

# Homeshare Annual Report 2024

# Waltzing Onto a Homeshare







hen you enter Miriam's Hinesburg home, it crackles with energy. Part of that is her electric personality and part is from the vibrant friendship she has fostered with her homeshare guest, Hannah.

Miriam first came to Vermont in the early '70s when she and her then-husband wanted to leave the city behind and enjoy a more peaceful, rural lifestyle. Except for a few years in Boston, Miriam's lived in Vermont ever since.

Her career included serving as a nurse epidemiologist and almost 30 years as a hemophilia nurse. When she wasn't working, she enjoyed dancing and playing the ukelele.

Hannah, a native Vermonter who grew up on her family's South Royalton dairy farm (that they still run), spent three years in Hawaii before returning to Vermont. "Hawaii was really interesting because it has its own, completely different culture and it was wonderful," Hannah explained. "But leaving Vermont made me realize how much I value my home state and being near my family."

She moved to Barre and took a job as a Youth Employment Specialist in Jericho. When she wanted to

live closer to work, she checked out HomeShare Vermont.

Miriam, who has had people share her home through the years, enlisted the help of HomeShare this time because, "Years ago, the world wasn't quite as crazy, so I felt safe finding someone on my own then. The fact that HomeShare does the vetting, I figured it was a much safer way to go now."

The duo enjoys sharing conversation and meals, they've taken dance lessons and dog obedience classes together (for Miriam's new Schnoodle, Bella) and have enjoyed the farmers' market and musical performances.

"Miriam understands the value of communication, which is a huge piece of homesharing," Hannah said. "She's had such wonderful experiences in her life and I love hearing her stories."

Miriam's advice for HomeShare applicants is, "Be patient. Don't rush into a match. Find someone who's going to complement you. There's 50 years between us. Age doesn't make a difference if it's the right person."



Annual Report July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

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### Working to Reach Every Vermonter

It is an exciting time to be involved at HomeShare Vermont. As we expand, we've been thinking about what it means to grow as an organization. Three words keep coming to mind: accessible, sustainable and inclusive.

We've made great strides in all three of these areas this past year. We pushed our service area boundaries into **Windsor County** to the south and to



**Craftsbury**, **Hardwick** and **Greensboro** in the Northeast Kingdom. This means our team is helping more Vermonters in more counties than ever before. Investing in a **new online database** allows participants to apply online in minutes (paper applications are still widely in use, too). The system streamlines case management and reporting and cuts down our wait times. It also represents a big step towards our readiness for statewide service.

Growth also means making sure no one is left behind. New partnerships with UVM Health Network, The Gibney Family Foundation and others are giving us an opportunity to assess and improve how we serve Vermonters. We began an internal review this past year and will continue in phases over the next two years. This will result in more successful engagement with historically marginalized Vermonters, who are some of those most impacted by the lack of affordable housing.

We are so proud of the work HomeShare has done in this our 42nd year. Whether it's going the extra mile for a host or travelling literal miles to spread the word about our model, this group has been fulfilling its mission day in and day out. Check out all the stories and data in this report to learn more about how Vermonters benefited over the past year.

Hobart Popick Board President

Connor Timmons Executive Director

## The Polly Rowe Society: A Legacy of Caring



Thanks to bequests received from Polly Rowe, Estelle Deane and others, Home-Share Vermont has been able to seed a growing sustainability fund called The Polly Rowe Fund. This support

ensures our long-term sustainability so that

Thanks to bequests received HomeShare will be ready for the next genfrom Polly Rowe, Estelle eration of Vermonters.

> HomeShare friends have also told us of their plans to include HomeShare Vermont in their will or estate. We acknowledge the wonderful contributions of these and future donors with the Polly Rowe Society in memory of one of our inspirational founders.

#### **Members of the Polly Rowe Society**

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\* Gifts Received

Please join us to assure that HomeShare Vermont is here to help future generations share housing and create friendships. For more information or to let us know of a gift you have made, please contact Connor Timmons at (802) 865-4151.

# A Match Made 'Round the World

Randy has shared his Colchester condominium with a few roommates over the years. But after living alone for a bit, he decided to turn to HomeShare Vermont to find a new roommate. Little could he have imagined that his homeshare guest – Udaya – would come from Nepal.

"Having Udaya here gives me someone to interact with and to do things with, like walking together," explained Randy.

Udaya came to the U.S. to study in New York City in 2002. After two decades, he decided to trade the massive metropolis for the slower pace and open spaces of Vermont.

"I had been planning to move to Vermont for a long, long time," Udaya said. "After the company I was working for laid off a lot of its employees during the pandemic, I decided it was time."

Udaya hadn't heard of homesharing before moving to the Green Mountain State, but after a call to the HomeShare Vermont office, he decided to apply. "A month later, I got the chance to meet Mr. Randy. I liked him, we worked everything out and I moved in. HomeShare has been the best for me. It was very hard to find an apartment and without HomeShare, I wouldn't have been able to stay in Vermont. I love it here. It reminds me of my country, which is so green just like Vermont."

"...without HomeShare, I wouldn't have been able to stay in Vermont."



For Randy, who works at a pharmacy and helps coach soccer at Special Olympics, having Udaya around has been beneficial in several ways. "I get treated respectfully, I have someone to talk to and Udaya cooks. I'm eating healthier food now and I've even liked some of the Nepali dishes he makes!"

In addition to cooking, Udaya also helps clean the home and provides other general help as needed. That includes assisting Randy with organizing his impressive CD and DVD collection.

Udaya says "[HomeShare Vermont] is wonderful at helping people who are having difficulty finding a place to live. They're very respectful and they found me a person and situation that works very well for me. I really appreciate that."

### **FY24** Return on Investment

n FY 2024, the State of Vermont provided \$323,256 in state funds and \$156,744 of matching federal funds to Home-Share Vermont. We are so grateful to the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. This investment allowed Vermonters to:

- Provide approximately 30,400 hours of assistance to their hosts, helping with everything from yardwork to dog walking to sharing meals.
- Save over \$544,000 for those sharing their homes and their families if they had to hire help.
- The average rent in a homesharing match was only \$359, with 25% of guests paying no rent at all. Using the difference between market rents and actual homeshare rents, we estimate that homeshare guests saved over \$807,000 in rental expenses this year.
- Hosts received over \$354,000 in rental income to help them make ends meet.
- HomeShare Vermont added 16 towns in Windsor County, three in the Northeast Kingdom and two in Rutland County to our service area.

Savings to Hosts HAD THEY HIRED HELP	\$544,000
RENTAL COST SAVINGS FOR GUESTS	\$807,000
Total Savings to Hosts and Guests	\$1,351,000

# FY24 Financial Report

July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024



omeShare had a robust financial year thanks in large part to the stalwart support of the State of Vermont and the generosity of the Amy Tarrant Foundation. Amy's gift allowed HomeShare to establish the Tarrant Program Fund which will help us meet program-

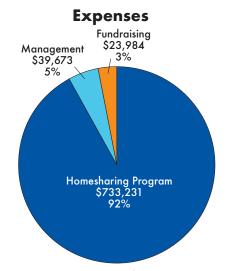
ming goals in the future. Our annual raffle continues to exceed expectations. A huge thank you to all who planned, participated and sponsored the event. We are so grateful for your support.

None of this work would be possible without the generous support of the United Way of Northwest Vermont, The Hoehl Foundation, the UVMHC Foundation, The Gibney Foundation and the Francis T. and Louise T. Nichols Foundation.

We would also like to thank the individual donors who made critical gifts to our organization as part of Kirby Dunn's parting appeal. This was an incredible lift towards our goal of securing the future of our organization.

Thank you, Brian Stark, Treasurer

Operating Income	
State & Local Government	\$ 497,741
United Way	12,569
Foundation Grants	209,000
Individual Gifts	78,536
Events	30,199
Match Fees & Interest	26,993
Donated Services	22,284
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	\$877,322
Complete Audited Financial Statements for FY24 are upon request.	e available



Total Expenses: \$796,888 Net Assets: \$80,434

#### It Happens Thanks to Our Volunteers

We are thankful to our volunteers, who have been a cornerstone of our service delivery since we opened our doors in 1982. This year, HomeShare Vermont benefitted from the assistance of eight dedicated staff volunteers, who have contributed a combined 50 years of help to our organization.

Working closely with Amy Jelen, Program Director, our staff volunteers assist with everything from interviewing new applicants and calling references to creating matches. Staff volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring that our process runs smoothly and efficiently, and they bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to our screening and matching process.

Sally Cook has provided us with outstanding help calling on references for the past two years. With the increase in applicants, we're looking for another volunteer to assist Sally with this important work from our South Burlington office. If you or someone you know would enjoy being part of the HomeShare Vermont volunteer team, please give us a call.





# Individual Donors

Thank you to our donors at all levels of giving who have faithfully supported us this year (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024). Names appearing in orange signify donations to the Polly Rowe Fund

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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. Anyone who contributed after June 30, 2024, will be acknowledged in next year's annual report.

We wish to acknowledge Futura Design for the design of this Annual Report and HomeShare Vermont's other printed pieces.

Our programs and services are available to all people regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender identity, family status, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, receipt of public assistance, and victim of abuse.

#### **Contributions have been given in memory of:**

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# What We Accomplished in FY24

#### What We Do

Homesharing is a simple idea where two or more people share a home, providing the guest with an affordable place to live. Hosts offer a private bedroom and shared common area in exchange for rent, help around the house or a combination of the two. Every homesharing arrangement is unique; it depends on the needs, time, interests and abilities of the people involved.

#### How We Do It

Our Screening and **Matching Process** 

**Processed 693 applications** Made just under 1,600 reference checks Performed almost 3,400 background checks Interviewed 432 new customers Facilitated 177 in-home introductions Resulting in 274 matched participants!

#### Who We Served

Those Who	hared Their Home	Found Housing
# of Individuals	138	136
Age Range	28-99	22-81
Average Age	72	49
% Low Income (HU	D) 73%	90%
% Reporting Disab	ility 26%	11%





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

# The Positive Effects of Homesharing FY24 HomeShare Vermont's Outcomes

	Unduplicated # of Persons in Match	274
How Much?	# of Housing Units Created	169 homes available to share
Moch	# of Service Hours Exchanged	30,400 hours of assistance to seniors and others

		HomeShare Average Match Length	21 months
	How Well?	Participant Satisfaction	100% satisfied
(	weil:		100% would recommend us to family or friends

	Affordability of Housing	Average Rent: \$359	
Is Anyone	Ability of Seniors to Stay Safely at Home	46% of those sharing their home reported they would not be able to live safely and comfortably at home without a homesharer	
Better Off?	Improved Quality of Life: Those having someone live with them report they	Feel Safer in their Home:	86%
		Feel Happier:	82%
		Enjoy Their Home More:	80%
		Feel Less Lonely:	76%
		Worry Less About Money:	59%