

# Homeshare around the World

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## Inaugural world homeshare congress a success

In July 2009, 42 delegates from 10 countries gathered in the Collège de Notre-Dame de Sion in Montparnasse, Paris, for the first World Homeshare Congress.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 80% indicating that the congress was 'very helpful/relevant' to their work. The most useful things included exchanging best practice and methods for effective evaluation.

See page 4 for details of the next congress.

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## Paris receives government backing

Ensemble2générations, a Paris homeshare programme, has received government commitment for legal, fiscal and social secured status for homeshare. A comprehensive programme evaluation is promised. The government has also recognised that homesharing counts as non-military national service for the homesharer. As a result the programme has been able to recruit another full-time permanent staff member, allowing them to divide their energies between east and west Paris.

Ensemble2générations also received an award from the Mayor of Paris. **Since its creation in 2006, ensemble2générations has made 270 matches**, a wonderful achievement.

There is a vision to franchise Homeshare in



Alain (Trustee of HI) and Typhaine de Penfentenyo (Director of Ensemble2générations) receiving the Remise Médaille from the Deputy Mayor of Paris, Liliane Capelle.

France, but they must first address an employment law challenge (homeshare is considered a work contract) and a taxation law challenge (some older people have income to incorporate into the household income).

<http://ensemble2generations.fr>

## Exciting developments in Cologne, Germany

In March 2010 the City of Cologne presented a new form of homeshare project, as a co-operative effort between the City and the University of Cologne. The previous homeshare programme, which commenced in 2005, had foundered when the minimum number of matches set by funders was not achieved. They were limited to targeting only able-bodied seniors as householders.

The new programme allows them to target not only older people but also disabled people, families, and single parent households. We wish them every success with the revitalised programme!



In this photo is student Verena Heine, a success story from Wohnen für Hilfe (Housing for Help), the homeshare project in Cologne, Germany. Verena is a homesharer who offers child minding and help in the home in exchange for free accommodation.

## Portugal embraces homeshare

Portugal has adopted homeshare, with the successful launch of four different programmes. These are based in major cities with large student demand for accommodation—in Coimbra, Leiria, Porto and Aveiro.

Inspired by established homeshare programmes in Spain such as 'Live and Live Together' the setting up of the programmes was facilitated by the Homeshare International network. Stella Antonio, an academic in Lisbon, was a delegate at the Homeshare International Congress in Paris 2009 and has driven through the homeshare concept into practice.



Stella Antonio

(Left)

Nan Maitland

(Right)

The four projects are designed to provide accommodation for university students in the homes of the elderly. Not only is there a shortage of student housing, particularly in Aveiro. But there are economic issues facing students who want to attend universities in Portugal. Particularly for students attending universities that are a long distance from their family home. There are also social issues elderly people living alone face, the results of which are loneliness and isolation. Coimbra welcomes homeshare to its' city....."In order to revitalise the city of Coimbra with the youthful and dynamic spirit of university students".

**Joao Paulo Marques, President of the Polytechnic of Leiria .....**

*'this daily contact between two generations may bring benefits to both, ..... for older generations it can be a bridge to modernity; while for the younger ones, a bridge to a set of values which sometimes are not present'*

## UK

vitalise

Vitalise is an innovative, award-winning charity in London offering live-in care, security and companionship at home for older people, and for people with disabilities.



Vitalise also runs a homeshare programme as part of its service. Below is a poem written by householder Joan about her Filipino homesharer, Jun Anne.

*In this photo;*

*Joan and Jun Anne*

### To Jun Anne

Jun Anne, I didn't know how long you'd stay.  
In this foreign place!

In autumn you came from a lovely warm and sunny  
clime,  
To the UK to battle through days of strong winds and  
rain.

All the way from the Philippines  
To be my 'live in' volunteer.

During winter, when the sun shone, a pretty thin  
dress, and sandals,  
You put on, it made me frown.

No, no, Jun Anne, that won't do! You'll surely catch a  
cold,  
Or flu! I showed you how to make a stew, To keep  
those chills away.

At Christmas you shared my family traditions,  
Turkey, Christmas pudding and crackers, playing  
charades, amid much laughter,

Exchanging gifts around the Christmas tree,  
Sharing Christmas with you made it extra special for  
me.

Then came down so much snow,  
My 70<sup>th</sup> birthday party had to wait till springtime.

You'll love it here in spring Jun Anne.  
Around April, spring flowers will start to bloom.

Then you can wear pretty dresses and sandals too,  
Your stay with me is much too brief.

In July you have to leave.  
Being here has enriched my life so much.

Someone else will miss you too,  
You and Louisa my young cat, have become  
inseparable.

For us to meet was in God's plan,  
Now you must move on,

To adventures new and I must say,  
A big THANK YOU,

God bless you now and always.

Joan

## Australian programme attracts on-going government support

Wesley Homeshare in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, has received on-going support from the Government of Victoria. It has now passed the milestone of 10 years of homesharing and is an excellent example of a mature homesharing programme.

The success of the programme is shown by the fact that a third of householders are 'multiple matched' – having two or more homesharers over time. Nothing can say more than the repeat use of the homeshare method!



The Minister for Seniors, shown on the right, visited a homeshare match, Alan (seated) and Janusc. With them are Alan's daughter, Zoe, and Beris Campbell (left) who runs the programme (and is a HI Trustee).

Read more at  
[www.wesley.org.au](http://www.wesley.org.au)

## New homeshare programme seedling in Virginia, USA

Kitty Russell is a homeshare advocate who works for Rappahannock Legal Services, Fredericksburg, Virginia, which is a member of the National Shared Housing Consortium in the USA. She has spent five months so far investigating, running training and finding out as much as she can from other American homeshare programmes. She is now scheduling public interest meetings in preparation for the launch of a new programme launch. She sees homeshare as helping some families to gain income so as to preserve their home ownership in a global financial crisis. She intends to charge a minimal application fee, as well as a fee for preparing the contract and for placement and monitoring.

### Chicago residents love homeshare (USA)

Sharon, lives with her sister in Chicago in a colonial style American home. They are householders in the Center of Concern's Home Sharing programme. So far they have had two homesharers – one a federal security agent, and another a mature professional woman who was her father's caregiver and lost her home when he died.

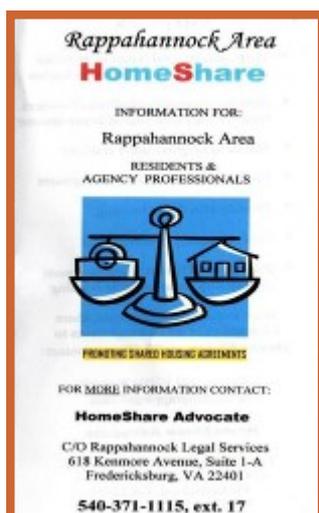
Both had relatives and friends stay in their home as they grew up, and feel very comfortable with homesharing!



Deb and Colleen.

### UK launch of a new Homeshare Practice Guide

The original *Homeshare Practice Guide* was published by NAAPS in 2006, after an extensive consultation period. Since then, a formal pilot using the guide has taken place in West Sussex and Oxfordshire, which was then academically evaluated. The results of the evaluation are available on the Homeshare International website. Lessons from the pilot experience have resulted in improvements to the *Homeshare Practice Guide*, with the new version being launched in September 2010. See [www.homeshare.org.uk](http://www.homeshare.org.uk) for more information.



**Housemate Match**, a nationally-recognised non-profit homesharing programme in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, proudly celebrated 25 years of serving the metro Atlanta community on Saturday, November 14, 2009.

From left : *Marlyn, Lynne, Rita, Tekeysha and Joan.*

## Tell us what you think of our website!

We need to revamp our website - but in order to do so, we need your help.

Please complete the survey on the HI website (Just click on the link)

[www.homeshare.org](http://www.homeshare.org).

It will only take a couple of minutes. Your views really matter to us. THANKS in advance.

## Oprah spotlights homeshare!

Congratulations to HIP Housing in San Mateo County for matching 308 people in 2009, a 20% increase from the previous year. Some of their homesharing clients were even featured on talk show *Oprah* and a press conference was held at which Congresswoman Jackie Speier announced a recommendation for homesharing to receive federal government funding in the USA.

## Homeshare is cost effective!

Quantifying the value of homeshare is always a vexed issue, with some local authorities seeking 'per head' calculations of hours saved, expensive care avoided and so on. Here are some figures from existing homeshare programmes.

In the US, using a Minnesota report on homesharing statistics, it is estimated that the average annual savings per match are US\$22,058.

In Victoria, Australia, Wesley Homeshare, using the Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Social Return on Investment (SROI) tools, showed that a homeshare programme can expect to provide cost savings of approximately A\$281,000 per annum to the federal government through savings to residential care alone. The cost of the program, A\$120,000 per annum, is easily covered by these figures, giving a net benefit of approximately A\$160,000 and a one year SROI of 2.3.

In Paris, ensemble2générations calculate a SROI of 6, taking into account the savings for students on rent, the savings on night nurses for seniors, and savings in housing aid. They also include qualitative considerations such as study conditions for the homesharer, quality of life for the householder, higher social cohesion and improved social image of youth and the elderly.

## International Advisory Group for Homeshare

Directly after the World Congress, a group of participants met and formed the International Advisory Group ( Please see below for members of the IAG). Their first action was to adopt the Homeshare International Network Charter (a copy is available on the Homeshare International website). The aim is to establish shared standards for homeshare programmes worldwide, developing a homeshare brand, and offering an accreditation scheme. Members will also have access to research templates, a common method of benchmarking programmes and help with evidence gathering for evaluation.

It is intended to offer two grades of membership of the network - programme membership and individual membership ('Friends of Homeshare International').

### IAG Members

**Josep Solans** (Viure i Conviure, Spain) **Stella Antonio** (ISCSP, Portugal) **Typhaine de Penfentenyo** (ensemble2générations, France) **Carmel Hurst** (Wesley Homeshare, Australia), **Helmut Berghaus** (Köln/Cologne Homeshare) **Kirby Dunn** (Homeshare Vermont, U.S.A.) **Angelo Mussoni** (Padova University, Italy) **Alex Fox** (Chief Executive, NAAPS, UK)

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

**Charity registered in England and Wales (no.1081517)**

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**Homeshare**  
international  
promoting housing for help worldwide

## WORLD HOMESHARE CONGRESS

# 1 - 3 JULY 2011

HOSTED IN KÖLN/COLOGNE GERMANY.

*Date for your diary!*

## www.homeshare.org

### DIRECTOR'S DIARY



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Homeshare International has had a very rewarding year. The first World Homeshare Congress in Paris held in July 2009 was well received by all who came. The report is up on the website. In July 2011 we hope to welcome even more delegates from around the world to Cologne, Germany, to share their invaluable knowledge and experience. Homeshare International is truly becoming the facilitative network it set out to be. Portugal is the latest country to set up a homeshare programme - a direct result of the 2009 Congress.

In January, I was joined in the office by part-time volunteer intern, Giorgia Cruciolli, whose language skills, and enthusiasm for Homeshare International have been invaluable. **Thank you Giorgia!**

HI was recently chosen to pitch for funding and support from staff members of the international management consultancy, PA Consulting. The event, called Dragons Den 2, was introduced by actor, Ian McKellen - "Gandalf" in Lord of the Rings.

We put forward a proposal for a new project - the development of a **DIY Homeshare Manual**, to be available for prospective homesharers and householders living in an area not covered by a homeshare programme.

For the presentation, I was joined by Isabelle Etienne of ensemble2générations, Paris, and Marc Francis of Care2Stay, London, with HI trustees and other friends to support our pitch. We received a total of £1,300 and offers of pro bono consultancy - IT support to overhaul our website, business planning and support to check the legal side of things.

and communities, and what are the formulae for success and reasons for failure. We will be seeking funding to commission this research and then inviting members of the homeshare community worldwide to participate.

June 2010 took me to Paris where I presented the case for Homeshare International, and for homeshare as a model for support for older people, at a conference organised jointly by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Young Foundation. Although homeshare was not selected for funding, the event raised the profile of homeshare and introduced me to a new programme in the Netherlands of which we had not previously heard.

And only a week later, I flew to Vermont for the training event organised by the **National Shared Housing Resource Center** and **Homeshare Vermont**. It was great to meet the team in Vermont, and to make the acquaintance of the NSHRC Executive Committee. They agreed that not only were they happy to support the HI Charter, they would encourage their members to join the HI Network when the new membership arrangements are in place. They have offered to collect the HI subscription at the same time as their own, to make it easier for USA Homeshare programmes to join the HI Network.

In coming months I look forward to bringing HI a truly effective website (please complete our questionnaire!), to meeting—or at least communicating with— homeshare coordinators from round the world, and hearing news of new programmes.

Elizabeth Mills, Honorary Director,  
Homeshare International