of our service delivery since we opened our doors in 1982. This year, HomeShare Vermont benefitted from 13 staff volunteers who dedicated about 10 hours per week to our organization. Working closely with Amy Jelen, HomeShare Coordinator, our staff volunteers assisted with everything from interviewing new applicants to creating matches. With about 250 active participants in our homesharing program at any given time, staff volunteers play a crucial role ensuring that our process runs smoothly and efficiently. You always know when it's Wednesday in the office as the volunteers are meeting and the office is abuzz with activity, laughter and energy.

Thank you staff volunteers!

Our Screening & Matching Process

With over thirty years of experience, HomeShare Vermont has developed a comprehensive and client driven process to make the best in-home matches possible.

- Each applicant completes a written *Application*.
- A comprehensive *Interview* is scheduled to get to know what the person's needs are.
- *Background checks* are done and references are checked.
- If they would like to meet, we arrange an *Introduction* with staff present. Very often several Introductions might occur before the right person is found.
- If both agree, a *Trial Match* is set up, typically for two weeks.
- If that succeeds, a *Match Agreement* is signed, outlining the expectations of both parties.
- HomeShare staff stay in regular contact and are available if needs change or issues arise.



A few of our fabulous volunteers: Jane, Becky, Joan, Ellie, Manya, Carol, and Connie

Photo by Karen Pike

Financial Report

July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014

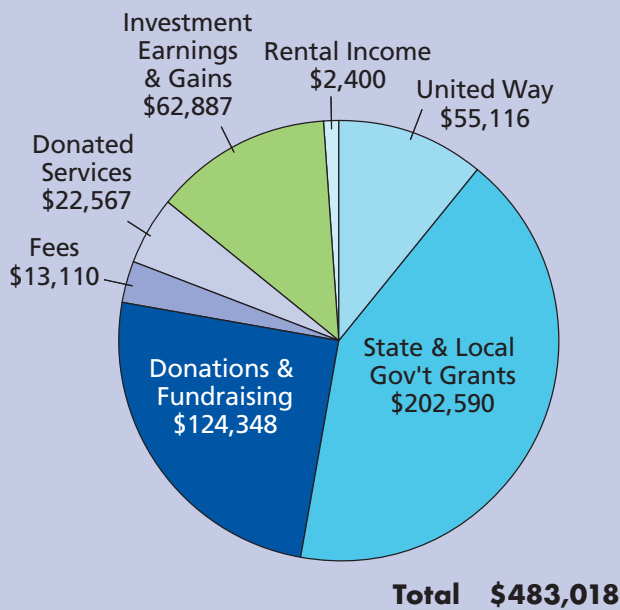


This was another very positive year for the finances of HomeShare Vermont. Over the last several years the Board of Directors has worked hard to develop diversified sources of revenue. We have built up a solid reserve which has allowed the organization to invest a portion of funds so that these monies generate revenue for HomeShare Vermont. This year we saw solid income from those investments. Again this year fundraising and individual

donations continue to provide a substantial amount of our revenue. Expenses have been kept in check with increased costs associated with marketing and professional services, but we ended the year with a surplus. Special thanks to the volunteers serving on the Finance and Fundraising Committees for their leadership.

John Draper
Treasurer

Income



Expenses

Salaries	\$248,877
Payroll taxes & benefits	66,209
Donated services	22,567
Advertising	20,806
Occupancy/office	19,130
Postage & printing	18,485
Depreciation	9,015
Audit/legal/ins.	17,097
Services & training	7,829
Background checks	1,690
Mileage	4,137
Misc.	3,112
Total	\$438,954

Increase in unrestricted net assets 44,064

Statement of Financial Position 6/30/14

Assets

Cash & cash equivalents	392,041
Fund held by VT Community Foundation	353,530
Investments held by Merchants Trust Co.	185,222
Office facility, at cost	221,028
Office furniture & equipment	19,854
Accumulated depreciation	(52,234)
Total Assets	\$ 1,119,441

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable	3,483
Accrued payroll	10,432
Total Current Liabilities	13,915

Net Assets

Unrestricted net assets	
Undesignated	194,961
Designated by Board	309,882
Used for office facility, furniture & equipment, less depreciation	188,648
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	693,491
Fund held by VT Community Foundation	353,530
Restricted Net Assets	
for building related expenditures	58,505
Total Net Assets	1,105,526

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$1,119,441

Complete FY 14 audit for HomeShare Vermont is available on our website at www.HomeShareVermont.org

Donors

Thank you! We'd like to thank our donors at all levels of giving who have faithfully supported us this year. Donors to the Polly Rowe Memorial Fund are noted with an *asterisk. In addition, HomeShare Vermont gives a special thank you to all the staff, volunteers and donors of United Way of Chittenden County. All donors

listed are from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. If we have omitted anyone or included anyone who would prefer to be anonymous, it is unintentional, and we would appreciate your notifying the HomeShare Vermont office.

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Home Instead Senior Care
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IBM
Karen Pike Photography
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Merchants Bank
Northern Benefits
Northfield Savings Bank
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O'Brien Brothers Agency
People's Trust
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Laura Kate Winterbottom Memorial Fund
Tulgey Wood Foundation
Vermont Community Foundation

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Burlington Housing Trust Fund
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United Way of
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HomeShare Vermont: bettering the lives of elders and people with disabilities by helping them remain in their homes. We match them with people who are looking for affordable housing and/or caregiving opportunities.

