



# Volunteer

## Volunteer Committee

The volunteer committee (which is chaired by Antoinette) is looking for volunteer representatives from each of our program areas. If you are a current clothing room, hygiene area, dining room or nutrition bar volunteer who is interested in learning more about this opportunity, please let Antoinette know.

## Volunteer Gatherings

A couple of volunteer gatherings have been scheduled for Tuesday, February 17 at 2 p.m. and Thursday, February 19 at 7 p.m. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. These gatherings are a valuable opportunity to check in and to discuss what is working well and what is not working so well. Please join us!

## Ask Vickie

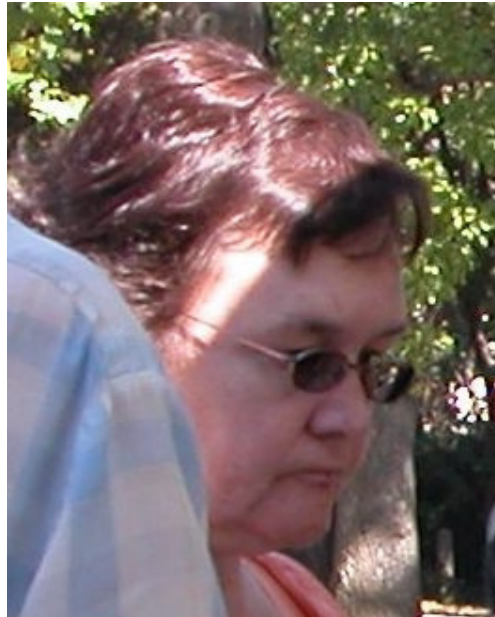
What will be happening during National Volunteer Week?

National Volunteer Week will be held from April 19 to 25, 2009. Volunteer Victoria and a number of other organizations will be hosting special events and programs in celebration of volunteerism in our community.

Please stay tuned for further information!

Our Place is planning to host a volunteer celebration during National Volunteer Week. We could not even begin to do what we do as an organization without your support and assistance. In truth, we could not open our doors every day without you. So this will be our opportunity to say a heartfelt thank-you for choosing to give of your time to Our Place. All current volunteers will be receiving an invitation in the coming days.

Next month's question: What are the Peers Helping Peers (PHP) and Hands-Up programs?



## Linda Balcaen

*Linda Balcaen (one of our long-time clothing room volunteers) passed away on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009.*

Linda was a talented seamstress with a keen fashion sense. Did any of you see her handiwork on her Our Place volunteer t-shirt? A former prairie girl, she enjoyed gardening and reading. Linda was a generous spirit, who shared all that she had with those around her. She deeply loved her children (Nicole, James, Dustin and David), her siblings (Melanie, Shirley, David and Jeannie) and her many grandchildren. Many of us will remember Linda as the friendly face in the clothing room who always had a smile and some encouraging words to share. She has left a tremendous hole in our clothing room and an even bigger hole in many of our hearts.

## How to reach your Volunteer Coordinator

antoinette@ourplacesociety.com  
or 250-388-7112 Ext. 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. Musical instruments and **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.

## January Statistics

Volunteers worked a total of 2,224 hours during the month of January, for an average of 100 hours and 34 volunteers per day. Pretty impressive, eh? The time and commitment you make to volunteering at Our Place Society is truly what allows us to open our doors to our inner-city family each and every day. Thank you!

## A Bit of Inspiration

"Imagination is a prelude to life's coming attractions."  
Albert Einstein

"Don't try to drive the homeless into places we find suitable. Help them survive in places they find suitable."  
Daniel Quinn

"It is in the shelter of each other that the people live."  
Irish proverb

