

Homeshare around the World

Newsletter editor: Michelle Sanson, Sydney, Australia

Funds urgently needed

Homeshare International has ambitious plans. Not only to run the first World Homeshare Congress, and to create closer links between homeshare programmes around the world, but also to renew the website and undertake other publishing projects. Funds are therefore urgently required. Any gifts, in any currency, will be gratefully received by the Honorary Director— see page 4.

Did you know?

- 13 homeshare programmes launched in France since 2003
- 3 pilot programmes launched in the UK in 2007
- Homeshare Australia Alliance launched
- Homeshare Association in UK in preparation
- Homeshare is good for your health!
- A homeshare match in Atlanta Georgia has now lasted 18 years!

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First World Homeshare Congress Paris July 2009

Homeshare International is planning the first World Homeshare Congress, to be held in Paris in July 2009.

The meeting will last for two days and delegates will be able to share experiences of homeshare in their own countries, and learn from others.

Topics will include practical hints for successful matchmaking, marketing and public relations. There will also be presentations of current and recent research results from Australia, Spain and UK.

To make suggestions, register your interest or find out more, please contact Elizabeth Mills—see back page.



The photo shows homesharers in Paris where Le PariSolidaire, a relative newcomer in the movement, has established a firm foothold.

Photograph courtesy of Le PariSolidaire © 2007

Homesharer saves a life – news from Germany

A Frankfurt householder who had a heart attack survived because the young homesharer acted immediately.

This is one of many successes reported from Germany, where homeshare is developing in many different cities.

In Frankfurt, the challenge has been to find householders, but those who have been matched have had great benefit. A 91 year old householder matched with a theology student for a year appeared 10-15 years younger!

The Munich programme, run by Senioren-treff Neuhausen, celebrated its tenth anniversary in December 2006. Since its foundation it has set up 270 matches, the homesharers being mainly university students. Although it can be difficult to recruit enough older people to join the programme, the organiser, Brigitte Tauer,

says she is delighted at the success rate. "It astonishes us to see how well many of the matches work. We know of homesharers who go on trips or even take holidays together," she says.

In Stuttgart, there have been 28 matches while in Muenster, there have been 30 matches, both in the past two years. One 91-year-old householder in Muenster said that, after a year with a Chinese homesharer, she experienced a new tolerance and confidence that has changed her.

In Karlsruhe, funding for a position to run homeshare is still being fought for, and similar challenges have been faced in Giessen, where the programme restarted in May 2007 with the appointment of Amalia Bulla-Garlonta and two new matches have been made.

In September 2007 a new programme was launched in Aachen.

Homesharing continues to grow and flourish around the world, and here is the latest news. Thank you to all contributors.

Milestones – news from the USA



AARP - the largest organisation for older people in the world—highlighted homesharing as a housing option in their July/August Magazine. The President, Laura Fanucchi, was delighted that they directed their readers to the National Shared Housing Resource Center.

The Camden New Jersey program has reached a milestone of 600 matches.

One success story is the matching of a girl who sustained severe brain injuries in a car accident that killed her parents with a senior woman carer who shares her love of cats.

Housemate Match in Atlanta matches 650 people a year across their three offices, and were recently awarded the National Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award in 2007. One of their success stories is a match that has lasted 18 years!

The San Mateo California program, HIP Housing, have a Japanese Master of Architecture student with them, who is doing research on appropriate home design and construction for homesharing.

HIP Housing matches 250-300 people a year, although they have three times the number of seekers to home providers.

In St Croix, this private non-profit Homeshare program has a match up fee schedule based on the income of the Householder, with scholarships available up to 80% of the fee for low income earners. They have found that marketing to church staffers who suggest homeshare to church goers has been more successful than marketing directly to potential householders.

Eva Gertzfeld, Co-President of the National Shared Housing Resource Centre, recently celebrated 20 years of service with the Chicago based Centre of Concern.

A shared housing conference was held in Asheville in July at the Centre for Creative Retirement.

Homeshare in Cyberspace! Join the Yahoo! Group now

A new Yahoo! Group has been established for Homeshare. It provides a forum to exchange news and views about homesharing around the world. To join, visit <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/homeshareinternational/>



New book on homesharing

Brother and sister, Sharon Graham Niederhaus and Professor John L. Graham have recently published a book entitled *Together Again: A Creative Guide to Successful Multigenerational Living*, published by M. Evans of Maryland, U.S.A. For more information see www.livingtogetherbook.com

This book has some useful tips for those who are considering sharing their home with a stranger and is written from the heart and with considerable personal experience.

“Together Again” is a refreshing antidote to those who seek to divide the generations”

Bill Novelli,
Chief Executive,
AARP
(American Association
of Retired Persons)

FREE PRACTICE GUIDE

The *Homeshare Practice Guide* developed in the United Kingdom with funding through the Department of Health is available free online at www.homeshare.org.uk





Creating the model – news from Australia

A Homeshare Australia Alliance has been launched to create a national Homeshare model. Inaugural membership includes agencies from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

A new programme commenced in Tasmania in April 2007. The programme in Melbourne celebrates seven years in operation, and has 30 current matches in place.

The relaunched programme in Sydney

now has 12 matches, several of which bridge cultural and religious backgrounds in addition to the intergenerational links.

For example, an 83-year-old blind householder from Egypt shares a home and a love of knitting with a 29 year old Asian homesharer, while an Austrian-Jewish householder in her 80s has a Muslim female doctor homesharer from Pakistan.

In Sydney a Jewish householder has a Muslim homesharer from Pakistan. Homeshare can successfully bridge these cultural divides.

UK Government funds new pilot programmes

There are three new programmes in the UK, two of them funded by the Department of Health (DOH).

Pilots in West Sussex and Oxfordshire are co-ordinated by the National Association of Adult Placement Services and funded by the DOH.

The Oxfordshire programme has made its first match, while in West Sussex trial matches are now taking place.

The third pilot, in Wiltshire, is also receiving Government funding, and again is being run in collaboration with the local Adult Placement Service.

These pilot programmes are being evalu-

ated by Jane Coffey of Oxford Brookes University.

In London, there are currently 60 matches in place, through London Care Connections, which has also partnered with Richmond Borough Council to create a new programme in Richmond.

Homeshare West, based in Bristol, survives thanks to the dedication of the co-ordinator, Audrey Heard, who runs the programme as a volunteer. A small charge levied on participants covers basic costs. Since the programme started in 1999, there have been 60 matches. Some of the householders have mild dementia and are being successfully supported to stay in their own homes.



The compassion of companionship; the evidence of experience

Householders gain self-esteem and re-start activities they gave up long ago.

Spain – leading the way in Europe

Homeshare in Spain is still the leading provider in Europe with programmes in at least 16 cities where they are largely helping to meet the need for student accommodation.

The Madrid programme, Solidarios, made 110 matches in the 2006-7 academic year. They have seen older householders regain self esteem and restart activities they gave up long ago due to lack of enthusiasm and support.

The programme in Leon has now been

running for 14 years and there is a shift from university students as homesharers to young workers, immigrants, and other people living on low incomes.

The Barcelona programme, run by the Fundacia Viure i Conviure, actively promotes solidarity between generations. Therefore all homesharers are under 35, and householders over 65. They have recently published an English language version of the research report of their first 10 years *Live and Live Together*

Want to know more? Visit www.homeshare.org to read about programmes around the world

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Homeshare International was founded in London, UK, in 1999 to forge links between homeshare programmes around the world, and encourage the development of new ones.

Governed by an international board of Trustees, it is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1081517). The Trustees are:

Professor Malcolm Johnson (Chairman)

Nan Maitland (President)

Elizabeth Mills OBE (Hon Director)

Mark Brody (Hon Treasurer)

Dr Alan Burnett

Judith Feeney

Rod Gilmour (Australia)

Anne-Lotte Kreickmeier (Germany)

William Laing

Jeremy Porteus

Hilary Todd

Thank you to all our translators

Our website is published in German, French and Spanish as well as English. This has been made possible by the work of a few dedicated volunteer translators. Particular thanks are due to Angela Salmeron, Anne-Lotte Kreickmeier, Fabienne Pouyadou and Maria Clark. If you would like to join the group of volunteer translators, please do let us know. You will be most welcome!

This newsletter is published in English only and we welcome feedback as to whether we should also aim to translate it, and into which languages. Please email comments to Elizabeth Mills.



Photograph courtesy of Le PariSolidaire © 2007

Homeshare around the World is published by Homeshare International, Oxford, UK, at the above address. You are welcome to quote from the newsletter provided the source is acknowledged.

Director's diary

A few random days...

Monday morning, after walking the dog in the park, onto my bike to the Homeshare Oxfordshire steering group meeting. Tantalising stage of development—lots of enquiries from both householders and homesharers, but no match yet. The householders all seem to live in rural areas, but the homesharers all want to live in towns.

Tuesday morning left for London to catch the Eurostar for Paris. Can't wait to meet Benedicte Chatin—the Director of Le PariSolidaire and her team, but first to the Paris congress office to identify appropriate venues for the World Congress in 2009.

Thursday—joy! Oxfordshire has its first match. And I opened an envelope with a surprise gift of £100 in memory of Dr Phyllis White from her family. What a thoughtful gesture.

Friday lunchtime: an excellent meeting with Josep Solans and his assistant, Mònica Duaigües from Homeshare Barcelona. They are very excited about the World Congress, and have invited me to visit them in the New Year.

Wednesday: another overseas email—this time from South America—a young man seeking a new home in England. It is so good that the website generates these useful enquiries.

Friday afternoon: long session with trustees, brainstorming possible sponsors for the World Congress in 2009, and other support for the charity's ambitious plans.

Elizabeth Mills, Honorary Director of Homeshare International