



AGM and Celebration of our 19th Birthday

We are planning early for our 2011 AGM and it will be an exciting one as we have been invited to create a Branch or Chapter of VHES in Nanaimo to serve up Island. Leanne Salter of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development appreciated the Human Exchange houses when she worked for the Ministry in Victoria. When she went to Nanaimo she saw the gap in services. Transitional type housing is greatly needed in that area and Leanne, who has experience spearheading new ventures, has offered to do the groundwork- applying for funds; engaging Board members; and finding a sympathetic Owner from whom to rent. Leanne can be reached at: 250-751-7364.

**Mark your calendars now: SATURDAY MAY 28th -1.00pm to 3.00pm
at the CENTENNIAL UNITED CHURCH on Gorge Rd.(Entrance 612 David St.)**

Board Members for 2011-2012: We have already had willing people offer their services as Directors... but we need more--As ours is a grass-roots Society, we want several Directors who personally know the challenges of poverty/unemployment/addiction and mental illness as well as others who come from different circumstances of life who have gifts to share. Especially we need a treasurer! If you are willing to serve, please contact us at: 250-920-5056, Patricia or 250-857-3905, Linda.



The children of the Peace Club at Holy Trinity Church Sunday School (Katie, Sive, Cor, and Marguerite) held a sale to raise money to buy Christmas gifts for the men and women staying at our two Sidney Houses. They took photos and sent this one of David the Facilitator at Frances Thibeau House gratefully receiving the gifts. The women at Judy Thomas House were equally grateful and also received photos and a lovely card. Thank you children for sharing life's gifts!

Please see page 4 for thanks to many others who brightened Christmas for the less fortunate.

THINGS WE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE:

**Lawn Mower ~ Grass Whip ~ Garden tools ~ Seeds /Plants ~ Art Supplies
Bed ~ Dressers ~ Printer ~ Storage container for donated goods that can be
used for a new women's house in Victoria**

Financial help with our Annual House Insurance cost of \$3234.00

SINCERE THANKS TO ALL DONORS!

WATCH SHAW CABLE, THE DAILY ON CH.11 FOR A PROGRAM FILMED IN ONE OF OUR MEN'S HOUSES ABOUT THE NEED FOR FUNDS FOR TRANSITIONAL TYPE HOUSING. THANK YOU TO ALL THE FOLK AT SHAW CABLE FOR YOUR SUPPORT. ESPECIALLY JENNIFER, HILLARY, JAMES AND ALL OTHER SHAW STAFF INVOLVED.



ART SHOW in support of VHES

Victoria artist Paul Redchurch, a long-time supporter of VHES, has approached the board seeking approval to dedicate an upcoming show and sale of his works in support of the VHES vision and the on-going implementation of that vision. The show will run for the month of October 2011 at Goward House on Arbutus Road in Saanich. More details will be provided as they unfold.

In making this offer to VHES, Mr Redchurch said that he was inspired by the Human Exchange vision of - A partnership of human beings - all with gifts to be shared.

"I wish to be a practical partner in your vision by sharing my 'God-given gift' in order that it might assist VHES in it's outreach program of providing both housing and hope" to the less fortunate in our community.

Mr Redchurch stated in his offer that he will donate ALL revenue (less gallery fees) from the sales of his paintings to VHES. Mark your Calendars now and watch for further details!!

LETTER BOX

A tribute to Rose Henry:

When I moved the first time to Victoria about 8 years ago, I was walking past the Armouries about Christmas time and I will never forget seeing a great line up of people there. Of all the people and myself toting bags, Rose came up to me and asked me where I was going (Sandy M at that time) and invited me into Armouries for Christmas dinner. I'll remember her always for that!!

From Rose Henry:

I am going to be out trying to sell the street newz on Government near View street as I am struggling to pay my bills. I have started working on call for a community service agency. I only have four shifts for the month of Feb. I am supposed to take my class four driver license is I want to continue to work for this company. I am needing \$55.00 to do the exam, In addition to \$115.00 I need for cellphone-which I need because I am on call with this company.

NOTE: Rose spoke eloquently at our last AGM about the plight of homeless First Nations people in Victoria. She is a tremendous advocate for homeless persons and has a need for support in her own life. To contact Rose: email: rose@homelessnation.org

News about 3 Founding Directors of the Human Exchange

Rev. Lawrence Moon writes of the loss of his dear wife:

Evelyn passed away suddenly and peacefully on July 13, 2010 surrounded by her loving family. She was the love of my life and my best friend. I miss her everyday but I know our spirits will be together again someday. Love, Lawrence Our deepest sympathy and prayers, Lawrence.



MARY GORDON has moved to London Ontario to be near her family members....she writes: "Well we did get through a big year but still know our efforts for those we helped were worth it. I hope I get settled. Do keep in touch re new and old Houses which fulfil the needs of so many who do their best. " Love always, Mary Gordon.

PAULINE STILES, who now lives in England, writes: "Have to admit I am not 'firing on all cylinders'-losing my sight etc but I suppose I cannot grumble (but of course I do) seeing that I am 93 next month! " Love, Pauline
---- Birthday cards were sent to Pauline and to Mary Gordon----

Our love and prayers to all of you as we expand the Society you began in 1992

HOUSE REPORTS

Charlie Pyott House:

I am very happy to report that everyone living here is doing great in their transition to get their lives back. One gentleman is getting hired by the shipyards soon, and is very active going to several meetings a week. Another gentleman is working at the new Streetlink as a outreach worker, and hoping to be working full-time there within a few months. And there is one guy who has been here only a month or so, but I can already see he is more outgoing, and confident in himself. We also had a gentleman who moved on to facilitate the house next door, and is very confident that he can do the job by staying firm but fair, and to treat everyone there as he would like to be treated. This house is priceless in what it offers people who stay here. All the gentlemen who have stayed here have told me that if it wasn't for this place they would not have made it in their recovery as far as they have.

Brian

Fr. Michael J. McGivney House:

This house, which owes its existence to the Knights of Columbus, houses six men and at the moment is experiencing a change of facilitator. Our warm thanks to the outgoing and incoming facilitators for your generous help in making this a home for those who need support as they face many challenges and seek permanent housing. Thanks to the St Patrick's Council for the great hamper delivered before Christmas. Thanks to our landlord Ken for all the improvements he constantly makes; and to SHAW cable for helping to make known the need for transitional Housing.

Men of McGivney House

Frances Thibeau House

For those who are interested in financially supporting VHES transitional housing, I'd like to send to you a word of encouragement by sharing with you how much hope & confidence has been given to me from the people with & associated with the Human Exchange. Some of the warm hearted donors that I can't help thanking again are:

- 1) the ladies and children of Holy Trinity Church for their Christmas cheer & gifts,
- 2) Joe Rigby of St Vinny's for kindly putting "welcome" food hampers together on very short notice for our new occupants,

- 3) Erin, from the Sidney women's house, for finding us men some donated clothes,
- 4) the volunteer coordinators who put the donations to work to provide the necessary services & maintenance for the house
- 5) the Human Exchange's board of directors who take the time to think & weigh the costs of what can be provided.
- 6) our generous landlords who really care!

Thanks from all of us at the Francis Thibeau Men's House for giving us a place to regroup before we can continue to contribute again.

David

Judy Thomas House

Things are running smoothly here --after a short time of being an empty house, we are slowly filling up. One lady is seeing her children on a regular basis. Our newest occupant is feeling more settled and doing what needs to be done to get employment and get medical things done. Another is getting geared up for a new course starting soon, and taking necessary steps to get everything in order before it begins.

*Thanks Sandy for our new roof, we appreciate the generosity of such a kind and sympathetic landlord. As well a thank you from myself to the society for considering me as new facilitator, will do my best to keep the house a safe and happy place. Thanks to all the generous people for donations of some wonderful things that were greatly needed. A new TV, VCR, clothing, bedding and towels. Let's hope we can begin to get some *much needed funding for the society to cover costs of utilities* to keep our homes warm and cozy in this cold and wet season.*

Thank you Erin B.

Edith Gulland House

There are six women housed at this Victoria women's house. The Owner is very satisfied with our tenancy and the way we maintain her property. The neighbours say it's the quietest house on the street!

We hope to raise funds for a second women's house and SHAW cable is assisting by filming at one of our men's houses this time. We need \$5000. for set-up costs. Tell your friends to watch SHAW Daily on Channel 11 and respond as generously as they can. The need for transitional housing is enormous.

Linda M.

SINCERE THANKS TO:

- **Paul R.** for generous fundraising offer (see page 2) and for all your advocacy Paul.
- **Liz O.** for phone cards for people to contact their families at Christmas time.
- **Alice G. and Rose R.** for wonderful donations to Judy Thomas House shared with the Victoria Women's house.
- **Stephanie** for dresser, china cabinet, bed and household items.
- **Bonnie and Bob** for wonderful gifts of linens, electronic equipment and clothes dropped off at Judy Thomas House in Sidney.
- **The Knights of Columbus of St Patrick's** for invitation to give a talk at their meeting and for two cheques to support the men living at the Father Michael J. McGivney House in Victoria. *Thanks Linda and Wes for addressing this group.*
- **Lois M.** who is back to attending meetings AND giving financially! Thanks Lois!!
- Financial support also from the **Paul R.; David and Marj. L.; Sid T.; Mona M.; Aideen L.; Terry and Wendy K.; Rev. Lawrence M.;** *a specially appreciated cash donation from Reine deG.*
- **End of the Roll** for donation of underlay for an area rug.
- Designated funds through the **United Way** from the **Naden Military band** and **Federal Superannuates. PECSF** for designated funds.
- **Thrifty Foods** for monthly funds arising from people using their VHES Smile Cards when shopping. Thank you to **Leanne** for taking some to Nanaimo.
- **Our Landlords and all the Facilitators** without whom people could not receive the blessing of housing. **Colleen B.** for accepting a tax receipt in lieu of some rent.
- **The Unitarian Church** for your Lifeline project for rent for persons without funds.
- **Jim B and Larry for their computer project** which helps low income persons obtain working computers. **Phone: Jim: 250-474-3446 /Larry: 250-382-1266**
- *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 15 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 250-920-5056 250-857-3905 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.

