

Words from Alice Allen — a former resident, said as she was leaving, Sept 2011

“What a piece of luck that I ended up at 161 Pine Street, even if just for these past few years. I could have been a down time for me so soon after my husband died, but because of where I landed, it was not. I was very happy here — right away, thanks to you people.

I have found it hard to define to outsiders just what co-housing is — (I know, it’s a legal financial arrangement with a bunch of by-laws). But, from what I have experienced, it is more an attitude, an unspoken understanding that your neighbors are your friends.

Like greeting each other when you meet.

Like going out on a wintry morning and finding the snow has been brushed off your car.

Like Mary coming over every morning to take my pulse when I was supposed to keep track of it — and then me and Jack baking together on Wednesday afternoons.

Like Isobel advertising my house, organizing open houses, and finding a buyer, and Mary helping out.

Like Eric playing [piano duets] with me and letting me be a stand-in piano teacher for Lillian.

And Jessica, Steve and Callum and Liam being such warm and cheerful [duplex] house mates.

I love to here and I feel sad to move.”

(She read us this letter at one of our annual “talent shows” just after, at the age of 88, she left PSCH for the Applewood continuing care retirement community in South Amherst.)

