

Our E-mail addresses: 713 Johnson St: volunteerourplace@shaw.ca
919 Pandora Ave: opsoc@telus.net

“Unconditional love given in a non-judgemental way.”

Supporter of the Month

For over a year, Rob Reid of FRONT RUNNERS has supported *ourplace* with hundreds of pairs of shoes for our “family”. On many occasions, he has helped individuals with foot problems by supplying footwear specific to their needs. Hats off and many thanks to you, Rob!

Safety Corner

On Johnson Street the utility room behind the kitchen is now locked. In our war against the spread of fungal infections we must increase our vigil of protecting the kitchen. Please keep an eye on staff who, in a rush, may try to empty and clean foot baths in the kitchen sinks. This task must be done in the utility room only. Be brave! Be definite!

Donations:

WE DO NEED: towels, footwear, clothing-seasonal garments, trousers, shirts, under garments, & belts, Bedding- blankets, sleeping bags, ground mats. Toiletries- feminine hygiene products, razors, deodorant, brushes & combs. Knapsacks, backpacks, small tents.
Non-perishable foods: Canned or other dry packaged foods, coffee.

Ask Vickie

Dear Vickie,

As a volunteer worker, I am very interested in the unification of the two parts of *ourplace* in the Fall. Originally, they were different, for reasons I don't know. How can I best assist in making this a smooth transition?



Dear Gentle Reader,

The most important thing for us to realize is that even though we have a new building, some new procedures, and in many cases new co-workers, our family and our family's needs remain the same. If we put this at the forefront of our thoughts, it should be possible to put aside any relatively insignificant disagreements we might have. Disagreements on procedure can be submitted to supervisors to help establish new policies and this way, we are enriched.

Next month's question:

What do I do when I see another volunteer doing something that is unsafe or inconsistent with established health procedures?



John Ronald, Chairman of the *ourplace* board says:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

This is National Volunteer Appreciation Day and we are trying to shout our thanks to every one of you volunteers who keep *ourplace* operating. The work *ourplace* does is absolutely essential for the people we serve and for the health of the downtown community of Victoria. Our hard-working staff depends on your energy and commitment to make it all happen. We try to say 'thank you' as often and as loudly as we can. So,

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

You are loved and appreciated by all. Sincerely, J.R.

Staff Changes

Our esteemed leader - Bob Frank - is so esteemed that he has been asked to focus on the transition into new facility as Structure Manager. It will take two people to fill his big boots!!! From now on the position of volunteer coordinator will be job-shared between Pieta Van Dyke (who will be working Mondays and Tuesdays) and Robert Strother (who will cover the rest of the week).

Many of you know Robert, who has been the Coffee Bar and weekend Supervisor. Pieta has spent many years working for the provincial government, managing a number of social service programs, including the Community Volunteer Program and other programs for families at risk. She has served on the Board for a number of non-profit organizations, and many years ago was a City Councillor for the City of Victoria. When she is not at the Johnson Street location she can be found behind her sewing machine, on her bike, or with her nose in a book.

You don't know until you ask!

Please make a special effort at this time to find new helpers.

Especially needed are:

1. Drivers willing to pick up bread from local stores and deliver it to the drop-in centre both on weekends and weekdays. Back-up driver volunteers are also needed.
2. Workers are needed every day: 7am until 3 pm.

Call:

Pandora Street Soup Kitchen: Brian or Peter at 388-7114 or Johnson St. Drop-in Centre: Robert at 385-2454.

Happy Birthday to Volunteers:

Jardy, Margaret, Trish, Audrey, & Lawrence

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

April 15 to April 21, pays special tribute to Canadian volunteers across the country who give of themselves to better their communities and the lives of others. *Volunteers Grow Community* remains the theme for NVW this year as so many of you have commented on its appropriateness for this springtime celebration!

Ruthie Tiessen represented *ourplace* Volunteers along with 8 other agency volunteers as a luncheon guest of Minister Stan Hagen on Monday, April 16th. The delegation was then taken to the gallery of the house and subsequently recognized by the Speaker.



We mourn the passing of **Carol Sonnex**

a valued employee of the CRD Animal Pound and a powerful force in the Greater Victoria Animals' Crusaders (GVAC) and an active participant in the Vets for Pets programme (mentioned in last month's newsletter) which has served the *ourplace* family so well.