

HOME SHARE PINELLAS NEWSLETTER

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homesharepinellas.org

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TRUSTING IN THE PROCESS



Marilyn an easy-going retired nurse in her 70's had recently become a widow. In addition to her grief, she was experiencing significant stress from the financial burden of maintaining a home on a decreased monthly income.

While looking for information regarding any assistance she came across Area Agency of Aging of Pasco-Pinellas in St. Petersburg, who then referred her to Home Share Pinellas. After learning about HSP process Marilyn felt it was the perfect solution to give her additional income to help with monthly expenses.

Before she came to Home Share Pinellas, Linda was living with her daughter. Linda was on a fixed income, but wanted her own space and wanted to be around someone closer to her age.

She liked the idea of working with HSP rather than taking a chance with a random person on Craigslist. She also felt she would pay a more affordable rent. Marilyn and Linda were introduced by HSP staff in September 2018.

Marilyn and Linda hit it off right away. Besides being a nurse, Marilyn also is an artist. She is very involved with a number of different art and craft projects and is a night owl. Linda is also creative and loves staying up late to watch movies. After moving in Linda helped Marilyn declutter the house and complete several art projects she had started. When the holidays came, Linda took charge and decorated their home for the holiday season beautifully.

They have been matched 4 years. Although, Marilyn was looking for additional rental income, she found someone to spend time with who has her same interests. Marilyn told HSP-"I have made a new friend. We couldn't get along better. It has worked well for me and I think people should just "DO IT".

Linda told HSP- "I feel home sharing is a good choice, better than the other options out there. I am on the quieter side and living with Marilyn helps me to get out of my shell and socialize more. The companionship is good for me."

What does a provider look like from Home Share Pinellas?

Home Providers are people who have more housing than they are able to maintain or afford. They are house rich and money poor; struggling to pay utilities, maintenance of the home, insurance and taxes. They seek a person to share their living arrangement who can contribute to the finances and perhaps to their life by offering companionship and assistance with house chores. Home Seekers come from all walks of life. They are empty nesters, students, second career seekers, recently divorced persons, unemployed persons, homeless individuals or people on fixed incomes. They are in need of a living situation that will allow them to pay an affordable rent and live in a comfortable environment. Thus, Home Sharing is an excellent option for them, and can become a long term solution.

What can YOU do to help?

Simply spreading the word about our program can make a world of a difference!
You can donate to help support Home Share.
Your donation will help us maintain this unique and much-needed housing program for our community.

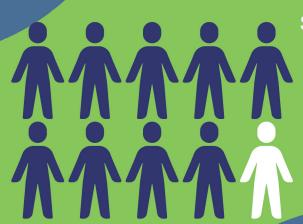








Home Share Pinellas Annual Report



PARTICIPANT
SATISFACTION SURVEY - **94%**VERY SATISFIED

100% WOULD RECOMMEND
HSP TO FAMILY AND
FRIENDS

18%

82% Felt safe & comfortable sharing a home.



76% Feel less lonely.



HSP AVERAGE MATCH LENGTH IN 2021 2.5 YEARS, OR 29 MONTHS



70% Feel happier with a roomate.



BY SHARING THEIR HOMES HSP HOME OWNERS RECEIVED OVER \$205,909 IN RENTAL INCOME IN 2021 TO HELP THEM MAKE ENDS MEET

"IT IS A GREAT SOLUTION FOR THOSE OF US ON A FIXED INCOME AND IT IS NICE TO HAVE THE COMPANY."



IT'S A NO BRAINER

Home sharing is a simple idea where two people share a home for their mutual benefit. For the past 17 years, HSP has been providing support and guidance to home owners that want to share their home. There are many reasons people decide to share their homes. While some like the idea of having another person nearby to offer companionship and a sense of security, others need supplemental income.

- Home owners in HSP report 94% are very satisfied with their home sharing experience.
- 82% of home owners feel safe and more secure when having a roommate in their home.
- 100% of the home owners surveyed stated they worry less about money having a roommate.



Program performance data also shows when a home owner makes the decision to share their home through the HSP program, they stay committed to the program because of all the benefits.

 Average home owner tenure in the program is 7 years in 2022, resulting in home owners receiving \$205,909 in rental income by sharing their home.

Research shows the need for new and additional models of housing arrangements to support a very large and diverse population of people across Pinellas. Housing costs have increased, much faster than an individual's incomes. At no time in human history have so many people lived alone. Recent research revealed the negative impact both physically and psychologically from the stress of social isolation and loneliness. Home sharing is a housing option that addresses these needs.

If you feel overburdened with your home expenses or are over housed and have an extra bedroom call Home Share Pinellas, where you can talk with a staff member to learn more about the program and get your questions answered. Call 727-945-1528. It is about two people helping each other. As one of HSP long term home owner stated "Just do it."

"DON'T RELY ON
YOUR OWN
INSTINCTS-THAT
BROUGHT ME
DISASTER. USE A
PROVEN
PROFESSIONAL
AGENCY SUCH AS
HSP. I WAS VERY
HAPPY WITH THEIR
SERVICES"





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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Supporters of Home Share Pinellas

We are grateful to the individual donors and agency sponsors! Their resources directly empower our staff team to continue to provide the high quality person-centered customer services that defines the success of Home Share Pinellas!

HSP is owned and managed by the Housing Authority.

Tarpon Springs Housing Authority Board of Commissioners St. Timothy's Lutheran Church Fran Haasch Law Group Pinellas Community Foundation Pinellas County, Social Action

In Loving Memory

This year Home Share Pinellas lost one of its long-standing homeowners, Ms. Tora Bell. Tora had been a home provider with HSP for over a decade. She opened her home to many, providing safe affordable housing. During her tenure with HSP she shared "it was an honor and a true privilege to provide a safe place for someone in need of a home. My roommates brought harmony to my household." Tora was so committed to HSP, she referred/encouraged other home owners that crossed her path to participate in the program. Her compassion, spirit, and sense of humor will be missed. She will always be remembered fondly by the staff at HSP.

Pinellas County Social Action Grant

Home Share Pinellas has been working hard since 2006 to address the huge need for more affordable housing. Our service model prioritizes rapid placement and long-term stabilization through a person-centered approach. Our nonprofit agency was awarded a grant contract for \$52,000 in October 2022 from Pinellas County - Social Action Funding. These resources directly cover the costs for administering Home Share Pinellas services. The current state of the housing market and the cost of living inflation, has amplified the housing crisis across the nation. Our nonprofit agency culture is to partner and collaborate with other entities so we can have a greater impact on community. We are grateful to Pinellas County for their confidence in our work. With the support of Pinellas County, we are accomplishing our goal of providing affordable housing for many more people. Thank you Pinellas County **Social Action Grant!**