Number 7 - March 15, 2010 Bruce E. More - Editor Our Place Society 919 Pandora Ave, Victoria, BC V8V 3P4 The Control of the C



Donations

We are always 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.



4th Anniversary of Volunteer Newsletter

And what a four years it's been. The first newsletter, February 15, 2006 featured, Rev. Dave Stewart and Rev. Al, among others, but most notably our first volunteer coordinator: Thelma Hole. The Open Door's drop-in center was at 713 Johnson Street and the Upper Room was where the courtyard is now. The Open Door had just vacated the former premises of the Victoria Gospel Chapel, which is now the new ourplace building. The "new" hours of operation of the drop-in centre were listed as 7 until 3:30, and the slogan was prominently displayed: "Unconditional love given in a non-judgemental way". What has transpired since that first issue is nothing less than a miracle. Among many other things, the new facility boasts 200 volunteers; many times what we had in 2006.

Editor's Corner

With all <u>due</u> respect to the current polemic surrounding the Conservative Party's interest in gender neutralizing our national anthem, may we humbly offer a solution:

"Oh Canada, our homeless native land"

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. We would respectfully request that volunteers not take heroic measures to come in to volunteer if they are not feeling well. Thank you for your support.

How to reach your Volunteer Coordinator

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

Ask Vickie



How can I make my voice heard and provide feedback on my volunteer placement with Our Place?

Antoinette is always open to speaking with volunteers and to hearing your experiences. You can drop her an email or give her a phone call at any time. If you would like to meet with her in person, she (or Jeannie or Tracy in reception) would be happy to set a mutually convenient meeting day and time with you. In the past volunteer gatherings have also been scheduled every few months, which provide another valuable opportunity for volunteers to provide feedback. Please stay tuned for the next gathering!

Next month's question: what is National Volunteer Week?

Ourplaces Hope And Belonging