

www.<mark>seniors</mark>homing<mark>together</mark>.com

"More than a place to hang your hat"



## MATCHING BOOMER AND SENIOR ROOMMATES

Find mature adults to share housing Live affordably Create your own social circle Share household responsibilities

# **Other Benefits**

You won't have to work 'til you drop You don't have to live with your kids Everyone will keep an eye out for each other Create an engaging and supportive community

Sign up TODAY at

SENIORSHOMINGTOGETHER.COM

Michele Fisaca 503-680-8649 Boomer and senior shared housing. Why live with your adult kids? Find a roommate today.



It is a website that matches boomers and seniors who are considering shared housing

# IS IT EASY TO USE?

Yes! Simply go to SeniorsHomingTogether.com and fill out your individual profile. Search confidentially for housemates nationwide.

# HOW DOES THE WEBSITE WORK?

Based on cost, lifestyle choices and location, it matches mature adults who share similar interests & values.

# How can SeniorsHomingTogether benefit me?

Why not discover financial security, create community, explore travel or just get out of a rut?

# YOUR COMMON SENSE SOLUTION

SeniorsHomingTogether.com

EMAIL US: INFO@SENIORSHOMINGTOGETHER.COM



FACEBOOK: SENIORS HOMING TOGETHER Phone: 503-680-8649





### FAQ Sheet What is Seniors Homing Together?

Seniors Homing Together is a website designed as a resource for seniors and boomers. They can search and find affordable housing options confidentially, online. It gives homeowners and renters access to peers through a nationwide network, matching their location needs, cost and lifestyle choices.

### How did Seniors Homing Together start?

Seniors Homing Together was the brainchild of co-founders Michele Fiasca, Monica Marshall, Jodi McKenna and Elders in Training. The partners became concerned that so many seniors and boomers do not have access to affordable housing. As a result they created the website in order to provide lower-cost housing options for seniors and boomers.

### Is it easy to access Seniors Homing Together?

Yes. Users simply go to <u>http://www.seniorshomingtogether.com</u> to create an individual profile. Users provide basic information about their needs. Once a profile is completed, users can search confidentially for housemates or roommates nationwide.

#### How does the Website Work?

The Seniors Homing Together website provides search results by location, cost, and lifestyle desired. Once a good match is located, the site allows users to contact one another confidentially to explore homing together.

### What are the benefits of Seniors Homing Together?

The website is full-featured, allowing users to access affordable housing nationwide. Shared housing has many benefits that living alone or with family may not afford. The website gives seniors and boomers who have similar lifestyles and interests the opportunity to create vibrant homes **together**.

#### **Additional Information:**

The Seniors Homing Together website was launched in June of 2010 as a nationwide resource of affordable shared housing for seniors and boomers. Our site contains links to interviews with co-founder Michele Fiasca on both <u>KBOO Radio</u> and <u>Today's Home</u> with Diane Plesset.

#### **Contact/Information:**

Co-Founder Michele Fiasca 503-680-8649

Email: <u>seniorshomingtogether</u> Facebook: <u>Seniors HomingTogether Facebook page</u> Newsletter sign up on the website: <u>http://www.seniorshomingtogether.com</u> or on the Facebook Page: Click the tab: Email Signup.



photo by MERRY MacKINNON

Together, sees a growing need for se 50 and over. Her business gives senbsite that provides information about ouses offered for rent by other seniors.



'Homing Together' responds to senior housing needs

Milwaukie-based referral agency matches people seeking homes with those who have rooms to rent

#### By MERRY MACKINNON BOOM! contributor

ow-income seniors are having trouble finding affordable housing. And, according to a local senior housing specialist, as 78 million boomers enter their senior years, the problem will get worse.

Michele Fiasca, creator of an adult placement referral agency based in Milwaukie, spent 13 years helping to find appropriate housing and care for elders. During those years she saw that moderately low-income seniors were priced out of the private-sector housing market, yet were ineligible for public housing support. They couldn't afford retirement facilities, nor could they get Medicaid housing assistance because their incomes were too high to qualify.

The problem grew as seniors' incomes shrank during the recession. Sensing a need, Fiasca, who is 58, and two partners founded Seniors Homing Together. For a small yearly membership fee, and in some cases for free, applicants nationwide seeking to rent and homeowners with rooms to rent out answer questionnaires, then advertise and communicate with each other through a website (www.seniorshoming together.com). Applicants must be at least 50 years old and, unlike Fiasca's previous clients, must be independent, having no special care needs.

Referrals can lead to mutually beneficial housing arrangements whereby homeowners earn some extra income and like-minded camaraderie, while renters secure affordable rooms. The match can also apply to seniors looking for peers to rent houses or apartments together.

"If you share housing expenses, you don't have to work 'til you drop and you don't have to live with your kids," Fiasca says. SENIORS HOMING TOGETHER www.seniorshomingtogether.com

According to one Portland consultant for a senior-focused nonprofit, the lack of affordable housing for low-income seniors has become a widespread crisis in both the private and public sector.

"There's a convergence of different factors that has led to increased desperation on the part of low-income seniors," says Bobby Weinstock, housing consultant for Northwest Pilot Project.

Weinstock has worked since 1989 at finding affordable housing in Multhomah County for those 55 and older. In the past year, the nonprofit received 1,500 requests for help with housing from anxious seniors.

"Some were in homes or rental properties that were foreclosed. Some had work hours cut back or were laid off," Weinstock says. "Others were displaced by higher rents."

Rents are up nationwide, not just in Portland, and so is the demand for affordable rental units, Weinstock says.

"We track, and we've seen a steady decline in what used to be affordable," he says, adding that a one-bedroom close-in Portland apartment currently rents on average for \$700 a month.

"For a lot of retirees on fixed incomes, their best hope is to get a subsidized apartment," Weinstock says.

But demand for those subsidized units is intense across all age groups, says a Housing Authority of Portland spokeswoman. "In 2006, for three weeks we opened our waiting list for Section 8 vouchers," recalls Shelley Marchesi, HAP public affairs director. "We had 10,000 applicants."

At the end of those three weeks, the HAP Section 8 waiting list closed to new applicants. "It won't open for another two to three years," Marchesi adds.

Meanwhile, Fiasca figures Seniors Homing Together is one way the private sector can meet the looming demand.

"I'm a boomer, and I've had plenty of roommates in my life," Fiasca says. "It's a concept that's not alien to boomers." Adult Placement Network (APN) offers their expertise and services at no cost to families who are seeking a quality care setting for a loved one. APN has been serving the greater Portland/Vancouver area for 13 years and they offer over 33 years of professional experience in the field of aging services.



Adult Placement Network 503-659-2029 www.adultplacementnetwork.com We serve with compassion at APN & Seniors Homing Together.

We will be teaturing radio interviews with health, services and community experts hosted by APN & Seniors Homing Together



Coming Soon! Forums, links for active living, interviews and more

Join us on Facebook, where we post timely news, updates on our social activities and information on our Positively Aging conference to be held in 2012.







Seniors Homing Together has partnered with Elders in Action to assist those who are '**Technically Challenged'** in navigating our website.



Hello and thank you for signing up at Seniors Homing Together. We're so glad you've joined the Senior Homing Together movement! Since rolling out the website in June of 2010 we've made a lot of friends and introduced homeowners and roommates to one another. We proud to be part of the shared housing movement.

Have you noticed we've been rolling out some website changes? We've added an 800 number and are adding resources on the site to make your home sharing experience easier.

As the website begins to fill up it WILL start matching members. The more members who join, the better your ability to find a good match. Tell your friends and let others know about this great resource. Keep in mind: a picture speaks volumes. Pop one in of yourself, your pet, or the space you have to share. Don't be shy!

Other changes? We'll be on Blog Talk Radio, talking with our members and others who are ready to get the ball rolling! Stay tuned through the website or our Facebook page:<u>http://www.facebook.com/pages/Seniors-Homing-Together/121392154564864</u>

Familiar with Meetups? If not, here's an overview. Meetups are a nationwide way to find others who have similar interests. Photography? Gardening? Computer Geeks? Raw Food? Fitness? Whatever your interest, you're likely to find someone nearby who would like to connect. You can meet others in person via our MEETUP page at: <a href="http://www.meetup.com/Seniors-Homing-Together/">http://www.meetup.com/Seniors-Homing-Together/</a>

If you are interested in meeting others in the Metro Portland community and exploring shared housing opportunities, we'll be hosting monthly MEETUP's at different locations throughout the tri-county area.

Our vision is to create a 'go-to place' for members to share their ideas with one another. Watch for the forum submission feature on the website, coming soon. What a great way to get your own voice heard!

Looking forward to meeting you!

Warmly, Michele, co-founder: Seniors Homing Together

Are you signed up for our newsletter? Here is a link if you are interested keeping informed. http://eepurl.com/bITJi



With more than 33 years of combined experience in aging services, we've come to understand the need for secure housing, community and financial independence.

Our service is accessible to all.

Seniors Homing Together provides a vital resource for boomers and up, nationwide





Name: Michele Fiasca

Company Name: Seniors Homing Together

Company Phone: 503-680-8649

Email: zoe@seniorshomingtogether.com

Web site address: www.seniorshomingtogether.com

Toll Free Call Back Service: 877-947-2249

#### Parsons, Susan

6-15-11

From:Seniors Homing Together [michele.fiasca@gmail.com]Sent:Friday, May 27, 2011 1:31 PMTo:Parsons, Susan

Cc: Hermansky, Milena

Subject: Seniors Homing Together

Dear Susan,

Seniors Homing Together is a website designed to match boomers and seniors who are homeowners with boomers and seniors looking for compatible housemates. Like minded individuals can pool their rersources to create thriving households that are affordable and mutually supportive. Boomers and seniors don't have to work 'til they drop and they don't have to live with their kids. Furthermore, it will help take pressure off the government to provide housing for this exploding population. I look forward to the opportunity to share Seniors Homing Together. You will find a link to the website below.

1 - C O M

I wondered how many people I could expect so I can be prepared with handouts. Thank you for your time today Susan.

Warmly,

Michele J. Fiasca Co-Owner: Seniors Homing Together Ph: 503.659.2029 Fax: 503.659.2406





Seniors Homing Together .... "for boomers and up!"

Request of Michele J. Fiasca to address Council regarding Seniors Homing Together (Communication)

JUN 1 5 2011

PLACED ON FILE

Filed JUN 1 0 2011

LaVonne Griffin-Valade Auditor of the City of Portland By

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
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1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		