



Volunteer

How to reach your Volunteer Coordinator

antoINETTE@ourplacesociety.com
or 250-388-7112 Ext. 243

Volunteer Absences

If you know that you are going to be away in advance (for example, for a vacation), please contact Antoinette directly. If you are providing 24 hours' notice, please contact reception at (250) 388-7112 and ask them to let Antoinette and the manager in your program area know of your absence.

Cold and flu season is almost upon us, and health officials are anticipating an outbreak of a particularly virulent flu this year. So we would respectfully request that volunteers not take heroic measures to come in to volunteer if they are not feeling well. Thank you for your support!

We are always looking for volunteers

We will be looking for additional volunteers in the clothing room to assist us with our higher-than-normal volume of donations.

In addition to our ongoing efforts to recruit volunteers for the dining room and the nutrition bar in the drop-in centre, we are also currently looking for volunteers in the following areas: Hygiene Area; Clothing Room. If any of these current opportunities is of interest to you, please contact 388-7112, extension 243 or volunteer@ourplacesociety.com.



Profile of the month Veronica

"I love to talk to the people and get to know them. I like Our Place because there is no pretense here. People are who they are."



Veronica says she was waiting to retire so she could come and volunteer at Our Place. She was too busy with her regular Monday to Friday job as a nurse and an "ethics person" at Royal Jubilee Hospital, where she spent 30 years at the bedside and in administration. In the last decade of her nursing career, she focused on research and ethics and helped establish a clinical ethics program. She became known by the staff as the ethics person. Her interest in addictions dates back to her work in Toronto at an avant-garde 100 bed hospital that was tied to an addictions research facility. She feels that Our Place is the

obvious choice to volunteer her time. "Here, more than any place else, I thought I would have an opportunity to do a lot of interacting with people."

"When you work in administration anywhere, you get into the role-playing, and you have to be a certain kind of person. When you come here, you just are who you are. People appreciate the little things you do for them, and it can't help but make you feel good when people tell you that they so appreciate you coming here and that you're so kind and when they thank you for giving your time."

Veronica rises early every Monday and Tuesday morning to work the breakfast shift (from 6:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.) in the Nutrition Bar, where she is usually serving up pancakes or eggs to the hundreds of folks that file in when the doors open at 7 a.m.

Veronica talks to her friends about volunteering at Our Place and at times finds herself explaining why the people we serve aren't out there earning their keep. "Some of them have chronic health conditions. They might have a mental health condition that doesn't allow them to work. How many people have I met here that have had intense careers and ended up in a position and haven't been able to get back? And there are a lot of people who come in here who work when they can — the working poor."

So not only does Veronica donate her time and energy serving the first meal of the day, she also acts as a defender of the community's most vulnerable, as she did in her position as ethics person at the hospital, a role that often involved the kind of exceptional interpersonal skills and compassion that Veronica brings to Our Place.

Our Place Volunteers — Simply the Best!