



# Volunteer

## We are always looking for 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.

## Volunteer Gatherings

The next volunteer gathering has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 at 2 p.m. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. The gathering is a valuable opportunity to check in and to discuss what is working well and what is not working so well. Please join us!

## Strategic Plan

The Our Place board approved a new strategic plan at its April board meeting that sets out a long-term goal for the society, along with specific strategic priorities for realizing that goal: financial sustainability; committed staff and volunteers; supportive housing; physical, emotional, mental and spiritual nourishment; outreach services; governance and management; and stakeholder engagement. These priorities will guide and shape our work in the days ahead, and we will be developing specific goals for each priority that include activities and actions, indicators/measures of success and time lines.

The plan also includes a new vision, mission and tag line. Our vision provides a sense of purpose and should inspire and challenge us. A vision typically uses positive (hopeful) language and sets us apart from other organizations and service providers. Our new vision is: Nourishment, hope and belonging for all in Greater Victoria. Our mission outlines how we intend to realize our vision and answers three key questions: what do we do? For whom? And to what end? Our new mission is:

Our Place offers a sense of belonging to Greater Victoria's most vulnerable citizens. We provide a home, nourishment and hope through living, sharing, learning and worshipping together.

Finally, we have a new tag line, a short phrase that will appear on our business cards and letterhead. Our new tag line is: Our Place: hope and belonging.

Our tag line is what defines us, and it will become the public face (what the public will see all the time) of Our Place. Our values and guiding principles, which have been slightly modified, provide clear guidelines on how we will interact with one another (whether a staff member, volunteer or family member) and outline how we will perform our day-to-day work tasks. Copies of the values and guiding principles, as well as the complete strategic plan, can be requested from Antoinette.

## 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.

## Ask Vickie

What training programs are available to volunteers?



Our goal is to have supported, valued and committed volunteers comprised of our inner-city family and community members. Our Place will offer the necessary training and supports to volunteers to ensure that they have the tools and resources they require to perform their roles effectively. Plans are underway for all current volunteers to attend an orientation session in their program area. As well, volunteers are invited to attend a series of training sessions being held on May 21 and 22 as well as food safe training on May 28. Please see the articles in this newsletter for more information on these training opportunities.

**Next month's question:** When can I attend an orientation session?



## May Training Sessions:

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.

The sessions on Thursday, May 21 will include a review of our new mission, vision, values and guiding principles; a team-building exercise; and a harassment awareness training workshop. The sessions on Friday, May 22 will include an overview of some of our human resources policies and our fire and safety procedures; a workshop on performance appraisals; an open discussion and question and answer session; and a workshop on self care.

The sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on both days, and lunch will be provided. Please let Antoinette know if you would like to attend one or both days.