

making a difference

By Sunshine Home Sharing Executive Director **Alison L. Joucovsky, MA LPC**



risk for losing their homes while the need for affordable housing solutions only continues to grow. Sunshine is a best practice home-sharing organization providing safety in the home-sharing process. The goal of a social work home-sharing model is to help match people in hopes of making a long-lasting rental agreement benefiting both parties. This type of thoughtful matching is safer than other online platforms that may not allow for the time spent with each individual person. Staff then support the matching process and stay involved with matches made providing quarterly check-ins and mediation if needed.

Meet Gerald and Natalie (and Nellie!)

Gerald, 84, and his wife raised their six children in their large Montclair home where he continues to live today. Last year, Gerald's wife moved into a memory care unit and Gerald has been living alone since. Gerald continues to visit his wife daily, with their little dog, Nellie, always in tow. When we first met Gerald, he told us that his family was a great support but that he needed a little more help and life in his home.

Natalie, 28, heard about Sunshine from a work/networking event where she met Executive Director, Alison, and was immediately drawn to the program. Natalie recently moved to Denver after attending grad school in Europe and prior to that, she served in the Peace Corps. She has always enjoyed spending time with older adults and being involved in her community. She was renting a

basement apartment in Capitol Hill and was looking for more purpose in her living situation before finding Sunshine.

Natalie and Gerald have just begun their home-sharing journey and have outlined how to make their match equitable and mutually beneficial. Natalie helps Gerald keep the house clean and waters his indoor plants. They have also agreed to go hit golf balls 2 times a month and share an occasional meal. We are so grateful to have helped Gerald and Natalie find each other and to continue to support them in their home-sharing journey. Happy home-sharing, Gerald, and Natalie!

Due to COVID-19 Sunshine staff are following the CDC guideline and taking heightened safety and cleanliness precautions with our clients and our office space. We know during these times the need for home-sharing is even greater and are open and seeing new home providers and home seekers. Please know that, like with all aspects of our work, our clients' safety and well-being always come first.

If you would like to learn more about Sunshine Home Share Colorado, please visit our website at Sunshinehomeshare.org or call Alison at 303-915-8264.



Know of something interesting that we should know about? Email your stories and/or photos to lowrycontent@n2pub.com. Anything family-friendly is welcome!

SUNSHINE HOME SHARE

HOME SHARING, SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES, COVID, AND THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE



Those living in the City and County of Denver and the surrounding areas are aware of the inflow of people recently moving to the area and with that comes the necessity to acquire housing. With an influx, this leads to high rent prices for home seekers and

leaves home providers with an increase in housing taxes. Despite Denver's tremendous recent economic growth, the current COVID health crisis is causing a deeper realization into how ill-prepared many are for this economic downturn.

The average one-bedroom apartment costs \$1,485/month, there are nearly 68,000 renter households and 35,000 owner households that are paying too much for housing. These housing burdens then impact the ability to cover other living expenses, impact health and well-being. Our urgency for new affordable housing solutions is only increasing but the COVID crisis has shined a light on how detrimental social isolation can be for our older adults living alone at this time.

Sunshine Home Share Colorado (Sunshine) a non-profit, was founded in 2015 because older adults are increasingly unable to afford to maintain their homes, pay property taxes, access in-home services, and are at

Are friendships and having companionship important to you?

We can help

Home sharing creates a mutually beneficial relationship, exchanging supportive services and companionship for affordable rent.

For more information visit our website at Sunshinehomeshare.org
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