

HOMESHARING, INC.

The PeopleCare Center
120 Finderne Avenue
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Phone: 908 526-4663
Fax: 908 526-6342
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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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HomeSharing NEWSLETTER

Volume 20 Issue 1

Summer 2016

HomeSharing's Harvest Jubilee: Honoring Our Own October 27, 2016 Raritan Valley Country Club

On Thursday, October 27, 2016, HomeSharing will host the 12th Annual Harvest Jubilee, honoring Robert J. Smith of Ortho Clinical Diagnostics with the Shuey Horowitz Humanitarian Award and Lori P. Hager, Attorney at Coughlin Duffy, with the Frank Semcer, Sr. Outstanding Volunteer Leadership Award.

Robert J. Smith

Shuey Horowitz Humanitarian Award

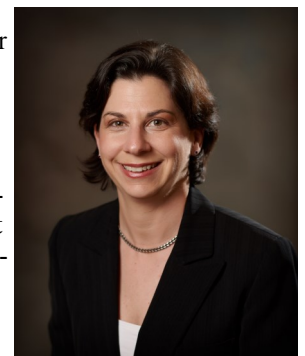


Robert became acquainted with HomeSharing through volunteer work with the United Way of Somerset County and their Investment Panel for transitional housing. That introduction led to an eight year engagement on HomeSharing's board, five of those years as President. He shepherded the agency through its expansion from the original two counties served to operations in seven New Jersey counties and a change in executive management, as well as the usual challenges facing non-profits. He has devoted his time, talent and resources to HomeSharing, through strategic planning, participation at all fundraising events, and generous charitable giving. Robert will be taking a hiatus from the HomeSharing board and is being recognized for his many contributions to the agency.

Lori P. Hager

Frank Semcer, Sr. Outstanding Volunteer Leadership Award

Lori Hager is receiving the Frank Semcer, Sr. Outstanding Volunteer Leadership Award for generously donating her services to secure a trademark for the HomeSharing logo/name. Securing the trademark is the first step towards marketing the HomeSharing program to others looking to create similar services, while insuring that the HomeSharing brand is not comprised by those not meeting the agency's high standards. HomeSharing thanks Lori for sharing her talent and time with us. Lori also serves on the board of directors for several non-profit organizations and donates many hours of her time to pro bono activities.



We ask you to join us in honoring Robert J. Smith and Lori P. Hager by sponsoring a table at the event or by advertising in our journal. Your participation will provide an affordable housing alternative to those in need. See Page 2 for more information.



President's Message: Summer 2016

Dear Friend of HomeSharing,

On these perfect summer days when we revel in nature's glories, it's hard to believe that our lives hang by a thread in the golden sunshine.

We seldom give a second thought to how easily and unexpectedly we can be jolted out of our comfort zone by a cruel twist of fate, whether it's a car accident caused by a drunk driver, the loss of a job and benefits because of a faceless corporate spreadsheet or a relationship that has finally reached its breaking point.

It can happen to any of us. It can happen to your neighbors.

These catastrophic life-changing events can alter the course of our lives. Burdened by medical expenses or scouring every cubby-hole for the dollars to pay the mortgage or rent, it's easy to find yourself living on a thin line and battling the anxiety that today may be the last day with a roof over your head.

We at HomeSharing are committed to help those who are homeless or on the brink of being homeless, through no fault of their own, find shelter so they can begin the process of recovering their independence.

For three decades we have been helping those in need avoid homelessness without government assistance through our unique program that matches housing providers with housing seekers. We assist people in finding safe and affordable housing by using a shared housing model, which matches "providers" – residents who need to share their homes or apartments in order to maintain them, with "seekers" – individuals searching for affordable housing in the community. HomeSharing's social workers work with both providers and seekers to facilitate the matches.

Our goal is to help people live normal, everyday lives without being burdened by the worry that they may have to struggle to find a place to sleep at the end of the day or a place to stay dry in a summer thunderstorm.

But we cannot fulfill our mission if we do not have your support.

Like many nonprofits throughout New Jersey, HomeSharing has seen an increase in the demand for services and a rise in expenses with no increase in our funding. HomeSharing is not alone in that quandary. It's a problem affecting most nonprofits in New Jersey. And though HomeSharing is not on the precipice of having to cut our services, we realize that our ability to meet the growing demand to help people find homes hangs by a thread.

That's why we need your generous donation.

We need your help because your neighbors need our help.

Thank you,

Michael Deak

President, HomeSharing Board of Trustees

~Harvest Jubilee Sponsorship Opportunities~

Platinum Sponsor \$10,000

Two 2016 Harvest Jubilee Platinum tables for 10; full inside front/back cover page in Event Journal; acknowledgement in first paragraph of Event press releases; special recognition at the Event; listing on Event signage

Gold Sponsor \$5,000

2016 Harvest Jubilee Gold table for 10; full page in Event Journal; acknowledgement in Event press releases; special recognition at the Event

Silver Sponsor \$3,500

2016 Harvest Jubilee Silver table for 8; half page in Event Journal; acknowledgement in Event press releases

Bronze Sponsor \$2,000

2016 Harvest Jubilee Bronze table for 8; listing in Event Journal

Patron \$500

Two 2016 Harvest Jubilee tickets; listing in Event Journal

Individual Ticket \$225 Per Person

Event Journal Only Opportunities:

Copy due by October 3, 2016

_____ **Full Page \$1,000** 5 1/2 x 8"

_____ **Half Page \$500** 5 1/2 x 4"

_____ **Quarter Page \$250** 2 3/4 x 2"

Please send camera-ready ad.

If not, please write ad copy on a piece of paper and mail.

**For additional information,
contact Lisa Blum :**

908-526-4663

lblum.homessharing@verizon.net.

IN THE NEWS: Struggling New Jersey Non-Profits

New Jersey non-profits are struggling and HomeSharing is no exception.

Federal, state and local governments provide the majority of funding for state non-profits. Additional funding comes from the private sector, mostly individual donors. The rest comes from corporations and private foundations. There has been a trend in New Jersey to reduce government funding for “nonessential” services. It is assumed that the private sector will make up the difference in funding. However, the economic downturn also affected individual donors, corporations and foundations (NJ Monthly, 2014) and New Jersey has not fully recovered. **Although only a small percentage of HomeSharing’s budget comes from government sources, the fact that other non-profits once reliant on public funding are now competing for limited private sector donations means less revenue for all of the agencies.**

The statistics for New Jersey non-profits, as reported by The Center for Non-Profits (2016) are sobering.

- 74% of NJ non-profits say that demand for services has risen and 78% expected demand to increase again in the next year;
- 64% reported that their expenses were higher than in the previous year and 70% expected expenses to rise again next year;
- Less than half reported receiving more funding than in the prior year (and expected the trend to continue); and
- 35% reported that expenses exceeded revenue in the prior year.

HomeSharing mirrors these statistics. We have seen a 23% increase in requests for service and have been able to increase nights of shelter by 19% over the last year. We have had a 12% increase in expenses, but this year we are down 7% in revenue. For the last three years, our expenses have exceeded our revenue. Three other non-profits in our community have closed since June.

HomeSharing is fortunate to have a small operating reserve to cover the lean times, diverse funding sources, 100% of our Trustees making donations, and a cost-effective program that others look to replicate. We rely on our funders to sustain us, as we wait for the economy to recover.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

GIVE DIRECTLY AND GENEROUSLY. Help us prevent homelessness. Encourage your business or corporation and friends to donate as well.

ATTEND FUNDRAISING EVENTS. Tell others! Bring a friend!

Designer Handbag Bingo– Friday, September 30, 2016 at 6 pm
Chamber Music for Charity– Saturday, October 15, 2016 at 7:30 pm

GIVE PASSIVELY.

- When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can **choose HomeSharing**.
- **Fundraising Just Got Clever!** Everyone needs to organize their home, so if you are looking to do so, shop at Clevercontainer.com/HomeSharing. **We will receive 40% of all website sales.**



TELL OTHERS ABOUT US.

- Like us on Facebook (HomeSharing, Inc.) and share our page with your friends.
- Invite us to speak at your business or social group.

JOIN THE HOMESHARING FAMILY.

- Become a member of our Fundraising Committee or join our Board of Trustees.
- Volunteer your time, talents and resources.



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The Company We Keep

HomeSharing thanks the following foundations, corporations, organizations, and individuals that have generously supported our work since the printing of the last newsletter.

\$10,000 and above

Ms. Nancy Baron
The Bunbury Company
Community Foundation of NJ
County of Middlesex
County of Somerset
Merck Company Foundation
Micro
Partners for Health Foundation
Rutgers Community Health Foundation

\$9,999 - \$5,000

Affinity Foundation
Amboy Bank Foundation
BMI-Rupp Foundation
E.J. Grassmann Trust
Franklin Township
Investors Savings Bank Foundation
Johnson & Johnson Matching Gifts Program
Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation, Inc
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Semcer, Sr.
The Elizabeth B. And Arthur E. Roswell Foundation
United Way of Hunterdon County

\$4,999 - \$2,000

Affinity Federal Credit Union
Arnold A. Schwartz Foundation
Ms. Maureen Kalena
Lakeland Bank
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Millington Savings Bank
PNC Foundation
Rebenack, Aronow & Mascolo LLP
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Somerset Savings Bank

\$1,999 - \$500

Active Disposal Service
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Beacon Hill Musicians
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Café Picasso
Mr. Claus Cardinal
Christ Church
Chubb & Son
Church of St. John's on the Mountain
Mr. Jack Ciattarelli
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Eliminating Homelessness One Family at a Time

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Financial Managers Society NY/NJ Chapter
Fulton Bank of New Jersey
Ms. Wilma Gelfand
Glen Rock Savings Bank
Ms. Luann Hellwig
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\$499 - \$250

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Mr. & Mrs. N.J. Blessing
Dr. Lisa Blum
Ms. Judy Braverman
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Chou
Cinelli Iron & Metal
Mr. Joseph Colalillo

DI Group Architecture
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The Bank of Princeton
United Steel Workers
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