

# **Homeshare International Network**

## **CHARTER**

### **Homeshare**

Homeshare is the exchange of housing for help. A householder offers housing to a homesharer in exchange for an agreed level of support. This might include companionship, security, help with daily tasks, some financial support or a combination of these. Homeshare recognizes that both people have needs AND something to give. Homesharers do not provide nursing or personal care.

### **Aim of Homeshare International Network**

There are Homeshare programmes in many different countries, run by a range of different agencies. The aim of the Homeshare International Network is to encourage the formation and development of effective Homeshare programmes operating to a high standard, and by sharing information and working together, improve all programmes' ability to:

- ensure maximum access to support at home for all who would benefit, including, but not limited to, older people and those living with disabilities;
- ensure maximum access to affordable accommodation for those who need it and are willing to provide support for householders;
- encourage positive intergenerational relationships;
- demonstrate effective service policy and practice;
- offer mutual support ;
- influence policy both internally and externally;
- encourage appropriate research.

### **Mission**

Member programmes share a mission:

1. to provide a reliable and high quality matching service
2. to promote the concept of Homeshare as an integral part of community development;
3. to support homesharers and householders;
4. to share information and work together, for greater efficacy.

### **Vision**

Approved by Trustees of Homeshare International 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009  
Review date: July 2011

Our vision is for a society in which fewer people live lonely and isolated lives, and where intergenerational solidarity is promoted.

## Values

Our values are based on these beliefs:

- The importance of having the opportunity to remain in ones own home
- The importance of having access to affordable accommodation
- The importance of an evidence base for the effectiveness of homeshare

## Key common principles of Homeshare International network members:

- The primary purposes of a Homeshare programme:
  - Promote the principle of homeshare in the catchment area covered by the programme;
  - Recruit householders in need of support at home;
  - Recruit homesharers in need of accommodation who are willing to offer support;
  - Effect introductions and facilitate appropriate matches;
  - Provide support for householders and homesharers during the period of the match.
- Programmes may be resourced by volunteers, local authorities, commercial interests, or the individual participants themselves, according to local custom and need;
- Programmes are non-political and non-sectarian, and do not discriminate on the grounds of race, creed, gender or sexual orientation.
- Programmes are run in a professional manner, whether by paid staff or volunteers; and
- Programmes are mutually supportive and committed to sharing information with fellow member programmes, and participating in processes and activities of the network.

## Membership of the Homeshare International Network

It is envisaged that the Homeshare International Network will become an umbrella organization, run by its members, and eventually become the accreditation body for Homeshare programmes around the world. There will be two levels of membership of the Homeshare International Network:

1. Programme membership – each Homeshare programme around the world will be encouraged to join the network, and will be asked to:
  - a. pay an annual subscription;

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- b. put a link to the Homeshare International website on their websites;
- c. ensure that the HI Programme Directory is complete and up to date;
- d. nominate members for the Homeshare International board of trustees and International Advisory Group;
- e. provide information and news for the HI Newsletter.

### Benefits of programme membership -

Member programmes will enjoy the benefits of a discount on the registration fee for the biennial World Homeshare Congress, referrals of both householders and homesharers from the Homeshare International website. Homeshare International will offer a small bursary scheme, to assist new programmes to get underway.

2. Individual membership – a donation from any individual will provide access to occasional updates, invitations to events etc. Individual members will not be entitled to nominate members of the Homeshare International board of trustees or International Advisory Group.