

The Ourplace



Volunteer

Number 37 - Apr. 15, 2009

Bruce E. More - Editor

"Ourplace" is the Alliance of
The Open Door & Upper Room
919 Pandora Ave, Victoria, BC V8V 3P4

Volunteer Gatherings

The next volunteer gatherings have been scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 2 p.m. and Thursday, April 23 at 10 a.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!

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

*We are
"homeless"
not
"worthless"*



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
APRIL 19 TO 25, 2009

Canadians have a rich history of volunteering and community involvement. Volunteers are on the front lines of all of our community services — community health care, heritage and the arts, maintenance of green space, disaster relief, volunteer firefighting, minor sports.... The list is endless. The work of volunteers is essential work. National Volunteer Week (April 19 to 25, 2009) pays tribute to the millions of Canadian volunteers who donate their time and energy and is this country's biggest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism.

The programs and services that Our-

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

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.

May Training Dates

Our Place will be closing its doors on May 21 and 22 in order to provide an opportunity for staff and volunteers to gather for some much-needed training and team-building activities. Further information will be provided in the days ahead, and all current volunteers will be invited to attend.

Ask Vickie

How do I become an Our Place volunteer?



The first step in becoming an Ourplace volunteer is to come in for an intake session. A small group of prospective volunteers (no more than four or five) is provided with a tour of our facility and, in the process, is given information on our programs and services as well as the very valuable work that our volunteers perform for us. If they are still interested in volunteering after attending an intake session, volunteers complete a registration form, which asks for contact information, the program area they would like to volunteer in and their availability. After that, Antoinette looks at her schedules to see if there is a current opening that will match the volunteer's interests and availability. Two intake sessions are held each week. To sign up for a session, please see Tracy at the reception desk or contact Antoinette directly.

Next month's question:

What training programs are available to volunteers?

place is able to offer to our inner-city family are, without a doubt, made possible by the generous support of our dedicated volunteers. Whether you make sandwiches in our dining room, serve a hot cup of coffee in our nutrition bar, offer someone a shower in our hygiene area, provide a sleeping bag to someone living on the streets through our clothing room, sit on our board of directors, assist with a special event or program — the list goes on and on — we truly could not open our doors without you. We, the staff of Ourplace, tip our hat to you all and offer you a most heartfelt thank-you.



* They have a lot in common, neither of them pay income taxes. *

Unconditional Love in a non-judgemental way