

vhes



**THE VICTORIA
HUMAN EXCHANGE
SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

Welcome to our world, a world of
Friendship, where every
meeting of persons can be
an exchange of life's gifts -
a Human Exchange

Edition 100

January-March 2014

YOU are invited to join us for our 22nd Birthday Celebration



and Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY MAY 31st - 1.00pm to 3.00pm

at CHOWN PLACE HALL 3057 Harriet Rd.

Thanks to the generosity of the Chown Place Fellowship

Rose Henry (Photo on left) will speak to us

**Wendy Stewart , entertainer from Comox, who works with
people who are homeless, is planning to come**

If possible, bring finger food & gift for Gift table

**As ours is a grass-roots Society, we want several Directors who personally know
the challenges of poverty/unemployment/addiction/ mental illness, and who have
expertise to share.**

If you are willing to serve, please contact us at: Victoria: 250-857-3905, (Linda).

250-920-5056, (Patricia) 250-668-6008-in Nanaimo.

**Thank you to all those who helped Rose Henry raise money for her trip to El Salvador
by purchasing *Hope in the Shadows* Calendars and buying tickets in the raffle for
crafted silver ear-rings donated by local artist Chance Gersinghaus.
The winners of this raffle were Chelle Donovan and Diana (from Paul's Motor Inn).**

**Rose is going to El Salvador to speak about indigenous rights on the 82nd
anniversary of the massacre of 30,000 indigenous people for their land. She also
hopes to encourage them to get out and vote.**

THINGS WE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE

-- Volunteers and financial gifts ---

**these are the greatest needs of our totally volunteer "family of friends"
It takes \$20,000. monthly to maintain our 8 houses.**

House Reports – Victoria and Sidney

Charlie Pyott House:

Thanks to compassionate facilitator, Steve F., for buying a second turkey from his own meagre funds and inviting more than a dozen young people from AA/NA to come to the House to enjoy dinner and socialize. This is the kind of support people need when they are recovering from misuse. Many thanks to Churches and Individuals who contributed

Father Michael J. McGivney House:

Several generous donations were received over Christmas from the Knights of Columbus, including wonderful hampers delivered to the men by Paul Redchurch with special bon-bons from the children at St Patrick's school. New facilitator Brian thanks all the donors and also thanks Owner Ken Gibson for speedy maintenance on the house, plus monetary gifts through United Way from the Naden Military band.

Edith Gulland House:

The women at this Victoria House face challenges of various kinds and appreciate the support given them during their stay. They have been referred through Transition houses, the Cridge and Sandy Merriman House..sometimes by self-referral. Over Christmas, many gifts of Hampers and household supplies were received from various church groups and individuals—we thank them all..Special thanks to Wes M. Who can be relied to help us by picking up the mail from the P.O., banking funds and dropping off messages at various houses while distributing Society literature to remind donors of our great need for funds.. What would we do without you Wes. Linda. M.

Judy Thomas House:

We sincerely thank Holy Trinity Church volunteers for the wonderful hampers for all our Houses at Christmas time. The Owners, Jeanette and Sandy remain very supportive and generous. Our warm thanks to all donors, and especially Doug Bateman of Marks Work Warehouse for warm boots for Marie. We have vacancies at the House just now so if you know someone who would like to live in Sidney, please give them the house number: 250-656-6242. Erin. B.

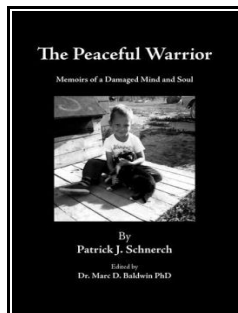
Fran Thibeau House:

The men who live at this Sidney House appreciate the camaraderie especially around the great Christmas celebration which was enjoyed by all and for that we thank Holy Trinity Church volunteers and St Vincent de Paul Society for donations. David S.



**Here are the individual brush strokes in the Valentine's Day Heart Poster.
(See Gulf Islands Insert)
Stephen Glanville, Art Rosette and Linda Jim all painted using only a tiny brush – very symbolic of the small, very loving beginning of our Society when people from different circumstances of life gathered at the Fernwood Community Garden in Victoria to talk about the deaths happening on the street (notably Larry Baker) and to seek solutions.
It was believed that *sharing life's gifts* could close the gap between the haves and have-nots; so the name chosen for our Society was:
the Victoria Human Exchange Society.**

LETTER BOX:



“Always thinking of you and the demand for your work. You are doing a vital service for those whom otherwise be may be forever lost into the dark cracks of society. Much love!!!” Patrick Schnerch.

This unique testimonial was received from a recovering addict facing many challenges who stayed with us at McGivney House until he found independent housing:

VHES is EEEE

Hello my name is Eric, and you may wonder why I have eluded to VHES being EEEE. Please allow me to explain:

Entrust;

VHES recently granted me a second chance, and for this I will be forever grateful. This unique non for profit organization entrusted me with being a responsible adult by simply offering me choices. I adhere to the house rules, and am held accountable for my own recovery, behaviour, and actions.

Enlighten:

I unite with the other occupants in the home to both express, and explore each individual's unique journey in an effort to understand what works, and what doesn't work as far as maintaining a balanced and sober life. This is enlightening!

Empowerment:

Victoria Human Exchange has provided me a sanction, whereby, I have been granted a second chance at life, a place to call home, and a great network of resources and support. Nothing is more empowering than regaining one's life and happiness back.

The last “E” is for me, and as I mentioned my name is **Eric**, your generous donation(s) to VHES are so desperately needed so many just like me can once again feel dignified to walk amongst the rest of society.

Blessings, EW.

To Whom it May Concern,

For over fifty years, I have lived, worked and been an active member of both the professional and volunteer communities of Greater Victoria - using my time, talents and limited financial resources to help youth and less-fortunate members of our society. Many of my support activities were and continue to be done in concert with my wife Eileen, our children and grandchildren.

My involvement with the **Victoria Human Exchange Society** started about fifteen years ago. Since then, I have advocated for the Society's goals and for its clients - raising funds and community awareness regarding the need for safe, temporary housing, within a welcoming and supportive environment, for people in crisis. Unfortunately, all of my contributions and efforts are but a 'drop-in-the bucket' when it comes to addressing the actual need.

The purpose of this letter is to request that you consider whether or not you too might be able to offer some assistance – financial or otherwise - to support VHES and its dedicated volunteers and supporters in their collective mission of caring.

Regrettably, VHES doesn't have the high profile of many worthy causes nor does it enjoy celebrity or media endorsement. The support which the Society does receive – moral, physical and financial – is due, in large part, to the dedication of its volunteer board and an eclectic group of community, church and individual sponsors who have opened their hearts and their wallets, in an attempt to address the need for crisis housing in the various communities where a VHES home has taken root. Recognition must also be given to those supportive landlords who have made their properties available at affordable prices.

I encourage you to consider how you might be able to assist the **Victoria Human Exchange Society** and those members of your community who are beneficiaries of the Society's caring and sharing outreach program. Thank you for considering my request.

Paul Redchurch

Poetry Corner:

May your days be warm,
may you find love and security
may the next person that you pass
on the street be the one who
holds out their hand and leads you to
a warm healthy place in your life
may you live and practise life as you dream it
should be. Love, Roxi

SINCERE THANKS TO:

- **Nanaimo Knights Council #3842** for a gift towards setting up Mary Gordon House—apologies for wrongly attributing this gift to Council #9990 in our last newsletter.
- **Sara Spencer Foundation** for welcome grant to sustain our Houses.
- **The Knights of Columbus, St Patrick's Council #7934 and the BC Charity Foundation** for substantial gifts to the *Father Michael J. McGivney House*
- **Sisters of St Ann, Provincial Sisters**, for supporting our new application to *Esther's Dream* .
- **Generous financial support** from **Lois M.; Liz O.; Aideen & Ivor; Rex Pendril.B.** (in memory of dear Betty); **Gordon S; Marilyn M; David & Marj L.; Ian & Catherine C; Paul R.; Margaret K.**
- **John & Peggy T.** generous gift in memory of **Frances Thibeau**.
- **Saunders Sales and Service**, with thanks to **Bob S. and Ken H.**
- Through **Canada Helps** from: **Susan D.; Kathy T.; Grant S. Elizabeth F. (Australia);** and others.
- **Jeanette and Sandy S. of Pt Alberni** for generous donation.
- **Individuals and groups** who have sent support and who are not mentioned here.
- **First Unitarian, Holy Trinity Church, St Dunstan's Gordon Head and Sacred Heart** for regular help.
- **Provincial Employees** for designated donations from employees pay packages.
- **Donna T** the new president of **Saint V. de P. in Sidney** for wool blankets and vouchers for clothing, footwear and curtains for *Judy Thomas House*.
- **Pauline M.** and friends for many gifts especially donations to Mary Gordon House at the Nanaimo Branch (see Insert).
- Funds through **United Way** from **Naden Military Band** and **Anonymous**.
- **Ken G.--** Maintenance at both Houses. **Doug B. of Marks Work Wearhouse** – warm boots.
- **Wes M.** for many public relations tasks, including pick up of Christmas food and gifts
- **Brian S. and Kirk H.** for taking care of *McGivney House*. **Steve F.** for great generosity in caring for the guys at Charlie Pyott House over Christmas.
- **Jill C.** for persevering with financial services in spite of illness. **Tim D.** for much support.
- **Jo-Anne L.** for your excellent secretarial work and generous gifts to the Houses.
- **All volunteers**, especially **facilitators**, and all **Landlords** for sharing life's gifts.
- See **Inserts** for gratitude to **donors in Gulf Islands & Nanaimo**.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia.

The Human Exchange now has a presence on Facebook and at time of printing we had 121 friends signed up. If you do Facebook please support us and tell others about it.

facebook

Go to our Homepage on our web-site www.humanx.org and sign in

DONATIONS to Victoria Human Exchange Society : Box 8534 - Victoria BC - V8W 3S1

Pager # GREATER VICTORIA : 361-2762 *Anywhere else in North America: 1-800-691-9366*

Cell phones Linda 250-857-3905 Patricia: 250-920-5056 Web-site: www.humanx.org

Please note that anyone who wishes to donate to our Society on line may do so through the *Canada Helps button* on the Home page of our Web-site.

