

Making A Sweet Match

Kayla was excited to find a job in data analysis at the Upper Valley Haven in White River Junction. Then reality set in. Finding a place to live close to work proved incredibly difficult. So, she was commuting an hour each way from her parents' home in Waterbury a few days a week and 20 minutes each way from a relative's home in Lebanon on the other days.

And yet, unbeknownst to her, just 10 minutes away in Quechee was Honey. Honey has been a nanny for over 20 years with her company HoneyDo and has earned the title of Vermont's Mary Poppins. When the Thompson Senior Center partnered with HomeShare Vermont in 2023, Honey needed additional income and was ready to make a match. And what a match it is.

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"Now I'm in a match where I can't wait to get back home every day and talk with Honey and make plans with her."

"Kayla is such a nice person and we both have a great sense of humor," Honey shared. "Mine is probably a little more scathing, but she's getting used to it. And all the animals love her." That would be the Keeshond dogs named Lulu and Tinker and cats Melrose and Brindle.

According to Kayla, this match was almost predestined. "When I was interviewed, the case manager [Shari Borzekowski] said she already had Honey in mind for me.

We really clicked with our personalities, our schedules, everything."

When the two are together, they can barely look at each other without bursting into laughter. On Friday nights, Honey and Kayla make popcorn and watch a movie together. Other nights, they enjoy Jeopardy. "We sometimes get the answers," Honey said. "She knows about music, electrical things, plug-in stuff. I get the old stuff, literature and the Bible questions."

They also are voracious readers. "Almost entirely romance for me," Kayla admitted. "But at work, we just started a banned books club and that's been really fun." Honey is part of the Quechee Library Monday Mystery Book Club and enjoys biographies. She's always ready to recommend some of her favorites.

The match's success can be traced in part to advice they received from Shari who suggested they meet weekly to discuss things and keep the lines of communication wide open.

Kayla also has advice for those considering homesharing. "Be super honest during the interview about what a good fit is for you. If you aren't, you won't make the most of the experience. Now I'm in a match where I can't wait to get back home every day and talk with Honey and make plans with her."



Honey and Kayla

Photo by Ben DeFlorio



HomeShare Happenings
February 2025

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HomeShare Welcomes New Board Members

HomeShare Vermont has the great fortune to welcome three members to our Board of Directors—Troi Bachmann, Ellen Flight and Erica Perkins.



Troi is the Chief Executive Officer of the Northwest Vermont REALTOR Association and will serve on our Fundraising Committee. "Having worked in real estate associations for several years, I am passionate about housing policy and finding solutions to the available and affordable housing shortage," Troi said.

For the past year-and-a-half, HomeShare Vermont has benefitted from having Ellen as one of our Addison County staff volunteers. Now, she expands her role by joining the board. Ellen said, "I enjoy doing my part to help Vermonters stay in their homes and help our guests find affordable housing."



Erica is the Director of Communications and Community Engagement for Northeast Kingdom Human Services. She has been impressed by "the attention to detail that goes into creating each match, which is apparent when you hear the stories of those participating in the program. The HomeShare Vermont mission inspires me."

Bringing HomeShare to Your Town

A big part of spreading the word about homesharing is the many outreach activities our staff takes part in. We have spoken with faith communities, service organizations like the Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, social workers, hospitals, senior centers, organizations working with Vermont's underserved communities and various other groups.

We also spend a day at the State House each session to share our story with our state legislators.

If you have a group, organization or just some friends who you think would benefit from learning more about homesharing, contact us and we'll arrange to visit with them.



Welcome Anne

HomeShare Vermont is honored to welcome Anne McMenamin to our Addison County staff volunteer team.

"We had a very good friend who benefitted from HomeShare Vermont over many years," Anne said. "I thought it was genius. When I retired from Middlebury College, I knew I wanted to be involved in some way. I read about the Addison County team of volunteers and decided to reach out."

Anne says that she has found the volunteer team to be personable, thoughtful and caring and terrific in helping her understand HomeShare's screening process. "The matches are individualized, which can seem like an insurmountable task. But watching Abi, Ellen and Connie work to make matches happen has been fun and magical!"

HOMESHARE VERMONT 2025

Experience Vermont RAFFLE!

We have an incredible list of Vermont Experiences available in this year's raffle courtesy of a host of wonderfully supportive Vermont businesses.

**Raffle Tickets are \$25 each
or 5 for \$100**

Be sure to watch the live drawing produced by the Media Factory on our website on
**Thursday, April 17
at 6 p.m.**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
HomeShareVermont.org
OR SCAN BELOW



Here are the great prizes for this year's raffle:

- ★ Two-night stay at Blind Tiger Burlington
- ★ Two-night stay at Middlebury Inn
- ★ Two-night stay at North Hero House
- ★ Two-night stay at Bristol Suites
- ★ Two-night stay at Millstone Hill in Barre and a gift certificate to the Barre Opera House
- ★ An overnight stay at Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee
- ★ **Experience Montpelier Package:** Gift certificates to Sarducci's Restaurant & Bar, Woodbury Mountain Toys, Bear Pond Books of Montpelier and Lost Nation Theater and a Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Caledonia Spirits/Barr Hill Gin
- ★ **UVM Athletics Package:** Four tickets each to UVM Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball and Men's Ice Hockey and a gift certificate to Bluebird Barbecue
- ★ **Burlington Night Out Package:** Tickets to an upcoming show at the Flynn Theater and a gift certificate to Honey Road/Grey Jay
- ★ **Solo Marathon Package:** A solo entry in the 2025 M&T Bank Vermont City Marathon, a gift certificate to Savu and two E-Bike rentals from Local Motion
- ★ **Team Marathon Package:** A team entry in the 2025 M&T Bank Vermont City Marathon and a gift certificate to Pascolo Ristorante
- ★ **Fun in the NEK Package:** A Family Membership to the Craftsbury Outdoor Center and a gift certificate to The Cork & Fork, Hardwick

TICKET ORDER FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime phone _____ Email _____

Experience Vermont Raffle Tickets @\$25 each (or 5 for \$100) = \$ _____

I would like to make a donation to HomeShare Vermont = \$ _____

Total Amount = \$ _____

Enclose check, payable to HomeShare Vermont, or pay by credit card.

Visa/MasterCard # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____

Total Amount = \$ _____

Cardholder's name (please print as listed on card) _____

Signature (required only for credit card transactions) _____

The fine print: Restrictions including blackout dates apply to overnight stays.
The IRS does not consider raffle ticket purchases to be tax deductible.

Many thanks to our generous Sponsors
for making this raffle possible!

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Thank You Radetta and Ingrid

As we add new members to our board, it usually also signals that several people who have served us so well are ending their terms. It has been our distinct privilege to have had the advice and support of Radetta Nemcosky and Ingrid Pixley during their tenures as board members. We are grateful for their service.

Radetta became a staff volunteer with us in 2012 and joined the board the following year. Not only has she helped us make many homeshare matches, she also has served admirably on the board's Fundraising and Outreach committees, helping us with raffles, events and open houses.



Radetta



Ingrid

Thankfully, she will continue to volunteer with HSVT.

Ingrid joined the board in 2018 and was an invaluable asset, sharing her background and passion for affordable housing. She brought her experience with Counseling Services of Addison County, Addison Housing Works and efforts to create a Tiny House Village in Middlebury.

"We can't thank Ingrid and Radetta enough for the countless hours and abundant energy they have provided," Executive Director Connor Timmons said. "HomeShare Vermont has taken great steps forward because of their work here."