

HOMESHARING, INC.

The PeopleCare Center
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Bridgewater, NJ 08807
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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 NEWSLETTER

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A Note of Thanks

My name is Matt. I wanted to take a moment to write a quick note to you and your organization in order to say thank you for all the help HomeSharing has provided to my father, Jeff.

To give you a little back story, recently my father was threatened with homelessness due to the fact he was being evicted from his home of 27 years, from a bank foreclosure.

So I went online and started to search for resources I could turn to for help with my Dad's situation and came across HomeSharing.org. After reading through your site, I decided to get in contact with the organization as I felt you might be able to help. My Dad is a very personable, intelligent and fairly conscientious person so I thought he had a fairly good chance of being able to match up with someone who was looking to share their home. He also has very limited resources, so it was probably a good fit from a "resources" point of view as well.

I placed a call to try to find out more about your program, and made contact with Claudia Yurecko. During our short conversation, Claudia explained the program to me and that it could take a couple of months to place a 'Seeker'. I mentioned to Claudia where I lived and that my Mom was housed in an assisted living facility in a nearby town (both in Hunterdon County). At that point Claudia realized she had an immediate opening in the same town where my Mom's facility is located and that it might be a perfect fit for my Dad!

Well, to make a long story short, all the pieces fell into place. Within the space of two weeks (from the time I made initial contact to the time my Dad will move into his new space), Claudia and HomeSharing had completed the process with my Dad. He will move into his new home this Sunday.

You cannot imagine how much of a relief it is for me to know my Dad will be in a safe place, with other people his age, and they will all be helping each other out. It feels as if the world has been lifted from my shoulders.

I also just want to say that Claudia was a joy to work with, and it was her quick thinking and proactive attitude that has saved my Dad. And your organization is a perfect illustration of how a valuable, well-functioning and vital organization that endeavors to help the less fortunate should perform and function.

You and everyone within HomeSharing should be very proud! So once again, on behalf of myself and my Dad - THANK YOU. Your organization has made a huge difference in our lives!



From Our President

Andriette Mathews



I tried to imagine what life would be without HomeSharing, Inc. It could be replaced with a larger organization but the warmth that Director Lisa Blum and the social workers bring would be missing. It is small enough that the staff, board members, and program participants all know each other.

The social workers who go into the community and listen to our neighbors who are desperate for some basic support, whether it is a home, extra money, assistance or other resources, would no longer be there.

Our Providers and Seekers give back by donating their time and support to HomeSharing and other community organizations. They do not just share a home, but both the Providers and Seekers support each other in simple day to day activities such as shopping, providing transportation, making dinner or just talking.

Unless you are involved with the activities of HomeSharing, where Seekers, Providers and the community get together to share ideas and stories, you may miss the real meaning of our agency. HomeSharing takes those ideas and brings the skills of organization, social responsibility, developing an idea, designing, and brainstorming to bear so our program meets the needs of its participants and a small agency can have a large impact. This would not be there without HomeSharing.

HomeSharing mirrors the communities that it serves. Through its fundraising and community social events it brings together the Staff with Home Providers and Seekers, Donors, and Volunteers, who in turn are inspired to give back to the community. Our community is only as healthy and successful as the individuals and families that live here.

But we need your help! All are welcome to participate in donating time, to answer phones, work at our events, discuss your ideas or lend your special skills to HomeSharing. Join us at one of our events. Or donate- your generous giving goes a long way in this small, cost-effective agency. It's the best way to support your community and have your community support you. Just give Lisa Blum a call at 908-526-4663 to become part of our HomeSharing family.

HomeSharing Launches New Website

In January, HomeSharing launched its new (and improved) website. It still can be found at homesharing.org, but it now includes:

- A more detailed description of who we are and how HomeSharing works;
- Stories about and testimonials from our Providers and Seekers;
- News, including newsletter archives, newspaper articles and television spots;
- Easy access to Events, Donations and Contacting Us (for services or volunteering);

and more!



We couldn't have done it without Matt Montellione, CEO of Royce Brook Media, and his staff. Located on Main Street in Somerville, Royce Brook Media focuses on helping small to medium size businesses grow by developing strong online presences and implementing strategic marketing plans.

Last year, Matt was introduced to HomeSharing. When he heard that an agency donor was hiring consultants to enhance the marketing of HomeSharing, he immediately offered to donate HomeSharing's latest website so that the donor's generous gift could be spent on other needs. While building HomeSharing's site, Matt also built a friendship with the agency staff and board, and he is always available when assistance is needed.

If you need a website built, contact Royce Brook Media and support those who support HomeSharing!



***Log on to homesharing.org
and check out our new look!
Don't forget to subscribe to receive
our newsletter online!***

How The New Tax Law Will Affect HomeSharing

The new tax law, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, has unintended consequences for nonprofits, their donors and their clients. **Analysts expect the law's provisions will reduce charitable giving by about 6-9% per year** (Neo Law Group, 2018).

Increasing the standard deduction will depress charitable giving because only those who itemize their deductions get the benefit of a charitable contribution deduction (Neo Law Group, 2018).

This decline is expected to be concentrated among gifts from the middle class. The richest Americans will mostly keep their ability to take the tax break. However, the wealthy are more likely to give to larger charities (like museums, hospitals and universities), while smaller donors tend to give to social service agencies (Washington Post, 2017).

The new law also more than doubles the size of estates that will be subject to the federal estate tax so the number of people who pay estate taxes will drop significantly. **The estate tax is an incentive for wealthy to give to charity rather than pay the tax.** Eliminating that incentive for many more estates will cause a substantial decline in large gifts (The Hill, 2018).

The tax code may also change the size and timing of gifts. It may result in more "bunched giving" - instead of making annual gifts to charities, donors choose to accumulate their giving dollars over multiple years to make several years' worth of gifts in one year. This strategy could be employed to cause their itemized deductions (including the charitable contribution deduction) to be higher than the standard deduction (New York Times, 2018).

The new law sets a \$10,000 limit on how much can be deducted for state and local income, sales and/or property taxes for any one year. This could be particularly difficult for retirees. In the past, these items were fully deductible (Kiplinger's, 2018). They will have less money to give to charity, and some may have trouble paying their bills.

Here at HomeSharing, we are concerned. Individual donors make up about a third of our budget and most of those donors are from the middle class. We don't know yet how our donations will be impacted, and because people give for altruistic reasons as well as the tax write off, many will find a way to do so. We are looking to foundations and corporations for additional funding, as much of their giving revenue comes from investments and profits and they will benefit from the new tax code. At the same time, we are expecting an increase in the number of people who are looking to become home Providers at HomeSharing. One way to make up for the lessened income resulting from the limit on state, local and property taxes is to have additional income from renting out a room in the home.

What You Can Do:

- Consider increasing your donation this year, especially if you are itemizing and are able to do so.
- Consider "bunching" your donations so you can itemize.
- Tell your senators and representatives to make the charitable deduction available to those who do not itemize.
- Introduce HomeSharing to your place of work and your colleagues. Your business may have an increased capacity to give this year.
- If you know people who are struggling due to the limits on their state/local and property tax deductions, tell them about HomeSharing- some extra rental income may make the difference in their ability to stay in their homes.

Upcoming Events

Designer Handbag  dreamsbins.com

Friday, April 6 at 6:00 pm at the Somerville Elks

**2018 HomeSharing Benefit Concert
with The Cindi Rand Band**

Sunday, May 6 from 5-9 pm at the Somerville Elks

*See inserts for registration information on these events.
Sponsorship Opportunities Available.*

For additional information, contact Lisa Blum :
908-526-4663
lblum.homessharing@verizon.net.



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The Company We Keep

HomeSharing thanks the following foundations, corporations, organizations, and individuals that have generously supported our work in 2017.

Creating Affordable Housing Solutions

\$10,000 and above

County of Middlesex
County of Somerset
Ethicon
Micro
Partners for Health Foundation
Rutgers Community Health Foundation
Wallerstein Foundation

\$9,999 - \$5,000

Affinity Foundation
Amboy Bank Foundation
BMI-Rupp Foundation
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Robert & Joan Dircks Foundation, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Semcer, Sr.
The Elizabeth B. & Arthur E. Roswell Foundation
United Way of Hunterdon County

\$4,999 - \$2,000

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\$1,999 - \$500

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