

HOMESHARING, INC.

The PeopleCare Center
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www.HomeSharing.org

HOMESHARING'S MISSION

HomeSharing's mission is to create affordable housing solutions. We match those seeking housing with those who need additional income or services to maintain their homes, while fostering independence and dignity.

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HomeSharing®



HomeSharing NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2019

A Forever Friendship



I met Barbara for the first time when she came into the Homesharing office with an unusual request. Barbara, a long-term home provider in Somerset County wanted to know how to **reduce** the fee she charged for the room in her home when originally matched to her seeker Anna! Since this match predated my history with Homesharing, I asked if I could visit her home and meet with both of them to discuss this change and modify the contract if necessary. I had no idea I was in the company of a famously talented woman!

While touring Barbara's home, I was immediately struck by the vast artwork adorning her walls, which she modestly stated were her own illustrations and designs! A walk

upstairs revealed a vast collection of puppets and dolls in several curio cabinets around the room. Many were recognizable to me and Barbara explained she worked as a freelance designer for Children's Television Workshop which included Jim Henson's Muppets for many years! In fact, she was the original illustrator for the Sesame Street books I read to my children so many years ago!

Okay, I was star struck for sure by now, but it was time to learn about Barbara's history with Homesharing and how I could help her. Barbara moved to Somerset years ago to be nearer to her family. She purchased a beautiful home but quickly discovered it was financially difficult to maintain on her own. A social service agency referred her to Homesharing and while a first "go" at a match did not work out, the next one would prove to be a life changing.

Barbara and Anna became quick friends once she learned Anna "was a Virgo too" and loved to cook. Three years later she describes her relationship with Anna as "out of this world"! "Anna changed my life in every way! We take care of each other!" Barbara relayed how Anna who has a love of gardening transformed her entire backyard into a flower oasis! "We have a lot of fun together; laugh a lot and I think I've helped her grow too."

It was easy to understand now why Barbara wanted to make life easier for her friend and reduce the amount of money she paid into the household. "Homesharing definitely took the edge off my financial struggles and I want to do the same for Anna. Homesharing gave me a kind, sweet and gentle person. She is the best thing that happened to me!"

Before leaving and asking if I could share her story, I was handed an 11x14 personally signed copy of a drawing of Big Bird. What an unexpected treasure for me.

By Claudia Yurecko, Program Coordinator

Come hear more about Barbara and Anna and see Barbara's work at HomeSharing's 35th Anniversary Gala Celebration on October 24!

From Our President



Andriette Mathews

HOT! HOT! HOT! Summer is here and those fortunate enough are in vacation mode. Family priorities take center stage and there are more parents and children enjoying outside activities. But what about the homeless person sitting in the heat under the overpass or trying to cool down by a lake in a park? Do we see them?

While sitting in an air conditioned restaurant on a hot and muggy weekend, I watched out the window, across the street, where there is a park and lake. I noticed an elderly man sitting under a tree with a police officer talking to him. Then a second police officer arrived and talked to the elderly man. After ten minutes, an ambulance pulled up. He was suffering from heat stroke! On these Code Red days, everyone should have a cool place to go home to.

Along with matching individuals need of affordable housing, the social workers at HomeSharing provide resources, information and advocacy for those in need of assistance. For 35 years, we have facilitated matches for the purpose of companionship, practical help and/or financial stability. We serve older adults, those experiencing the economic impact of job or relationship changes or illness, college students and more!

Through the support of generous donations and the sponsors/supporters of our events, HomeSharing is able to create safe and affordable housing solutions. Please support HomeSharing, Inc. by joining me at our 35th Anniversary Gala Celebration on October 24.

Thank you,
Andriette L. Mathews, President
HomeSharing Board of Trustees

Information for Banks: HomeSharing and the CRA

HomeSharing qualifies as an agency to invest in for Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit. In order to receive CRA credit a bank's activities must have one of the following as its primary purpose:

- Affordable housing
- Community services targeted to low- and moderate- income individuals
- Activities that promote economic development
- Activities that revitalize or stabilize Low and Middle Income areas.

HomeSharing's Mission is to create affordable housing solutions. We match those seeking housing with those who need additional income or services to maintain their homes, while fostering independence and dignity.

Geographic Area: HomeSharing has served Somerset and Hunterdon counties for 35 years; began services in Middlesex, Morris and Union Counties in 2011; and in parts of Essex and Passaic Counties in 2015.

HomeSharing serves the most needy in our communities. In 2018,

81% of the client households had incomes less than \$30,000 per year (33% had less than \$10,000 household income)

35% of the households were headed by females

35% of the households had people with disabilities; and

36% of our clients were older adults (age 60+).

Our Budget: is less than \$300,000 annually.

Ways to Invest in HomeSharing:

Grants

Event Sponsorships

Board or Committee Service

HomeSharing Celebrates 35 Years!

Since 1984, HomeSharing's mission has been to create affordable housing solutions by matching "Providers"- people who need to share their homes or apartments in order to maintain them, with "Seekers"- individuals searching for affordable housing in the community. We are the only agency in New Jersey using the shared housing model to serve the working poor whose incomes are at or below the poverty level and who are not eligible for other social services. HomeSharing also assists its clients in locating and utilizing other resources such as the Food Bank, low-cost medical care, and other supports.

HomeSharing has served Somerset and Hunterdon counties for 35 years; began services in Middlesex, Morris and Union Counties in 2011; and in parts of Essex and Passaic Counties in 2015.

HomeSharing benefits both the clients (young adults, older adults, people with disabilities, single parents, working professionals, and low-income persons) and the community. Providers benefit by being able to stay in their homes without leaving the community, utilizing public assistance, or, in the case of older adults, being institutionalized. Seekers benefit finding below market-rate rents in which they can live better on their income. All clients are better able to live on their current incomes when participating in a shared affordable housing relationship. This helps provide increased income for food, medications, and clothing or allows the Providers to arrange for an exchange of service such as meal preparation, errands, or house cleaning in lieu of paying rent to the Provider. The local community and government benefit by employees living near their work locations; paying taxes in the local county; by home owners' continued payment of property taxes; and by a reduction in the need for construction of costly housing units.

We have nearly 1,800 matches! In 2018 alone we:

- Served 3,634 New Jersey clients;
- Created/maintained 142 shared housing matches (representing 284 families and 360 individuals); and
- Provided 86,044 nights of shelter.

We are cost effective. While the state spends between \$30,000 and \$50,000 on each homeless person, the cost of HomeSharing is only \$100 per person. More importantly, the people we help get to live in a real home.

HomeSharing's 35th Anniversary Gala Celebration



On Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6 p.m., HomeSharing will host its 35th Anniversary Gala Celebration at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club

honoring

**Somerset Savings Bank and William Taylor, President and CEO
with the Shuey Horowitz Humanitarian Award**

and

**Michael Deak of the Courier News and HomeSharing's Immediate Past President
with the Frank Semcer, Sr. Outstanding Volunteer Leadership Award.**



These honorees were selected because they represent those who have supported HomeSharing for most of our 35 years.

Even if you have not attended in the past, **THIS IS THE YEAR TO COME TO THE GALA!** We will also be inducting long time Donors, past Board Presidents, Volunteers, Clients and Supporters into a **HOMESHARING HALL OF FAME** to acknowledge their many years of support and service to HomeSharing.

Additional information on the event is enclosed. **We ask you to join us in honoring HomeSharing, our honorees and Hall of Famers by sponsoring a table at the event or by advertising in our EVENT JOURNAL. Your participation will provide an affordable housing alternative to those in need.**

If you are unable to attend, consider purchasing a ticket for one of our volunteers or clients who cannot afford to celebrate with us.



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120 Finderne Avenue
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The Company We Keep

HomeSharing thanks the following foundations, corporations, organizations, and individuals that have generously supported our work in 2018.

\$10,000 and above

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Creating Affordable Housing Solutions

Volunteers Needed

HomeSharing would not exist without the tireless dedication of our Volunteers.

We are currently seeking volunteers for:

- **Development Committee**– Assistance with fundraisers, marketing and website.
- **Outreach** to Home Providers
- **QuickBooks** expertise
- Membership on **Board of Trustees**

Please contact Lisa Blum, Executive Director, at 908-526-4663 or lblum.homesaring@verizon.net.

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