

The Ourplace



Volunteer

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Bruce E. More - Editor

Our Place Society

919 Pandora Ave, Victoria, BC V8V 3P4



Volunteer Spotlight Thelma F

Thelma joined our team of Friday morning dining room volunteers in January of this year and has very quickly become a friendly and welcoming face for our family.

After five years of volunteering for Victoria Hospice, Thelma felt that it was time for something new and found herself drawn to Our Place. She enjoys working with food as well as with our staff and volunteers, and she feels a strong connection to the work of Our Place and our mission, vision, values and guiding principles. Thelma has a 'pure curiosity' and likes to understand how organizations work, a puzzle that the time she is spending in the dining room is allowing her to solve.

One of the challenges Thelma encounters as an Our Place volunteer is the perception of being a 'do-gooder.' She maintains that she is here for selfish reasons and appreciates the opportunity to learn and grow as she interacts with many different people from all walks of life. One of the greatest rewards of her volunteer experience is having the barriers come down as she gets to know members of our family and they get to know and, most importantly, to trust her.

So just who is Thelma F.? In her words, she is "one of 6.5 billion fabulous creatures on this fascinating planet."

How to reach your Volunteer Coordinator

antoINETTE@ourplacesociety.com
or 250-388-7112 Ext. 243

Volunteer Absences

If you know that you are going to be away in advance (for example, for a vacation), please contact Antoinette directly. If you are providing 24 hours' notice, please contact reception at (250) 388-7112 and ask them to let Antoinette and the manager in your program area know of your absence. Thank you for your support!

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.

Personal Belongings

Volunteers are reminded (and strongly encouraged) not to bring personal belongings and valuables with them when they come in for their volunteer shifts. Unfortunately, thefts do occur every now and then, and we are unable to guarantee that your personal items and valuables will be safe here. If you do need to safely secure any belongings, please visit the clothing room, where lockers are provided to volunteers.

Orientation Sessions

Orientation sessions have been scheduled for each program area as follows:

Clothing Room

Wednesday, September 30 (2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Dining Room

Wednesday, September 16 (2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Hygiene Area

Friday, September 18 (2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Nutrition Bar

Friday, October 2 (2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Current volunteers in each of these program areas have received an invitation to attend and are encouraged to confirm their attendance with Antoinette at their earliest convenience. Thank you! Antoinette is also working on an orientation session for reception volunteers. Please stay tuned for further information!

Ask Vickie

What should I do if I know someone who would like to volunteer at Our Place?



If you know someone who would like to volunteer at Our Place, please ask them to contact Antoinette (the volunteer coordinator) or Tracy (in reception) to schedule themselves for an intake session.

Intake sessions are held on Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. Prospective volunteers are given a tour of the facility, which provides an opportunity for us to show (rather than simply to tell) folks about our programs and services as well as the valuable assistance that our volunteers offer to our inner-city family. At the end of the tour prospective volunteers will have an opportunity to fill out a registration form. Antoinette will then follow up (either by phone or by e-mail) to offer the volunteer a placement in one of our program areas — assuming that she has an opening in the schedule that matches the volunteer's preferred placement and availability, of course.

Next month's question: When will the next orientation sessions be held?

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.

Ourplace: Hope and Belonging