



Volunteer

The Holiday Season

Well, here we are into the first days of 2009, and the dust has started to settle after all of the excitement and busy-ness of the holiday season. Our Place was most fortunate to have an overwhelmingly positive response to our call for volunteers for our holiday programs and special events: the holiday open house on December 15, the Charles Dickens' Reading on December 19 and the End of Year Feast on December 31. Many people also took the opportunity to assist us in one or more of our regular program areas during their vacation time.

I offer my deepest and most heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you who lent a helping hand. Your commitment and dedication are very much appreciated!

Antoinette

Ask Vickie

When will the next volunteer gathering be held?

I am pleased to announce that the next volunteer gatherings have been scheduled. The first gathering will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17 and the second one at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 19. Both gatherings will be held in the Our Place chapel at 919 Pandora Avenue. All volunteers are cordially invited to attend one or both of these gatherings. Coffee, tea and other light refreshments will be served, and volunteers will have an opportunity to check in with Antoinette (the Volunteer Coordinator). What is working well? What is not working so well? Antoinette will also share any updates and information she has and answer your questions.



Next month's question: What will be happening during National Volunteer Week (April 19 to 25, 2009)?



In Los Angeles

Many homeless people -- perhaps as many as 10% -- have pets. Loathe to abandon their companions, many often refuse housing services rather than go into them without their pets.

To address that problem, the nonprofit group PATH next month will open the PetCo Place in Hollywood, a shelter that will house both homeless people and their pets. People will sleep upstairs and their pets downstairs.

Both people and animals can stay as long as they need while they try to get back on their feet and find permanent housing. Advocates say it is the second such shelter in the U.S. The first is in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

- Jessica Garrison

How to reach your Volunteer Coordinator

antoinette@ourplacesociety.com

or

250-388-7112 Ex
tension 243

Please give Antoinette as much notice as possible if you are going to be away and need replacements.

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 heavyweight 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**. Please contact reception by phone at (250) 388-7112, extension 221 or by e-mail at admin@ourplacesociety.com for any questions regarding donations.

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.

Another Volunteer Opportunity

The Victoria International Film Festival, which is being held from January 30 to February 8, is seeking volunteers. More information can be obtained by calling (250) 389-0444 or by visiting their website at www.victoriafilmfestival.com.

A Bit of Inspiration

"Integrity is one of several paths. It distinguishes itself from the others because it is the right path and the only one upon which you will never get lost."

M.H. McKee, Pathways to Peace



"Honey, we're homeless."