



Project: *HomeShare Vermont*

Organization: *HomeShare Vermont*

Description

HomeShare Vermont celebrated its silver anniversary in 2007. As a non-profit service organization it has successfully pioneered, refined and delivered an elegantly simple option to avoid nursing home placement so seniors can remain at home for as long as possible.

The goal of HomeShare Vermont is to assist elders and persons with disabilities to live independently in their own homes by bringing them together with persons who seek affordable housing and/or care giving opportunities. HomeShare Vermont provides a matching service between home seekers and sharers, and care givers and receivers. Through artfully arranged matches customers gain affordable housing, shared interests, a helping hand, companionship, affordable in-home care, peace of mind, and greatly desired independence from placement in a licensed care facility.

HomeShare Vermont is made possible through a home-grown network of support including: state, municipal United Way, and CDBG grants; corporate, business and private donations; and a group of active volunteers on the board and in committees and who work directly with customers making successful home share matches.

From a recent Outcomes Survey Project, nearly 100% of HomeShare Vermont's customers reported an overall high level of satisfaction with the services and would recommend the program to a friend or neighbor.

Major components of the program include:

Homesharing - Homesharing is an arrangement where two or more unrelated people share a home, each having his or her own private space and shared common living areas.

No two homeshare arrangements are alike. They vary according to the needs, time and abilities of the people involved and the location of the home to be shared. Typically, a "Home Seeker" (often a student or working person) is matched with a "Home Provider" the home owner. For many elders or disabled adults a homeshare match brings the comforting assurance of "protective presence" by having someone in the house at night. The home seeker often provides 12-15 hours a week doing household chores such as cooking or shopping, or assists with trips to the doctor, etc. in exchange for free housing. Other arrangements are doing less service and making a small contribution to household expenses, or doing no services and paying rent in the range of \$250-\$300 per month.

Caregiving - HomeShare Vermont matches frail elders or persons with a disability with paid non-medical caregivers either as Live-In or Hourly Care. The person receiving care, not HomeShare Vermont, is the employer.

Live-In Care: A person assists a frail elder or person with a disability with non-medical personal care, such as bathing, dressing or walking. Caregivers also provide companionship and assist with homemaking services, such as shopping, cooking and household chores. In turn, the caregiver receives a weekly salary, room and board.

Hourly Caregiving: Hourly Caregivers provide the services listed under "Live-In Care" above but do not live-in (share) the home.

For more information on HomeShare visit <http://homesharevermont.org/default.htm> or contact Ms. Kirby Dunn at 802-865-4151 or via e-mail at home@sover.net