



The Alliance of  
THE OPEN DOOR AND THE UPPER ROOM

919 Pandora Ave, Victoria, BC V8V 3P4

# VOLUNTEER'S NEWSLETTER

www.ourplacesociety.com Number 24 - February 15, 2008 Bruce More - Editor

"ourplace Society works in compassionate Christian love with those who are homeless and others in need to enrich and improve the lives of all."



## Out with the old - In with the new!

### A Big Thank-You to Congregation Emanuel!

On the third Thursday of every month members of Congregation Emanuel visit the drop-in centre to celebrate family birthdays for that month. They come laden with black forest cake, ice cream and fruit, and with a musician or two in tow for good measure. Of special note, the birthday boys and girls receive a personalized card wishing them many happy returns on their special day. If you would like to be recognized on your birthday, please sign up at the reception desk at the drop-in centre.

And thank you Congregation Emanuel! Your good cheer and best wishes are much appreciated by all family members.



### DONATIONS:

#### WE NEED:

**Cup / mugs;** towels; bedding; blankets; sleeping bags; ground mats; toiletries (toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, razors, deodorant, brushes and combs); knapsacks; backpacks; small tents, First aid supplies (bandaids) **Socks.**  
**Non-perishable foods:** Canned or other dry packaged foods, coffee, peanut butter & pasta.

### Ask Vickie



When & how will the drop-in centre be moving into the new building at 919 Pandora Avenue?

Dear Gentle Reader,

The drop-in centre (currently located at 713 Johnson Street) is scheduled to move into the new building at 919 Pandora Avenue by late March/early April. Although it is still too early to announce an official opening date, we anticipate having all of our programs and services up and running under one roof by April 15. In addition to the soup kitchen and residents, which moved into the new building on December 12, these programs and services will include the drop-in centre, a coffee bar, a computer lab, a lending library, a games room, a clothing room and a hygiene area. A grand opening celebration will be held, so please stay tuned for more information and details in the days ahead.

Next month's question: What volunteer opportunities will there be at the new building?

### Food Safe Training

Food safe training is being offered to all interested volunteers on Thursday, March 6 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the chapel. Sign-up sheets can be found in the soup kitchen and the drop-in centre. You may also contact Antoinette at 388-7112, extension 243 or at volunteer@ourplacesociety.com to have your name added to the list of registrants.

### A Volunteer Gathering

I would like to invite each and every one of you to a volunteer gathering. In an effort to ensure that you all have an opportunity to attend, I will be hosting two gatherings: Tuesday, March 18 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday, March 20 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. My plan is to share any information I have about the relocation of the drop-in centre and the official opening of the new building. I would also love to hear from each of you. What is working well? What is not working so well? I hope to see you there!

### Calling All Volunteers

In addition to our ongoing efforts to recruit volunteers for the soup kitchen and drop-in centre, we are also currently looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- \* Bread Pick-up
- \* Hygiene Area
- \* Clothing Room
- \* Lending Library
- \* Computer Lab

If any of these current opportunities would be of interest to you, please contact Antoinette at 388-7112, extension 243 or at volunteer@ourplacesociety.com.

### Happy February Birthdays!

Real L., Tracey B., Gilles P., Georgina A.,  
Monica P., Agnes M., Dina, R., Marvin D.  
Sean M., Valerie G., David M.

### Drop-In Hours

A number of volunteers have shown a preference for dropping in to see me, which I greatly appreciate. Unfortunately, I often find myself in meetings and unavailable when you do drop in. Starting Tuesday, February 12 I will be setting aside two hours (from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.) on Tuesday of every week to meet with volunteers on a drop-in basis.

**"Unconditional love given in a non-judgemental way."**