



# Volunteer

## Calling all Christmas Volunteers

We are currently planning a couple of festive events for the Christmas season, and we could really use your assistance.

The **Our Place Holiday Open House** will be held at First Metropolitan United Church on Monday, December 15 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed for shifts between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on that day. Television cameras will be on site when the doors open. Please contact Mary by e-mail at [mmcqueen@uvic.ca](mailto:mmcqueen@uvic.ca) or Antoinette by phone at (250) 388-7112, extension 243.

The **Our Place annual Charles Dickens Christmas Reading** will be held on Friday, December 19 at 7 p.m. at the Alix Gooden Performance Hall. Volunteers are needed to assist with decorating the hall, taking tickets, ushering & serving refreshments. Please contact Antoinette by phone at (250) 388-7112, extension 243 or by e-mail at [volunteer@ourplacesociety.com](mailto:volunteer@ourplacesociety.com) if you are interested in being involved.

## Donations

As we move into colder and wetter weather we are in need of new or lightly used basic adult clothing. **SOCKS**, underwear, more socks, fleece or heavy-weight tops and jeans, socks again, seasonal jackets. We also need **art Supplies**, boardgames, alarm clocks, toiletries, sleeping bags, blankets and coffee mugs. Our library is in need of good **paperback fiction**. If anyone is considering a specific donation for the Christmas season please call reception for information: 388-7112 ext. 221 or [admin@ourplace-society.com](mailto:admin@ourplace-society.com) for any questions regarding donations. If you wish to make a financial donation, please stop by our new building at 919 Pandora Avenue. Our staff will gratefully receive donations, whether by cheque, cash or credit card

## We are always looking for new volunteers

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 \*Reception. If any of these current opportunities is of interest to you, please contact 388-7112, extension 243 or [volunteer@ourplacesociety.com](mailto:volunteer@ourplacesociety.com).



"But we're not homeless. We're on a camping trip."



## On Compassion

How do you feel when you see a homeless person holding a sign asking for money or food? Do you immediately assume that he is a drunk, or she is a drug addict? Do you check to see if your car doors are locked? Do you avert your eyes and hope for the light to turn green so you can drive away and get back to your normal happy life? Or, when you see this person, does something pull at your heart strings, making you wonder what lead him to this current circumstance and how you could help a little? As Saint Thomas Aquinas said, wouldn't you "rather feel compassion" for others, than "know the meaning of it" for yourself? It could be you, or someone you love, who is standing on that corner asking for help someday. People think that the homeless are asking for is charity, but I don't believe that to be the case. When a man or woman gets to a point that they have to stand on the corner on a cold or rainy day with a cardboard sign asking for money or food, I think they are asking for compassion, and it's disheartening to see how little they receive. You don't need to be rich to show someone you care though. You could acknowledge them with a wave or a smile. You can wish them luck or stop back by with a soda or \$10 bag of food. The next time you see someone asking for your help, the important thing is that you act on that feeling of compassion in your heart, rather than on those instincts of fear or assumptions of addiction. Even if its only a short prayer, its better than locking your doors or ignoring that another human being is there and in need of help. 'Do unto others, as you would have done unto you' - not just in good times, but in bad times too.

## Antoinette is back!!!

As many of you may well have heard by now, Gail has moved into the role of Director of Operations following Reverend Dave's recent retirement. We congratulate Gail and wish her well in her new role. In an effort to ease Gail's transition, I have returned to my former role of Volunteer Coordinator. I am looking forward to reconnecting with many of you once again and to meeting many of the new faces that I see working in each of the program areas.

Antoinette

## Thumbs up, Thumbs down:

👍 There is a lot that happens around the world we cannot control. We cannot stop earthquakes, we cannot prevent droughts, and we cannot prevent all conflict, but when we know where the hungry, the homeless and the sick exist, then we can help.

Jan Schakowsky

👎 You know, if I listened to Michael Dukakis long enough, I would be convinced we're in an economic downturn and people are homeless and going without food and medical attention and that we've got to do something about the unemployed.

Ronald Reagan

**For special donations at the Christmas season please contact our reception for suggestions and other information.**

## Ask Vickie

Why is it important for Volunteers to wear their nametags?



Volunteers are asked to wear their nametags while they are working a shift in one of our program areas so that family members, members of the public and other staff and volunteers are able to identify them when they are on duty. Only volunteers on duty (and on the schedule) should be behind the nutrition bar counter, in the kitchen and/or in the enclosed portion of the hygiene area and the clothing room.

Next month's question: Why is it important for volunteers to work only when they are scheduled to do so?