



**THE HomeShare**  
Together Helping Eachother

# **TOGETHER WE THRIVE**

## **THE HOMESHARE IMPACT**

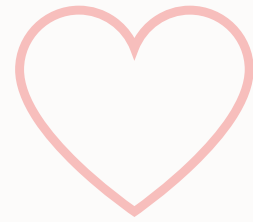
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# **2024**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

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But what if there was a way to  
**help older adults**  
remain safe, independent and socially engaged  
**in their own home**  
and help younger adults  
secure affordable housing  
**at the same time?**

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# CEO MESSAGE



Founder & CEO Lucie Cunningham

As we present THE HomeShare Annual Report for 2024, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements we have accomplished together over the past year. Our commitment to fostering intergenerational cohabitation and providing innovative housing solutions across the generations has never been stronger.

In 2024, we made significant strides in expanding our reach and impact. We successfully matched over 90 Homesharers with Householders, creating meaningful connections and providing safe and affordable housing options for many. Our community grew stronger as we received more referrals from new pathways within the HSE. We also received recognition for our efforts, winning several awards for our innovative approach to addressing health and housing challenges.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain dedicated to our mission of supporting an ageing population in Ireland. With the number of older adults continuing to rise, our services are more critical than ever. We aim to expand our programme in 2025, offering more support and resources to ensure that older adults can age in place with dignity, autonomy and security.

We are also acutely aware of the ongoing challenges in the housing and rental sectors. The demand for affordable housing continues to outpace supply, and rental prices remain a significant burden for many. In response, we will continue to advocate for policies that promote affordable housing and work closely with our partners to develop creative solutions that address these pressing issues.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of loved ones we supported who passed away in 2024 and to those whose loved ones moved into long-term care due to their increased care needs.. We are humbled to have been a part of their lives and their circle of support.

Our success is a testament to the passion, dedication and hard work of our team, partners, and supporters. Together, we have made a tangible difference in the lives of many, and we are committed to building on this momentum in the coming year. Thank you for your unwavering support and belief in our mission.

With gratitude and optimism,

Lucie Cunningham



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## Mission

To create positive homesharing experiences between older and younger adults in Ireland, that inspires mutually beneficial social and practical supports and empowers independent living.



## Vision

For homesharing to become a lifestyle choice that enhances positive ageing and develops deep intergenerational social ties.



## Values

- Trust
- Connection
- Collaboration
- Commitment

## Our Company

THE HomeShare is Ireland's only non-profit HomeShare programme with over 80 years combined team experience in the Health and Homecare sector. Established in 2017 by CEO Ms. Lucie Cunningham, THE HomeShare has worked closely with hundreds of families to support them through their Homeshare journeys. Our CEO works closely with government departments and policy makers and we are delighted our efforts have resulted in HomeSharing being incorporated into National Policy, making Ireland the first country in the world to do so. We are also one of the only Homeshare programmes in the world that is truly person centred, because of our monthly home visit to ensure continued safeguarding.

## Our Service

HomeSharing is a Person-Centered and Bespoke Arrangement and is one of the most affordable and safest ways for our ageing population to remain living independently at home and also a way to offer a lifeline to struggling renters, helping to pave the way for future generations.

## Our Goals

THE HomeShare's overall goal is for Homeshare to become a mainstream housing and social care option in which participants can have confidence and security.

## Meet the Team



Lucie  
Cunningham  
FOUNDER & CEO



Antoinette  
O'Reilly  
HOMESHARE  
MANAGER



Geraldine  
Kubernat  
GALWAY  
HOMESHARE  
CONSULTANT



Ciara  
Hegarty  
CORK  
HOMESHARE  
CONSULTANT

# SNAPSHOT OF 2024

THE HomeShare has had a phenomenal year supporting matches in 15 counties across Ireland. Below are some of our most notable achievements

19,160

Practical Support Hours provided (although this figure is more likely to be 50% higher)



91

Individuals Housed

15%

Average Growth Year on Year since 2019



91

Matches

# 2024



**THE HomeShare**  
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## **SURVEY RESULTS** **HOUSEHOLDER**

### **WHY HOMESHARE?**



**94% For Overnight security**



**56% Loneliness/Social Isolation**



**39% Diagnosis of dementia**







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# 2024

## **SURVEY RESULTS** **HOUSEHOLDER BENEFITS**



**89% experience more peace  
of mind**



**61% experience more mental  
stimulation**



**94% Feel more comfortable  
at home**



**83% greater sense of purpose  
& fulfilment**





**THE HomeShare**  
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# 2024

## **SURVEY RESULTS**

### **HOUSEHOLDER BENEFITS**



**100% experience a positive impact on their quality of life**



**89% experience more security at night**



**41% reduction in hospital admissions**



**50% reduction in falls**







**THE HomeShare**  
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# 2024

## **SURVEY RESULTS** **SHARER BENEFITS**



**71%: Helped them save money**



**50%: Helped save a deposit for their own home**



**21%: Helped Sharer pursue further education**



**86%: Reported to being very happy with the arrangement**





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# 2024

## SURVEY RESULTS

### SHARER BENEFITS



**64% provided assistance in an emergency**



**36% experience a reduction in loneliness**



**57% Enjoy a sense of fulfilment from supporting someone**



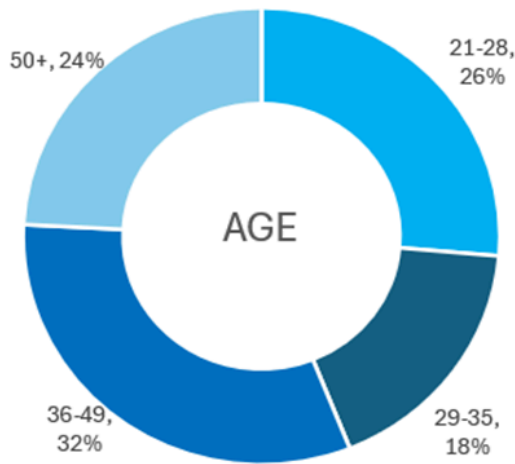
**100% believe Intergenerational cohabitation is a positive experience**



# MATCH DEMOGRAPHIC



## Sharer



87%



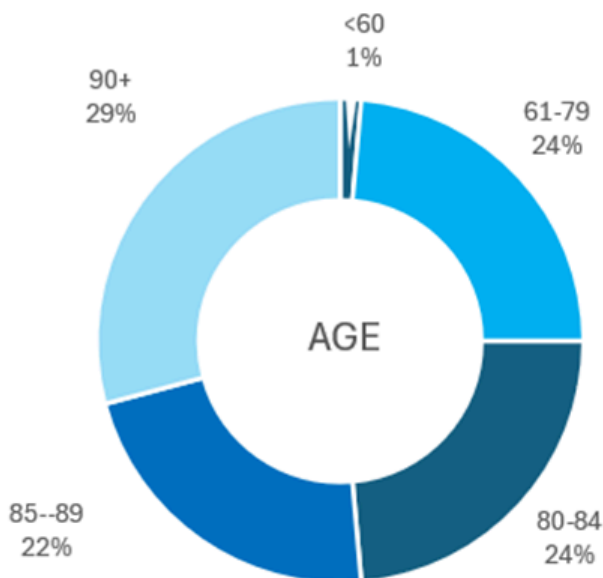
**90%**  
Working  
Professionals

13%



**40**  
Average Age

## Householder



72%



17%



11%



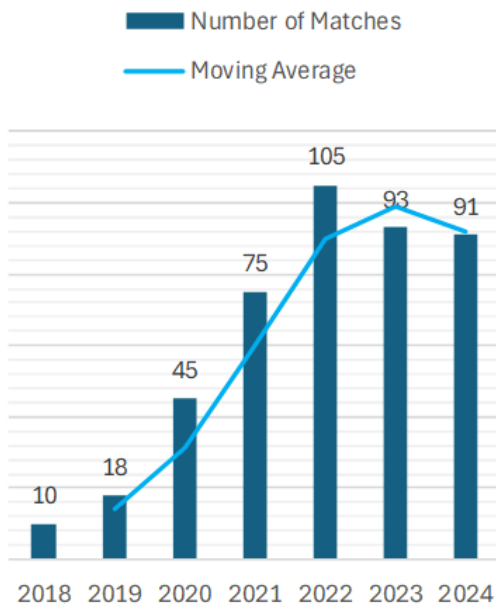
**85**  
Average  
Age

**97**  
Oldest

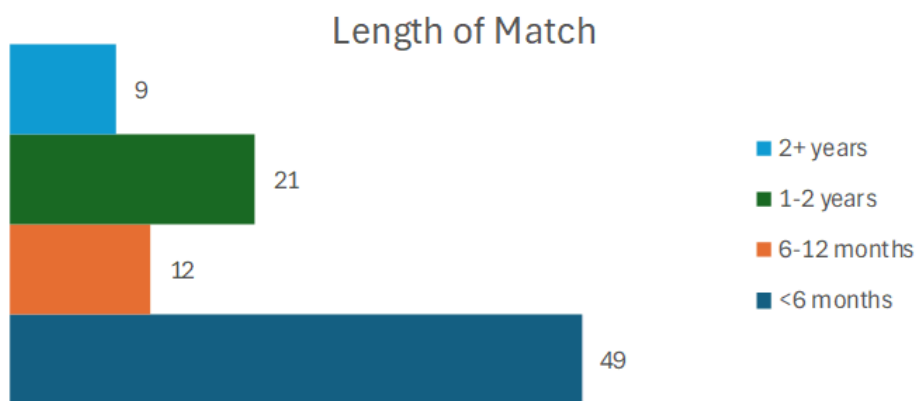
**57**  
Youngest



# GROWTH PATTERN



Since 2018, The HomeShare has seen a steady growth trajectory, with a slight decline in 2024 due to the loss of some of our Householders due to LTC needs or sadly passing away. We anticipate further growth in 2025 because of the continued demand for sharing



The average length of a homeshare match now stands at over **9.8** months with many Matches now heading into their second and third year in their homeshare arrangement

# YEAR IN REVIEW

**Throughout 2024 THE HomeShare has continued to promote the benefits of Homesharing, lobby government, and develop new ways of providing a safe and person-centred option to remain living in one's own home.**

2024 has been a remarkable year for THE HomeShare, marked by significant collaborations and community engagement. One of the highlights was our partnership with the Community Policing Unit. Together, we organised an informative session for retired community members, showcasing the numerous benefits of THE HomeShare, such as companionship, security at night and mutual support.

Our team actively participated in various local Community Information Open Days, where we exhibited and shared insights about our programme. These events provided a platform to connect with the community, answer questions, and encourage participation.

Additionally, we expanded our collaborations with NGOs and HSE healthcare professionals across the country. These partnerships are instrumental in integrating THE HomeShare into clinical settings, primary care centres and community organisations, ensuring more people can access our service. By working closely with healthcare professionals, we were able to offer tailored support to those in need, enhancing their quality of life at home.

Overall, 2024 has been a year of growth and meaningful connections for THE HomeShare. We look forward to continuing our mission of fostering supportive living arrangements and making a positive impact in the community.





# YEAR IN REVIEW

## World Homeshare Congress Trento, Italy September 2024

Our Founder, Lucie Cunningham, attended the 7th Biennial World Homeshare Congress in Italy in September 2024, where she played a pivotal role in shaping discussions on the future of Homeshare.

She was honoured to host a pre-congress session for Homeshare practitioners from around the World, focusing on "Managing a Challenging Homeshare Match, the Importance of Trust and Clear Policies."

As a keynote speaker at the congress, Lucie delivered a compelling presentation titled "THE HomeShare and the Irish Government," highlighting the impact and policy advancements of Homeshare in Ireland.

She also contributed her expertise as part of an esteemed panel alongside Italian academics, local government representatives, and colleagues from France, Australia and New Zealand.

In addition, Lucie led a thought-provoking workshop on the economic savings Homeshare offers to the Irish Government, reinforcing its value as a sustainable and impactful social solution. Her participation at the congress further solidified THE HomeShare's role as a leader in the global Homeshare movement.



# YEAR OF RECOGNITION

In 2024, THE HomeShare achieved remarkable recognition for its impactful work. The organisation was honoured as one of 8 winners at the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards, showcasing its significant contributions to the community.

Additionally, THE HomeShare received the prestigious Gold Winner for Social Sustainability, Diversity, and Inclusion award at the All-Ireland Sustainability Awards 2024, highlighting its commitment to creating a more inclusive and sustainable society.

THE HomeShare also earned Business All Stars accreditation, further cementing its reputation for excellence. Adding to these accolades, our Founder, Lucie Cunningham, was awarded Social Entrepreneur of the Year, celebrating her visionary leadership and dedication to social change.



# Help4Housing



In Autumn 2021, THE HomeShare launched its newest option, **Help4Housing**. Help4Housing was established for Homeowners who want to supplement their monthly income (rent a room). This would also make them accustomed to sharing their home, so if their health declined, they could progress to the traditional Homeshare model.

Another core reason Help4Housing was established was to accommodate shift workers who may work nights and would not be eligible to Homeshare through the traditional Homeshare model. Help4Housing enables Homeowners to benefit by sourcing a carefully vetted Housemate who will provide a little extra income (tax free up to €14,000 per annum) to the Homeowner and a helping hand around the home (5 hours per week). In line with Irish Revenues, 'Rent-a-room relief scheme', Homeowner's can avail of up to €14,000 tax free rental income per year. Help4Housing works with Homeowners to create bespoke Licence Agreements by using current market value analysis to create a rental fee that not only yields a tax-free income for the Homeowner but also offers weekly practical support.

Help4Housing greatly benefits accommodation seekers who need a safe, homely environment at an affordable cost. The Housemate (accommodation seeker) offers 5 hours each week of practical help around the home (e.g., light housework, putting bins out for collections, support with technology etc) in exchange for accommodation at reduced market value (approximately 2/3 the market value). There is no expectation for the Housemate to be a presence in the home overnight, and all bills are included in the monthly fee listed on each Help4Housing opportunity. The monthly rent is established using current market rates based on the properties location offset by the Housemates 5 hours of support based on the current living wage per hour (€14.75).

## **Example of Affordability for Accommodation Seekers (Dublin City)**

€1,000 (average rental of double room exclusive of bills) vs €680 (average H4H equivalent double bedroom in Dublin inclusive of bills)

Help4Housing is managed and monitored by THE HomeShare Team who advertise, shortlist, vet, and introduce all accommodation seekers. In short, we work hard to ensure we find the best potential Housemate for the individual Homeowner, in the safest possible manner.

In 2023, new rules allow individuals living in social housing to rent out a room in their home, earning up to €14,000 annually tax-free, without it impacting their pension or social welfare payments. This initiative aims to address housing shortages while also providing additional income opportunities for those in social housing, potentially alleviating financial strains on low-income individuals and families. The move not only encourages efficient use of available housing stock but also supports socioeconomic stability for vulnerable populations.

# CASE STUDY 1



Mary, an 82-year-old widow, had been living alone since the passing of her husband a few years ago. Diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease a decade ago, Mary faced increasing mobility challenges. In 2023, she joined our Homeshare programme, seeking companionship and support to maintain her dignity and independence, whilst being economically conscious.

After four months, we identified the need for additional home adaptations to ensure Mary's safety and comfort. We referred her to the Healthy Age Friendly Homes programme, which assisted her in applying for a home adaptation grant. This enabled Mary to relocate her bedroom downstairs, enhancing her accessibility and quality of life. During the renovation period, she stayed in respite care for two months, and her initial sharer moved out due to family commitments.

Recognising Mary's evolving needs, we worked closely with Mary and her family to introduce two new sharers before her return home. We chose carefully, 1 sharer working from home so Mary was never alone in the home and the second sharer has a car, so she can accompany Mary to the hairdresser, shops or just go for a coffee at the weekends. Because Mary is an ardent rugby fan, we needed to ensure one of the sharers was too, so they could enjoy matches together. Although they don't support the same teams so this can bring it's own challenges, in a good way!

This arrangement provided her with enhanced daily support, ensuring she was never alone at night. Combined with her homecare package, this solution allowed Mary to remain in her own home, which was her strong preference.

Beyond companionship, the sharers have been a vital support in emergency situations. On two occasions, when Mary experienced falls, they were able to assist her immediately, preventing her from being left unattended until carers arrived the following morning. Their presence has significantly improved her sense of security and well-being.

Additionally, the Homeshare arrangement has benefited the sharers themselves. By living affordably with Mary, they each save at least €700 per month, allowing them to work towards their own home deposits. This mutually beneficial arrangement demonstrates the power of intergenerational living, where both older and younger individuals gain from shared housing, fostering a supportive and sustainable living environment for all involved.



# CHALLENGES



## Reaching Householders too Late

Many older adults choose to live alone, often valuing their independence and routine. However, delaying Homesharing until a crisis arises can have serious consequences for their well-being. Social isolation and loneliness are among the most significant risks, contributing to declining mental health, increased anxiety, and even depression. Without regular companionship, older people may also experience cognitive decline at a faster rate.



Physically, living alone can become increasingly dangerous as mobility decreases. Falls, medical emergencies, or general frailty can go unnoticed for long periods, delaying critical interventions. Poor nutrition, difficulty maintaining household chores, and financial strain can also take a toll, leading to deteriorating health and living conditions.



Furthermore, waiting until a crisis forces change often results in rushed, reactive decisions rather than thoughtful, planned arrangements. Emergency transition to care facilities or unfamiliar environments can be distressing and disorienting. Homesharing, when adopted earlier, provides social support, financial relief, and assistance with daily tasks, allowing older adults to maintain their independence longer in a safe, structured way.



By embracing Homesharing proactively, older people can improve their quality of life, reduce isolation, and avoid the risks associated with living alone until a crisis forces an abrupt change.



# CHALLENGES



## The Risk of Falls when Living Alone

Falls are one of the most serious risks older people face when living alone. As mobility, balance, and strength decline with age, the likelihood of falling increases significantly. Without immediate assistance, even a minor fall can turn into a life-threatening situation.



Studies show that older adults who fall and are unable to get help within an hour face higher risks of complications such as dehydration, hypothermia, and pressure sores. A long-lie fall—where someone remains on the floor for an extended period—can lead to hospitalisation, long-term disability, or even death.



Living alone also means fewer safeguards against fall hazards. Cluttered spaces, loose rugs, poor lighting, and stairs can all contribute to falls. Medical conditions like osteoporosis, arthritis, or cognitive impairments further increase the risk. Additionally, older adults living alone may delay seeking medical care due to fear of losing independence, leading to untreated conditions that make falls more likely.



Homesharing provides a safer environment, reducing fall risks through shared support, home modifications, and immediate assistance in case of an emergency. Choosing not to live alone can prevent unnecessary injuries and ensure older adults maintain a higher quality of life with security and companionship.



**Our 2024 survey results show a 50% reduction in falls and a 41% reduction in hospital admissions.**

# CHALLENGES



## The Cost of Falls

Projections indicate that, without effective interventions, the economic burden of falls among older adults in Ireland will escalate significantly by 2030. A comprehensive study by the HSE estimated that the annual cost of fall-related injuries could reach between €1.6 billion and €2 billion by that year. This projection accounts for factors such as demographic changes, inflation, and potential technological advancements.



The anticipated increase is primarily driven by Ireland's ageing population, which is expected to grow substantially in the coming years. Without effective prevention strategies, the frequency of falls and associated injuries is likely to rise, leading to higher healthcare expenditures



In conclusion, falls among older adults in Ireland present a significant challenge, both in human and economic terms. Implementing supportive living arrangements like Homesharing offers a promising avenue to enhance safety, reduce healthcare costs, and improve the overall well-being of our older population



# CHALLENGES



## Housing Crisis

In 2024, Ireland's housing crisis reached unprecedented levels, severely impacting individuals across various demographics. The surge in property prices and rental rates has made securing affordable housing increasingly difficult, particularly for young students, professionals, and retirees. A survey indicated that a significant portion of the population is contemplating emigration due to housing affordability concerns.

### Challenges Faced by Different Groups:

- **Students:** The scarcity of affordable accommodation has forced many students to either commute long distances or defer their studies. The financial strain of high rents, coupled with limited availability of student grants and scholarships, has adversely affected their academic performance and overall well-being.
- **Young Professionals:** Despite stable employment, many young professionals find themselves unable to afford homeownership or even secure reasonable rental options. This situation has led to a sense of desperation among this demographic.
- **Retirees:** Older individuals on fixed incomes are particularly vulnerable, as rising rents outpace their pension benefits. The prospect of renting into retirement poses significant financial challenges, with many facing the risk of eviction or homelessness due to unaffordable housing costs.

### THE HomeShare: A Viable Solution

Amidst these challenges, THE HomeShare offers an innovative approach to alleviate housing pressures and utilise existing underoccupied housing.

By embracing such alternative housing solutions, the Irish government can work towards mitigating the adverse effects of the housing crisis on our diverse population.



# CHALLENGES



## Emigration and Ageing Population

Ireland is grappling with a significant emigration trend among its younger population, primarily driven by the high cost of living and a severe lack of affordable housing. A recent survey revealed that a substantial portion of residents are considering relocating to more affordable countries due to these challenges.

This exodus poses a critical challenge for Ireland's ageing population, which increasingly relies on state pensions funded by the current workforce. As the demographic balance shifts towards a higher proportion of retirees, the financial strain on the state pension system intensifies. Reports indicate that the ageing population will exert increasing pressure on public expenditures such as pensions, healthcare, and long-term care.

To retain young people and ensure a sustainable tax base to support the ageing population, Ireland must implement comprehensive strategies:

1. **Affordable Housing Initiatives:** Addressing the housing crisis is paramount.
2. **Cost of Living Adjustments:** Reducing the overall cost of living through tax reforms and subsidies can alleviate financial burdens on younger demographics.
3. **Economic Opportunities:** Investing in sectors that offer affordable solutions in housing can make living in Ireland more attractive to young professionals.

By creating an environment where young people can afford to live and work, Ireland can maintain a robust workforce, ensuring the sustainability of state-funded pensions and services for its ageing citizens.



# CHALLENGES



## **The Need for Collaboration with Government and the HSE**

Despite the proven benefits of Homesharing, there remains a significant lack of collaboration between THE HomeShare, local and national government, and the Health Service Executive (HSE) in Ireland. Without official support and integration into national ageing and housing policies, the full potential of Homesharing remains untapped, limiting its ability to address critical issues such as housing shortages, social isolation, and healthcare pressures.

A structured collaboration between THE HomeShare and the government would allow for greater funding, policy recognition, and streamlined access to potential participants. The HSE, in particular, could integrate Homesharing into its community care programmes, ensuring that older people who need companionship and low-level support can access safe and vetted Homesharing arrangements. Local authorities could also promote THE HomeShare as a viable housing option, easing pressure on social housing and emergency accommodation services.

With government endorsement, Homesharing could be expanded to support students, professionals, and retirees alike, fostering intergenerational connections and reducing state costs for nursing home and housing support. By working together, THE HomeShare, the government, and the HSE could create a more resilient and inclusive community, ensuring a better quality of life for older people while addressing Ireland's broader housing and economic challenges.



# CASE STUDY 2



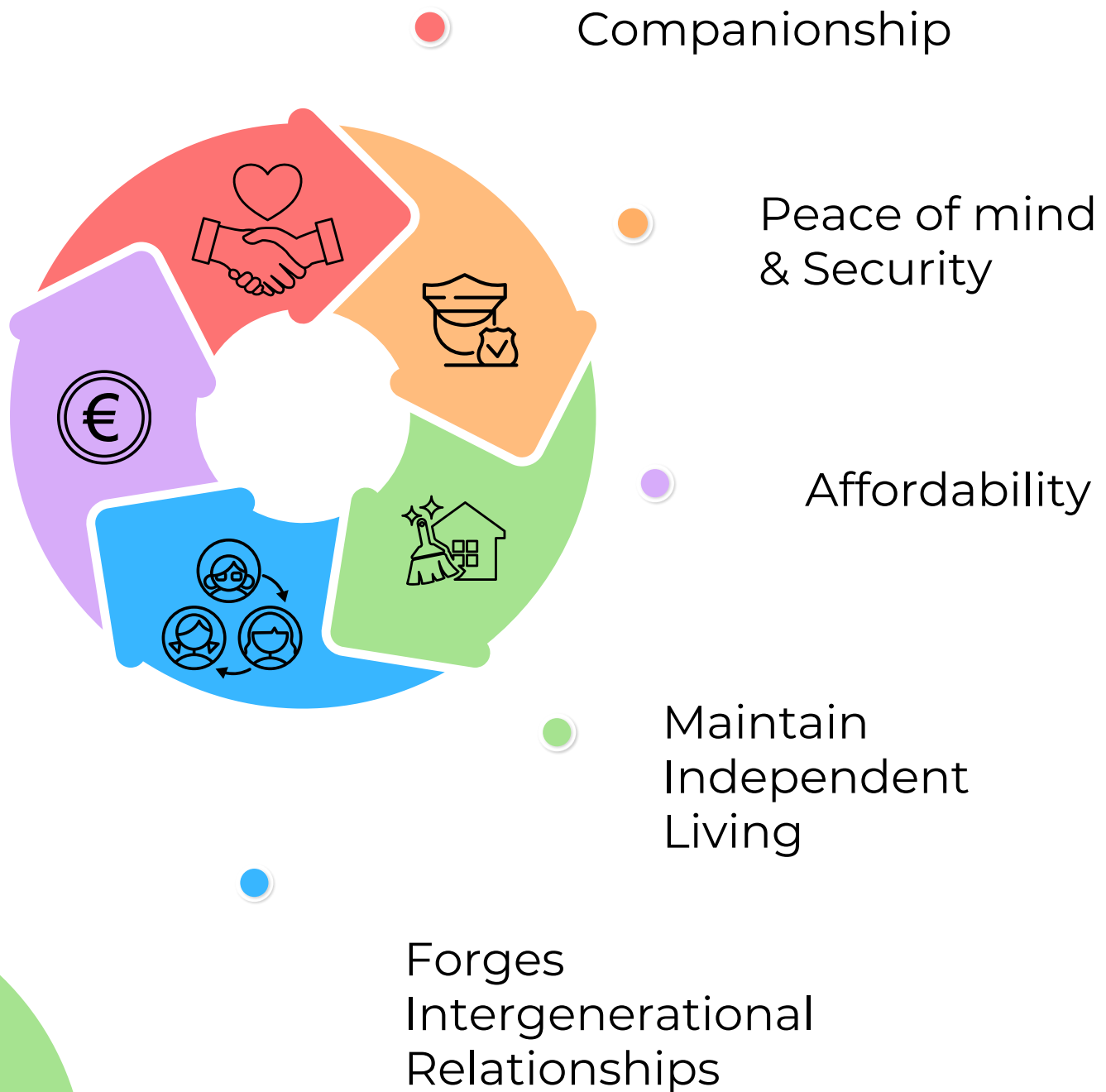
Joan, an independent and spirited woman in her early 90s, has always prided herself on living alone and independently in her Dublin home. However, after experiencing recurrent falls and infections, her family grew increasingly concerned about her safety. Following her latest week's admission to an acute hospital, Joan was transferred to a step-down unit, where she was advised to consider a Homesharer to provide companionship and support in case of another fall. Initially, Joan was hesitant—sharing her home after a lifetime of independence was daunting. However, after much reassurance, she agreed to a two-week trial.

Understanding Joan's love for travel and engaging conversation, we carefully matched her with Monica, a woman in her 40s with similar interests and a passion for writing. From the outset, the connection between them was natural, and as Joan settled back home, Monica moved in. In the following weeks, Joan had two minor falls, but unlike before, she wasn't alone. Monica was there to assist her, ensuring she was comfortable and safe, which in turn alleviated the family's constant worry.

Now, six months on, the arrangement has exceeded expectations. Joan has regained her confidence, knowing that help is readily available if needed. Her family is at ease, able to enjoy quality time with their mother without the ongoing fear of her being alone at night. Meanwhile, Monica has found a comfortable home environment where she can focus on her writing. She has already enrolled in writing courses to develop her passion further, something she had long put off.

This Homeshare match underscores the benefits not just for Joan and Monica but also for Joan's family and the step-down unit. The successful discharge allowed hospital resources to be allocated effectively while ensuring Joan's continued well-being. Their story highlights the true power of shared living—enhancing safety, companionship, and personal growth for all involved.

# Benefits of HomeSharing



# CASE STUDY 3



Bridie, a woman in her early 80s, is a wheelchair user diagnosed with Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) and more recently, Alzheimer's disease. She receives a HSE homecare support package of 42 hours per week, with two carers visiting three times daily to assist with personal care, medication prompting, and meal preparation. While Bridie's family was committed to keeping Bridie in her own home, at her request, rather than transitioning to long-term care, the additional support costs were significant.

Bridie resides in a spacious five-bedroom home, with four of the bedrooms unoccupied. To generate additional funds for private care, her family reached out to us to access our Help4Housing Homeshare model to identify vetted renters for these spare bedrooms. This innovative approach not only enables Bridie to continue living at home but also provides affordable housing options for two renters.

Under the Help4Housing model, each renter secures a room at two-thirds of the local rental price in exchange for offering five hours of companionship per week. Unlike traditional homesharing, there is no requirement for the renters to be present every night. However, the two current renters coordinate their schedules to ensure Bridie is never left alone in her house overnight, further enhancing her safety, security and well-being and peace of mind for her family.

This arrangement has proven beneficial on multiple levels. Bridie receives additional, non-personal care support, her family gains financial relief to afford private homecare to supplement the HSE homecare support, and the renters access affordable housing. We are currently shortlisting for a third renter, which will further contribute financially to Bridie's growing care needs, ensuring she remains in the comfort of her own home for as long as possible.

# CALLS TO ACTION



## Collaborative Support from Government

1. **Invest in Community Well-Being** – Provide funding for THE HomeShare to support vulnerable groups, particularly older adults with limited means, in line with the policy action...

- Housing Options for our Ageing Population Policy 2019; Action 4.8 – Launch a new scheme on a phased basis with support staff to address the housing issues for older people and the housing needs of others. This scheme will match those older people with under occupancy that wish to share their home with persons who require housing in exchange for providing practical support.
- €165,000 p/a would support 50 older people to Homeshare for 1 year which would lead to a 50% decrease in falls and 41% decrease in hospital admissions.

2. **Collaborate with THE HomeShare to Address Housing Shortages** – Support Shared Living Initiatives

- We advocate for a partnership between the government and THE HomeShare to tackle Ireland's rental shortages, focusing on shared living models as an innovative solution to decrease Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) and utilise existing housing stock.

3. **Support HomeShare as a Tool for Social Integration** – Foster Inclusive Communities Across Ireland

- Frame HomeShare as an important tool for social integration and combating isolation, aligning with the government's goals of building more inclusive communities.

# CALLS TO ACTION



## **Collaborative Support from HSE & NGO's**

To address Ireland's housing crisis, social isolation, loneliness and social care challenges, it is essential that THE HomeShare collaborates with local and national government, the HSE, and NGOs.

Homesharing aligns directly with the Programme for Government's commitments to housing, social inclusion, and ageing in place, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3 (Good Health & Well-being), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities).

We urge policymakers to recognise THE HomeShare as a vital part of Ireland's housing and social care strategy. By working together, we can integrate Homesharing into government policies, secure funding for expansion, and ensure that older adults receive the support they need while providing affordable housing to students and professionals and retirees.

The HSE should incorporate Homesharing into its community healthcare plans, reducing pressure on nursing homes and hospitals whilst NGOs focused on ageing, housing, and social inclusion should collaborate to promote awareness and referrals.

A unified approach will create stronger, more inclusive communities while reducing costs on public services. We call on all stakeholders to take action now—by supporting THE HomeShare, we can make real progress towards a sustainable, connected, and caring society.



# CALLS TO ACTION

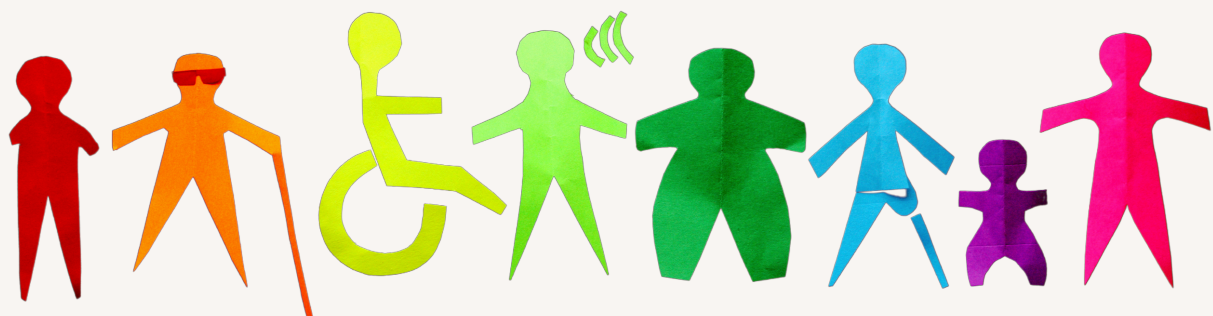


## Collaborating with the Disability Sector to Support Independent Living

We urge local and national disability organisations, government bodies, and advocacy groups to collaborate with THE HomeShare to create more inclusive, independent living opportunities for people with disabilities. Homesharing offers a transformative alternative to institutional or residential care, empowering individuals with greater autonomy, social connection, and community integration.

Consider the example of one of our householders who transitioned from residential housing, where he lived for over 20 years, to independent living in his own home with a sharer. 5 years on, this move has given him a sense of autonomy and belonging, free from the restrictive environment of institutional care. He now enjoys a more fulfilling life, with the freedom to make his own choices and the support of a trusted companion.

By working together, disability services and THE HomeShare can provide a cost-effective, community-based solution for individuals seeking greater freedom in their daily lives. Homesharing reduces reliance on traditional care models, alleviates pressure on social services, and fosters inclusion. We call on policymakers, disability advocates, and families to explore Homesharing as a viable pathway to independence—help us expand this model and create a future where more individuals with disabilities can truly live their lives on their own terms.



# TESTIMONIALS



**"Householders and Homesharers share far more than just a room, they share invaluable companionship. They share intergenerational knowledge which hugely benefits all involved."**

**"We need a range of solutions to help tackle the housing crisis, THE HomeShare concept is one that is and will continue to be beneficial to so many. It is exactly the type of solution we need to see more of in Ireland"**

**"THE HomeShare team do an incredible job, and the feedback and testimonials from both Householders and Homesharers is testament to this. I know they will continue to grow from strength to strength and look forward to doing anything I can to support them."**

Regina Doherty MEP

Vice-Chair Special committee on the Housing Crisis in the European Union

**Older adults are at higher risk for social isolation and loneliness due to changes in health and social connections that can come with growing older, hearing, vision, and memory loss, disability, trouble getting around, and/or the loss of family and friends. People who are socially isolated or lonely are more likely to be admitted to the emergency room or to a nursing home. Social isolation and loneliness also are associated with higher risks for many diseases including heart disease, weakened immune function, Anxiety Depression and Cognitive decline**



**THE HomeShare is a wonderful intergenerational approach to supporting older adults to remain connected while also assisting younger people in finding affordable accommodation. It hits two birds with the one stone and is a no-brainer as a real solution to the dilemmas both generations face**

Deirdre Lang

Director of Nursing/National (Band 1) Lead Older Persons Services, Office of the Nursing & Midwifery Service Director (ONMSD)/ National Clinical Programme for Older People

# TESTIMONIALS



**“THE HomeShare is a social enterprise whose time has come, matching as it does the distinctive needs of older householders living alone with responsible, Garda vetted accommodation seekers, who are willing to provide a small amount of support and companionship in return for an affordable rent. This service enhances independent living while also playing a part in reducing the pressure on rented accommodation availability. The HomeShare services need to be promoted and expanded throughout the country and this is something I’ve raised at local authority level and more recently in Dáil Éireann. Keep up the great work! ”**

Paul Gogarty TD. Independent

**As the CEO of the Irish Social Enterprise Network, I commend THE HomeShare for its innovative approach to supporting our ageing population. Operating as a non-profit social enterprise, THE HomeShare facilitates mutually beneficial living arrangements that enable older adults to remain in their homes while providing affordable housing solutions for younger individuals. This model not only addresses housing challenges but also fosters intergenerational connections, enhancing community cohesion. THE HomeShare exemplifies the impactful role social enterprises play in creating sustainable, community-focused solutions.**



*Chris MM Gordon  
CEO, Irish Social Enterprise Network*

**Myself and my siblings would have no hesitation in recommending home share as a quality option for those not ready or suited to 24hr home care support or a residential care home. With the sharer my Dad was matched with it was a win/win for all concerned.**

Daughter, Dublin

# TESTIMONIALS



**Homesharing has made a major difference to my life. I would never have been able to stay at home only for homeshare. My homesharer chats, watches TV with me. We share breakfast & dinner at the table & chat. I had stopped doing this as it was lonely eating for 1. I feel really safe at night time with him there. His presence has made a major difference to my life. Thank you 😊**

Householder



**This has hugely improved our peace of mind knowing there is someone there with Mum at night.**

Son, Kildare

**Positive intent by the team to find a homeshare companion for my mother, all done professionally and efficiently with empathy towards the level of change for her as an 88YO. Good lines of communication ongoing.**

Daughter, Cork

**Homeshare has helped mam stay living in the comfort of her own home while having the security, companionship and social interaction from her homesharer. It's greatly improved her quality of life and given us, her family, peace of mind and joy when we see how amazing her and her homesharer get on...they chat, they laugh and have the craic with each other!**

Son, Tipperary



**The Homeshare had been an important lifeline for our family for the last 5 years, providing invaluable peace of mind for us as a family, and greatly improving our mums confidence and sense of security. I have and will continue to highly recommend the Homeshare team to everyone.**

Daughter, Dublin

# TESTIMONIALS



**I'm so grateful to have found HomeShare when I was looking for a nice, affordable place to live close to my work. They matched me with one of the most wonderful people I've ever met, and I've had the best experience I could possibly ask for. My dearest Phil and her lovely family have not only made me feel at home but truly part of their family. I will always carry them in my heart. I highly recommend HomeShare to anyone looking for a warm and welcoming living situation 🍷**

Sharer, Dublin

**I would like to thank you to Lucie and her team.**

**I lived seven years as a sharer at the homeshare.**

**I highly recommend THE HomeShare for anyone who enjoys the company of an older person while saving money. Lucie and her team are always ready to help and support , they care about Sharers and look after the Householders too.**

**I feel lucky to have lived as a Sharer with 2 wonderful Householders for 7 years. I got not just an accommodation but I got a lot of support, kindness and much love from the wonderful ladies and their families.**

Sharer, Dublin



**I may say that Homeshare had made a good job on pairing people who are looking for not expensive place to stay and elderly who are willing to share their lovely place. I myself can testify that they have provided me not only a house to stay but a home to care, with lovely family away from home.**

Sharer, Limerick

**A lovely experience! In a scenario where property speculation and greed speak louder, The HomeShare offers hope that we can find a more dignified place to live.**

Sharer, Dublin





**THE HomeShare**  
Together Helping Eachother

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