

A Letter from HOME

In This for the Long Haul



Photos by Karen Pike

Do you remember what you were doing in 1997? While not all homesharing matches last anywhere near this long, there are those special bonds that develop in some matches like this one. In 1997, Laura moved here from Boston and contacted us in search of a pet-friendly home for herself and her dog, Pete. She was new to the area and found it difficult to find housing with a large dog. Pete was part of her family and it was a requirement for her to find a place that would accommodate both of them.

Natalie, then in her early 50's, had had a previous roommate who had taken advantage of her kindness. Her guardian was looking to us to find someone who could provide some structure in the home and be respectful of Natalie's developmental disabilities. It was also important to find someone who was genuinely interested in Natalie and would be a companion and friend.

Natalie readily welcomed Laura and Pete to her home. Now they have Outlaw, a former show dog who loves the spotlight. "He puts his head in your lap and he always wants to be petted. He's good com-

pany," says Natalie. Laura is artistic and makes beautifully intricate beaded jewelry. At our interview, Natalie was wearing a beaded flower in her hair that she proudly showed off and explained, "Laura surprised me with this. It was a gift!" Beading is now something they do together.

Before they met, Natalie had a brief stay in a group home and remembers, "I didn't like it there—I like home. Home is good." Laura keeps up with the day to day household management doing everything from minor home repairs to meal planning with attention to Natalie's dietary requirements. Without the help that Laura provides Natalie would not be able to live safely at home where she wants to be.

While their match began as a barter of service for a place to live, it's clear that they have built a relationship based on more than just chores and errands. Many years ago Laura correctly predicted, "we're in this for the long haul!" The average length of a homeshare match in our program is about 18 months, but Natalie and Laura hold the record for the *longest* match made so far. 🏠





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Going for Gold!!

The HomeShare Vermont Inns Raffle raised over \$9,000 for our Homesharing and Caregiving programs. On February 19th, during the Winter Olympics, board president Dan Stanyon and his wife Dawn hosted a lovely party during which we drew the winning tickets. Selling over 1,200 raffle tickets is not an easy task. With our Olympic



Board members Gil, Kate, Julie and Cathie.

Theme we had bronze ticket sellers who achieved the goal of selling 50 or more tickets – Kelly Deforge, Jane Goodman, Gil Livingston, and Cathie Merrihew. Our Silver Medalist was board member Kate Baldwin who sold over 100 tickets and our Gold Medal winner was Julie Burger Pierson for selling over 150 tickets! Below are the lucky winners and the marvelous inns who participated. Many thanks to everyone who purchased and or tickets!

Winner	Inn	Town
Kitty Pierson	Adams Landing Bed & Breakfast	Grand Isle
Joan Hungerford	Arlington Inn	Arlington
David Hamilton	Back Inn Time Bed & Breakfast	St. Albans
Ann McKay	Blueberry Hill Inn	Brandon
Phil Murdock	Brandon Inn	Brandon
Sally Kieny	Catamount Bed & Breakfast	Williston
Christine Graham	Charleston House	Woodstock
Linda Berlin	Charleston House	Woodstock
Carol Livingston	Courtyard Burlington Harbor Hotel	Burlington
Ann Lipsitt	Couture's Maple Shop & Bed & Breakfast	Westfield
Jim Clark	Dorset Inn	Dorset
Steve Terrill	Echo Lake Inn	Ludlow
Odette Eddy	Elliot House Bed & Breakfast	Shelburne
Calvin Carter	Essex, Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa	Essex
Judy Steacy	Ferry Watch Inn	Grand Isle
Don Dickson	Firefly Bed & Breakfast	Lincoln
Patti Reynolds	Firefly Bed & Breakfast	Lincoln
Kathy Peden	Heart of Village Inn	Shelburne
Ted Panuccuci	Inn on Green	Middlebury
Lori Dolson	Lang House on Main Street	Burlington
Chip Schaeffer	Made Inn Vermont	Burlington
Cathy Bergeron	Middlebury Inn	Middlebury
Brianne Chase	North Hero House Inn & Restaurant	North Hero
Kaki Hutchinson	Sinclair Inn	Jericho
Pat Robins	Sleepy Hollow Inn	Huntington
Stewart Pierson	Thomas Mott Homestead	Alburgh
Audrey Magram	Thomas Mott Homestead	Alburgh
Michael Kennedy	Timberholm Inn	Stowe
Nancy Eldridge	Topnotch at Stowe Resort & Spa	Stowe
Debra Taylor	Willard Street Inn	Burlington

**Please think of these generous Inns
for your Vermont vacations or when you have friends visit.**

Dot Black, an Inspiration

In December 2013 HomeShare Vermont lost an amazing volunteer and friend. Dorothy “Dot” Black was truly an inspiration to all who knew her. Since 1981 Dot had been coming to the office weekly, right up to and until her death. Dot had a special talent of connecting to people, listening to their stories and empathizing with their situation. When she did a home visit she was often there for the entire afternoon. She stayed in regular contact with her clients even after they left the program. She was always singing the praises of homesharing to all who would listen. When she came into the office for the weekly case conference meetings she would always ask if we had any other tasks which needed doing.



Dot Black

Photo by Karen Pike

Special thanks to those donors listed below for their generous gifts in memory of Dot Black.

Jim & Barb Adams
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Robert & Monica Shattuck

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Homesharing and Caregiving—We Do Both!

You may not be aware of the two very different programs we offer. In both Homesharing and Caregiving the service we provide is one of screening, matching, and on-going support with the goal of helping elders and others stay at home. Here is a very simple outline of the differences.

Homesharing—A Bartering Arrangement

A screened, qualified homesharer—chosen by the person with a home—moves in, and provides up to 10-12 hours/week of service, some rental income or sharing of household expenses. Service might include cooking a few meals per week, driving, errands, housekeeping, yard work or pet care. In exchange for the service, the homesharer is provided with a low or no-cost place to live. In other arrangements the person with a home might be looking only for rental income with no expectation of service.

Homesharing works best for people who are still quite independent and can be safely home alone. No personal care is provided by homesharers, and homesharing is not appropriate for people with advanced memory loss.

If you are interested in learning more about the Homesharing Program call Amy at 863-0274.

Caregiving—An Employment Arrangement

Our Caregiving Program provides non-medical, personal care services that you hire on an hourly or live-in basis. Hourly caregivers can work just a few hours a week, overnights or 24 hour shifts. Live-in caregivers move into the home and provide full-time care for a salary plus room and board. Our program is based on the self-directed model of care where a caregiver works directly for the person receiving care. For around-the-clock care, we can work with you to establish caregiving teams to provide a strong continuity of care.

Caregivers are often experienced with Alzheimer's, acute physical illness and end-of-life care. They offer a range of assistance from cooking and companionship to bathing, dressing and transferring.

If you are interested in learning more about the Caregiving Program call Lisa or MaryLou at 863-5625.



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



United Way of
Chittenden County



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.

Help Us Find the Right Match!

Here are just a few of our homeshare situations available. Please tell your friends and neighbors about us who are looking for housing or may consider sharing their homes.

Williston: Share a home with a woman in her 60s with MS who is interested in theater, music and world events, and would love to get out to farmer's markets or movies together. Pay no rent in exchange for cooking 4 evening meals/week, light snow shoveling, and help caring for two sweet cats.

Whiting: Handy with home repairs? Barter for housing! Share a unique and spacious country home, 20 minutes to Middlebury. Seeking a handyperson to help with weatherization & a variety of home rehabilitation projects in exchange for low- or no-rent housing. Hours/rent negotiable based on your availability.

Burlington: Share a home in the New North End of with an active couple who enjoy biking, baking bread, cooking and gardening. \$400/month includes all utilities and internet. Large yard, lots of summer gardening space. Must be cat and dog-friendly!

Cornwall: Share a bright, sunny home with an intellectual senior interested in history, film, bridge games and time with family and friends. Seeking a housemate to provide help with the wood stove, errands, and conversation over a few shared meals each week in exchange for housing at a low rent. Private bath.

HOMESHARE

Finding you just the right person!