



*K*EEPING HOME A SAFE HARBOR

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Annual Report 2014

Benefits of HomePorts Membership

Peace of mind
Convenience
Access to volunteers
Access to vetted service providers

Educational programs
Social events
Home safety inspection
Local transportation

Volunteer Services

Many services are provided by HomePorts' volunteers at no additional cost to the member. These include:

Local transportation
Errands – pharmacy, banking, grocery shopping
Small home repairs
Small gardening projects
Short-term pet sitting

Paid Provider Services

HomePorts maintains a list of local business providers whom members pay directly. Among these services are:

Out-of-county transportation
Home maintenance and repair
General yard work and landscaping
House cleaning
Non-medical home care
Nursing care (RN, LPN or GNA)

2014 Board of Directors

Jim Donaghy, President
Ann Murray, Vice President
Jayne Heckles, Secretary
Bill Cameron, Treasurer
Cindy Bach
Wayne Benjamin, MD
Scott Burleson

John Christie
Muriel Cole
Herbert Friedman
Sandra Willett Jackson
John R. Leek
Courtney Sjostrom

Staff

Karen Wright, Executive Director

Shannon Smulow, Volunteer Coordinator



Report from the President

To the HomePorts Community:

Our 2014 initiatives were aimed at increasing citizen awareness of HomePorts' mission and services as well as growing the value of these services for our current members.

In April, HomePorts and its 22 sponsors held its fifth Symposium on the subject of "Healthy Aging." Homeports volunteers contacted 85 local businesses, introducing them to the HomePorts mission and securing support for HomePorts with their ads and exhibits. The University of Maryland Regional Health System was HomePorts' Platinum Sponsor, supplying the keynote speaker, Walter Ettinger, MD, Senior Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer of the University Medical System. Dr. Ettinger spoke on "The Healthcare Revolution, What Does It Mean for You."

In May, HomePorts partnered with The Peoples Bank which sponsored a community dinner held at Chestertown's Lemon Leaf Café. The Guest Chef was Ralph Dowling, Bank President and CEO, who prepared his famous *paella* for the hungry crowd. One hundred and eighty members, friends, and neighbors purchased tickets for the event enabling them to learn more about HomePorts as they enjoyed an evening of good food and fellowship.

Throughout the year, HomePorts' monthly Dutch-treat Thursday luncheons at Fishwhistle have attracted an ever-growing number of people who come for friendly conversation and a tasty meal. Come join us and bring a friend—if you need a ride call the HomePorts office. All are welcome—we'll save a seat for you!

We continue to have volunteers represent Homeports on the Professional Advisory Board (Shore Regional Health) and the Chester Valley Ministries Association.

HomePorts' last strategic plan was put together three years ago, so it's time to not only assess our progress but to set new goals for the future. We have a strong volunteer team currently hard at work developing new strategies to provide expanded member services. When they complete their work within the next few months a new strategic plan will be brought to the Board for approval and implementation.

What follows are year-end reports from the staff and committee leaders who plan, organize and implement services. You can see that 2014 was a year of progress and that our balance sheet continues strong with operations near breakeven.

We give many thanks to retiring Board members Scott Burleson, Muriel Cole, Herbert Friedman, Ann Murray and Sandra Willet Jackson for their years of service. And thanks to you for your continuing interest and commitment to HomePorts.

--Jim Donaghy, President



Report from the Executive Director

Somehow another year has gone by. It seems as though it was all in a flash.

2014 has seen many changes at HomePorts. Two biggies--Shannon and I have become HomePorts' employees (rather than independent contractors); and we have beefed up our liability insurance. These two items definitely caused a bump on the expense side, but were definitely a necessity. Fortunately, we have managed to keep our heads above water despite the additional expenses.

We've also had several challenges this year. Our membership is down slightly overall, but has increased in Rock Hall where we have needed to recruit additional volunteers to keep up with the demand. In addition, we have had a small increase in the number of financial aid members who are generally the sector which uses our services the most. Among my goals for 2015 will be to increase our membership, and to increase and train new volunteers.

Our monthly luncheons at the Fish Whistle (on the third Thursday of every month at 12:30) have been gaining in popularity. If you have never attended one of these Dutch-treat events, you should definitely mark your calendar. All are welcome to join us for a nice meal and good conversation.

Shannon and I both attended the Village to Village Network's annual national gathering in Washington, D.C. this fall. The theme this year was "Many Villages, One Voice" and focused on the villages' advocacy for redefining the way we age in community, in a healthy and socially connected way. As always, we came away reenergized and with many new ideas for enhancing our own village.

We did not do a member survey in 2014, but members will be receiving them with their renewals in 2015. In addition, we plan to survey our providers and our current volunteers. Our new liability insurance requires that we run background checks on all of our volunteers and MVA checks on our drivers. This, too, is a good thing which will help us to keep our members safe.

Shannon and I look forward to continuing to serve our membership and to welcoming new board members and new HomePorts members in the coming year.

Karen Wright, Executive Director

Financial Assistance Committee

Unfortunately, older adults in Kent County have a significantly lower median income measured against the overall Maryland state median, both presently and projected for the future:

	State of Maryland	Kent County
2010 Median Income 55+	\$59,887	\$44,678
2015 Projected Median Income 55+	\$72,307	\$50,596

The 2010 Census indicates that there were 4,400 households of people 55 and over in Kent County. Of those, over 1,000 households, or 25 %, had household incomes under \$25,000/year, 38 % had household incomes under \$35,000/year.

From the time of its initial organization, HomePorts recognized that many of these people in our community could benefit from membership but would need some financial assistance in order to make it possible. As a result, Homeports implemented a financial assistance program. The program has been financed in part by gracious grants from organizations such as The Women and Girl's Fund and the Speer Trust. We have also sponsored dedicated fundraising events for this program and have set aside some of the funds which we have been able to raise by more general fundraising.

Members accepted in this program are charged an initial annual fee of \$35 for individuals and \$50 for households. These members, like all of our members, receive services from HomePorts volunteers for needs such as transportation. In addition, these members also receive an annual household voucher of \$300. This annual voucher may be applied to pay for any services provided by a HomePorts approved vendor. Examples of these needs have included house cleaning, a wheelchair ramp, and home bathing. Our providers have been generous in offering discounted services to these members.

Generally speaking, individuals with incomes at or below \$ 33,500 and households with combined income at or below \$ 45,400 are eligible to participate. Eligibility is determined by the HomePorts Executive Director based on a review of income tax returns and/or other indicia of income and assets. All such information is kept confidential in addition to their identity as having received financial assistance. Applicants have been taken on a first come, first served basis.

The annual review of this program conducted by the Financial Assistance Committee concluded that the results of participation have been very favorable both for the participants and for HomePorts. However, this review also concluded that we would like to have greater participation in this program. As a result, the fee for renewals has been eliminated, the financial application forms for the initial application and for renewals have been simplified and we are working on other means for attracting additional interest in the program.

John Christie, Financial Assistance Committee Chair



Report from the Volunteer Coordinator

This year HomePorts volunteer program has had exciting growth and developed new tools to help organize and connect our members with our volunteers.

One of our goals this year was to streamline information for our volunteers. To accomplish this, we developed an online training video which new and existing volunteers could watch. Easy access to these materials means the volunteers can do the training in their own time and even assess themselves with a small multiple choice test at the end of the video. The online training video educates our volunteers about the process of aging as well as how to handle the possible restrictions a member may have. We feel this has been an effective way to help our members and our volunteers feel more confident and comfortable.

We are still in need of volunteers, however, especially those willing to drive. HomePorts has gained a few more members in the Rock Hall area. Our board, as well as our volunteers, have done a great job responding to the needs of these new members by finding even more volunteers close to Rock Hall. Having a strong base of volunteers creates another effect: community. Members and volunteers are better able to get to know one another and create connections when they live nearby.

With our new insurance in place, additional background checks have been implemented to better manage our member's safety. Last year Homeports volunteers put in more than 600 hours within the breadth of our services, with the bulk of these hours by way of volunteer transportation.

In February, Homeports hosted a volunteer event with a Valentine's Day theme. Without the time and the effort our volunteers give, it would not be possible for HomePorts to provide or preserve the help our members need. The event was well attended by board members, employees, and volunteers who drank a little champagne, ate crab-shaped chocolates and shared a few laughs!

Shannon Smulow, Volunteer Coordinator

Services Available by Approved Providers

TRANSPORTATION:

Medical Appointments
Errands
Senior Center
Pharmacy
Airports
Special Events
Grocery Stores

INTERIOR

Home Maintenance:

Property Management
Home Sitting
Catering
House Cleaning
De-clutter
House Clean Out
Window/Door Install
Window Repair
Dryer Vent Service
Picture/Mirror Hanging
Install Medicine Cabinets
Sticking Doors
Plumbing
Heating/AC Repair
Appliance Repair
Winterizing
Built-Ins
Pet Doors
Assemble Furniture
Appliances
Storage Solutions
Trim or Molding Repair
Drywall
Painting & Color Consulting
Ceiling/Floor Repair
Cabinets
Remodeling
Railing Install or Repair
Finish Work
Home Adaptations
Upholstering

EXTERIOR

Home Maintenance:

Landscaping/Design
Gardening/Pruning
General Yard Work
Lawn Mowing
Power Washing
Gutter Service
Downspouts
Roofing
Ramps
Window Washing
Building Decks
Siding Repair
Window Shutter Repair
Pesticide/Fertilizer
Snow Removal
Decks
Patios
Walkways
Tree Removal
Tree Transplanting/
Irrigation, Planting
Turf Care
Hydro-seeding
Living Shoreline Work
Spring/Fall Clean Up
Christmas Decorating
Driveway Install/Repair
Landscape Lighting
Land Management
Soil Grading For Drainage
Septic System Install
Excavation Services
Upholstering

GROCERY AND MEAL SERVICES:

Shopping Assistance
Personalized Shopping
Home Delivery
Catering services
Home Meal Preparation

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE & TROUBLE SHOOTING:

Alterations
Money Management
Help with bill paying
Computers
Email
Home Electronics
Appliances
Remote Controls
Telephone Programming
Warranty Research
Internet Searches
Respite Care
Family History Projects
Notary
Piano Tuning
Pet Sitting
In-Home Vet Visits

Health & Wellness:

Geriatric Case Management
Skilled/Unskilled Nursing
-RN, LPN or GNA
Companion Care
Medication Management
Meal Prep
Light House Keeping
Foot Care/Pedicures
Friendly Home Visits
Respite Care
Travel Companion Service
Assist with Medical Records
Hearing Impairment Services

HomePorts Program Committee Report

The HomePorts program committee consists of Board member, Courtney Sjostrom and member, Jerry Smith. There has been significant input from Muriel Cole and other Board members.

During 2014, there were no winter or early spring programs as the chair was out of the country. In the fall, there were two programs presented.

On September 24, 2014, a program on BALANCE AND FALL PREVENTION was given by Brooke Maier of Chester River Home Care and Hospice. She demonstrated methods to assist someone who has fallen and what a person who has fallen should do. There were handouts of methods for sitting, standing up and getting into a car. In addition, she explained things to do in the home to keep it safer. HomePorts offers a service to educate our members on maintaining a safe residence which is available to all members.

Nancy Robson and Sue Collins, local authors of a new book, *Okay, Now What?* gave a program on October 15, 2014. Their book is a caregiver's guide and provides a great deal of information with many insights from persons who have been caregivers for family members or professionally. They offered helpful suggestions and answered questions from the attendees.

Each of the programs was offered at 10:00 a.m. at the HomePorts office in the Town Building. Attendees were asked to sign in and supply their contact information. This helped to identify those who were new to HomePorts and were not members. The publicity for the programs included flyers, advertisements in the local papers and The Chestertown Spy in addition to emails to members, volunteers and providers. There were some first time attendees at each program. Total attendance at the two programs was about forty people.

Programs under consideration for 2015 are JOINT REPLACEMENT and the new combined hospice care program for the Eastern Shore. Suggestions for future programs are encouraged.

Courtney Sjostrom, Program Committee Chair

Healthy Aging Symposium Committee Report

HomePorts flagship event was held at the Kent County Middle School on April 15, 2014, a community-wide opportunity to learn about the latest research on health-related issues, treatments, and local services to help seniors stay well and self-manage chronic conditions.

Dr. Walter Ettinger, MD, Chief Medical Officer, University of Maryland Medical System, spoke about “The Health Care Revolution: What It Means for You.” He described our nation’s broken health care delivery. “We are skewed too far in the direction of making money,” he noted. He told us that health care is twice as expensive here as in any other country. And the quality we’re getting is nowhere near as high as in other developed countries. More people die from preventable hospital complications than from auto accidents. We don’t do death well. Most of us want to die at home, and most of us don’t. He noted that treatment is desperately needed for addressing the epidemic of Alzheimer’s disease. He envisions a system where well-care is encouraged, as is care that matches what the patient and the family want, and fewer in-hospital patients and fewer preventable complications during hospital stays. The talk was extremely well-received, with excellent questions and obvious interest in continuing this community dialogue.

With the theme of “Healthy Aging: A Community Perspective”, emphasis was placed on providing information about local services and programs. Breakout group speakers promoted provocative discussions on and gave tips on topics ranging from osteoporosis treatment options to identity theft. The Kent County Sheriff’s Department officers asked everyone to take photos of their property, especially jewelry. Another homework assignment is to check your credit on-line, using the offer of one free credit report each year.

Evaluations from the participants applauded the breakout session on “Master Aging Plans”, presented by another Village, At Home Chesapeake. Over 20 exhibitors (who also were co-sponsors) offered a wide variety of useful information.

Copies of the 2014 program and resource guide are available at the HomePorts office.

Although interest remains high in learning about healthy aging and holding this event annually, attendance has actually been decreasing slightly each year, prompting the HomePorts Board to offer a different kind of event in 2015. A Health Fair will take place, again at the Kent County Middle School on April 2, 2015 to foster community wellness in Kent County. HomePorts is very pleased to have the support of University of Maryland Shore Regional Health in this endeavor. A two-hour workshop titled “Your Plan for Living the Good Life” is also being offered. Participants will prepare a personalized plan for successful aging, led by invited experts on Master Aging Plans. The Health Fair will feature various free health screenings, brief talks and demonstrations on topics such as skin cancer detection, hypertension, weight management, diabetes, vaccinations, and incontinence. The event is expected to attract many exhibitors, both non-profit organizations and local businesses and will receive extensive publicity. Information will be available to help attendees learn to self-manage health, wellness and safety issues, and obtain knowledge to ultimately reduce the demands on the health care and social services systems.

Muriel Cole, Symposium Chair

Home Safety Committee

HomePorts Safety committee has evolved during 2014. Accidental falls in the home have historically been one of the major underlying causes which forces folks to move out of their homes sooner than they had anticipated. Safety crew volunteers originally focused on doing tasks that necessitated climbing or using a ladder such as changing ceiling light bulbs or replacing smoke detector batteries. These volunteers also installed carpet tape or anti-slips in showers and baths. All well and good, except that HomePorts already has a vetted list of handymen who can ably do these jobs, and more importantly, have their own liability insurance which our safety crew volunteers don't have.

Going forward, Home Safety Education will be our focus. Your home is usually your most valued material asset, and certainly the one with which you might have an emotional attachment. These are two reasons people want to live in their homes as long as possible. Safety education has a lot to do with safety awareness which includes recognizing a safety hazard around the home that might have been overlooked or become "invisible" after years in the same residence. Think of a HomePorts home safety check as a second pair of eyes and a second opinion, somewhat like a doctor looking at the health and safety of your home. We'll be there to answer your safety questions and suggest solutions to potential safety problems.

As yearly membership renewals are made, a safety crew volunteer will be touch to schedule a safety check of your home. HomePorts wants to keep your home the safe harbor it is meant to be.

John Leek, Home Safety Chair

Grants Committee

When Jane Hukill retired from the Board at the end of 2013, we lost valuable leadership in our efforts to pursue grants for the organization; thus we had no grant activity during the past year. However, we are fortunate to have recently obtained the volunteer services of Lynn Dolinger. Lynn is a Certified Fund Raising Executive and is currently working with the Board to explore grant opportunities consistent with our latest strategic plans.

11:35 AM
 01/15/15
 Accrual Basis

Home Ports, Inc.
Profit & Loss
 January through December 2014

	Jan - Dec 14
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
43400 · Direct Public Support	19,127.69
43500 · Symposium	23,170.00
45000 · Investments	33.13
47200 · Membership Dues	21,440.00
49000 · Special Events Income	3,690.00
Total Income	67,460.82
Gross Profit	67,460.82
Expense	
60300 · Awards and Grants	424.50
60500 · Symposium Expenses	6,057.33
60900 · Business Expenses	139.02
61000 · Special Events Expenses	300.95
62100 · Contract Services	2,170.39
62800 · Rent	3,000.00
65000 · Operations	6,657.87
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	3,560.83
66000 · Payroll Expenses	41,083.63
68300 · Travel and Meetings	1,093.11
Total Expense	64,487.63
Net Ordinary Income	2,973.19
Net Income	2,973.19

3:08 PM
 01/15/15
 Accrual Basis

Home Ports, Inc.
Balance Sheet
 As of December 31, 2014

	Dec 31, 14
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10000 · Primary Checking	9,979.51
10010 · Money Market	44,471.85
10020 · PayPal	17.49
10030 · Financial Assistance Checking	5,562.00
Total Checking/Savings	60,030.85
Accounts Receivable	5,000.00
Total Current Assets	65,030.85
TOTAL ASSETS	65,030.85
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	1,939.56
Total Liabilities	1,939.56
Equity	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	43,559.98
31000 · Retained Earnings	16,558.12
Net Income	2,973.19
Total Equity	63,091.29
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	65,030.85

2014 Donors

*Denotes HomePorts Member

\$1 to \$99

Sheila Austrian
Cindy Bach
Margie Baker
Cheryl & Meade Breese
*M. Catherine Brereton
*Mary C. Burns
Nancy & Bill Butler
Rebecca A. Byrd
Elizabeth Clark in memory
of John C. Isely
Pat & Ray Clarke
Virginia Cooper
Juli Dulmage
in honor of Jim Lavin
Linda & Phil Dutton
Betta Fraccaroli
Caroline Gabel
Sue & Bob Haist
Joseph J. Harding
Jane & George Hardy
Doug Heisler in memory
of Cheri Rassas
*Grace Hopkins
*Betty Kerr
*Ruth Lichtenberger
James Lupis
Jennifer & Steven
McGovern
Tom McHugh
George Nelson
Carol Niemand in memory
of Sharyn Andersen
Susanne Nuttle
Janet & Jim O'Harrah
Jeanette & Phil Parish
Ginny & Tom Parker
Michael Pelczar, DDS
*Pierre Pingitore

Mary & John Ray
Joanne & James Rich
*Grace & Bill Reinhoff
Nancy & Gary Robson
*Betty Spence
Katherine Trout
*Sue & Jim Urda
Anne Warhurst
Kathy & Harvey Wigder
Karen & Jon Wright

\$100-\$299

*Bunny & Frank Adams
Fred Alden
*Cynthia Anderton
Marie & Henry Anderson
Wayne Benjamin, MD
*Bill Cameron in memory
of Judy Cameron
*Anne Charles
Chesapeake Investment
Advisors
Celeste Conn
David A. Bramble
Foundation, Inc.
Lynn & Ralph Dolinger
ExxonMobile Foundation
Fordi Family Foundation
Kirsten & Michael Forney
*Herbert Friedman
Cindy & Tom Fulton
Donna & Tony Gibbons-Neff
Richard Goodall
Christian Havemeyer
*Charlotte Hawes
Jayne & Paul Heckles
KC and Bob Holland
*Sandra Willett Jackson
Bonita & Rick Lankford

Michael Lawrence
Francie Miller
Ann & John Murray
Raisin & Wootton
Alice Ritchie
*Connie & Larry Schroth
Lois Sherry
Courtney & John Sjostrom
Joyce Huber Smith
Jon Stine
Barbara Thomas
Alexandra Totten
Joan & Cliff West

\$300-\$499

Amazon
Choptank Electric
*Muriel Cole
*Margery & Mickey Elsberg
*Brenda & Carl Gallegos
Nancy Holland
Charles Lerner
*Patricia & Jack Matthews
Rock Hall Lions Club
Lainie & Ralph Surette

Over \$500

*Peggy & John Christie
*Anne & Jim Donaghy
*Jane Hukill
*Gayle & Bob Ingersoll
John Leek
William Madar
*Brenda Rocconi in
memory of Mike Rocconi
The Peoples Bank
Town of Chestertown