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**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 97

April--June 2013

Reminder

**YOU are invited to join us for our 21st Birthday Celebration
and Annual General Meeting**

SATURDAY JUNE 8th - 1.00pm to 3.00pm

at CHOWN PLACE HALL 3060 Harriet Rd.

Thanks to the generosity of the Chown Place Fellowship

**We will again invite Rose Henry to speak to us & Stephen Glanville to multi-task!!
Wendy Stewart, entertainer from Comox, who works with people who are
homeless, is planning to come with Nathan and Gary!**

If possible, please bring finger food and a gift for the Gift table

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

**If you are willing to serve, please contact us at: Victoria: 250-857-3905, (Linda).
250-920-5056, (Patricia) 250-668-6008-in Nanaimo.**

THINGS WE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE

**House supplies such as light bulbs, garbage bags, laundry deterg.,
toilet paper, cleaners.**

**Saucepans, large roasting pan, blender, dish towels and cloths,
cutlery and sharp knives.**

Comforters, wall pictures, throw rugs

Bedroom curtains approximately 6 ft. in length and 4ft. In depth



**We are so happy to hear that Jo-Anne our devoted
secretary who has been so ill is *now able to drive again.*
No wonder Mark looks so happy!
Jo-Anne and Mark have shared life's gifts with
many people and at many houses.
Thank you both**

THRIFTY FOODS has approved us for another year of SMILE CARD fund raising to a limit of \$1500.00!

So please use your Smile Cards when you go shopping at Thrifty Foods



OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THRIFTY FOODS

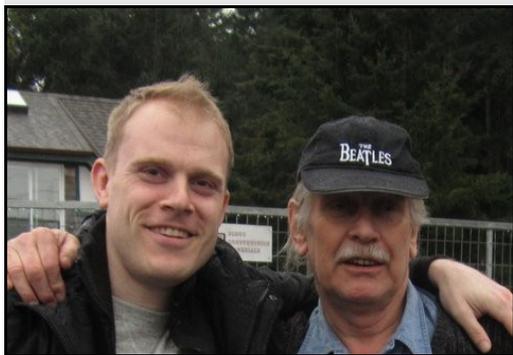
BIRTHDAYS

There are many April/May/June Birthdays that we want to acknowledge. Founder, Stephen G. had a visit from his son Toby to celebrate ahead of the real day:

9th April (photo left)

On 26th April: Birthday of Dakota, who is the granddaughter of Judy Thomas—her mother, Roberta, often chats with us through facebook. Also **April 26th** is our Nanaimo Branch Board member, Elaine B's Birthday, while on **May 5th**, both our Treasurer Jill C. and Board member Susan D. celebrate.

On 26th May, Jo-Anne L.; June 12th Don W.



Stephen, Birthday boy with son Toby

POETRY CORNER

Prayer For Giving (submitted by Jo-Anne)

God, give me **eyes** that I might see,
the work that can be done by me.

God, give me **ears** that I might hear,
the cry of those who need me near.

God, give me **lips** that I might speak,
comfort and peace to all who seek.

God, give me **hands** that I might do,
some large or simple task for You.

And this one thing, **all else above:**

God, give me a **heart** that I might love.

Martin Buxbaum

Poem of the year

Submitted by Peppermint Patti of Chown Place.

The computer swallowed Grandma,
Yes, honestly it's true!
She pressed 'control and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.
I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Mr. Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online.'
So, if inside your 'Inbox,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy, Scan' and 'Paste' her,
And send her back to me.

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas & Grandpas, Nannas & Pops, who have been fearless and learned to use the Computer.....They are the greatest!

HOUSE REPORTS:

Francis Thibeau House – Sidney:

All of the guys living here are doing very well because they are becoming convinced that they are safe from their "demons" that brought them here & they are starting to feel safe about moving forward..They talk, laugh & help each other which is great to see.

With the blossoming of the trees, and warmer weather, it actually feels good mowing the lawn because it just looks good & smells great; something the guys appreciate because it's been a long time since they have been able to enjoy it & a LOT more outdoor living..

I would like to specially thank our town councilman, Tim Chad, & our other councilmen & women, for taking the time to understand & promote the efforts & hard work of the good people in the Victoria Human Exchange Society. Thanks to our landlord and donor of many gifts, Aaron. And thanks to St Vincent de Paul and St Elizabeth's Parish for concern that we have all we need. Dave, Facilitator

Charlie Pyott House , Victoria:

The guys at this House continue to make progress. One is beginning a Camosun College course that will equip him for work in the field of Mental Health and Addictions. They are very keen of keeping the House looking good and doing small maintenance tasks. Alan continues to work the kitchen garden which is great for everyone. Thanks for all the donations that keep our House and the Society going .

Steve, Facilitator

Fr. Michael J. McGivney House – Victoria:

The Knights of Columbus have again sent welcome assistance from two sources—one, Paul Redchurch's daughter Janette whose students at St Patrick's school donated \$600.00 that they raised themselves. And the second was the Knights Victoria Council who gave from their fund raising efforts throughout 2012. We are very sorry that Wayne the Facilitator has been so ill this last month and we pray that he

gets his strength back soon. The men in the House have kept things going and the house looks good inside and out.

Judy Thomas House, Sidney:

This House is full and the girls are moving ahead with looking for Long term housing and putting in resumes for work. We are fortunate to have a hairdresser in the house who hopes to find work in Sidney.

Its nice to see spring finally and everyone has had a part in mowing the lawns and caring for the house. I would to thank Shirley Rigby and St Vincent de Paul Society for their generous donation so that we were able to have a wonderful turkey dinner for Easter.

All of us will chip in for spring cleaning and get into those corners. Would like to thank Sandy and Jeanette. We are lucky to have landlords who take pride in the house and property, keeping everything in working order.....I know others who aren't so lucky to have great landlords.

Would be happy to receive any pots or pans and a good sized roaster. Shirley Rigby has said to me to write down what we need and she can help from St Vincent de Pauls. Thanks to all who offer help to people in need . Erin, Facilitator

Edith Gulland House

The new residents have settled in and are very appreciative of their rooms and the housing VHES provides while they restart their lives on a more positive note.

I get calls from past residents, from time to time, to let me know how they are doing; and, recently one gal told me she is entering her last year at trade school to become a certified electrician, another is now a nail esthetician; and, another will be heading to India to become an English as a second language teacher.

We wish to "thank" our generous and thoughtful landlord, Gord W., for always being there for us. The washer & dryer had already caused floods in the basement and had been repaired a couple of times; so, you can imagine how happy we were when a truck pulled up with a brand new set for us... Now all I need is the grass cut; and, I will be happy as a clam! Thank you to all our donors and supporters...without you there would be no us.

Linda

SINCERE THANKS TO:

- **Generous regular Financial support** from the **Doyle family; Kathy T.; Annley K., Lois M.**
- **Generous local help** from **D and C Marine** through **Sheila C. of the 9/10 Club.**
- **Patrick J** of the **Island Catholic News** for assisting with fund raising through printing articles in the paper.
- **Catherine C** and **Rex Pendril B** for always keeping us in mind.
- **Sisters of St Ann** for promise of further help when new house is planned.
- **The Knights of Columbus**, for welcome funds from the **students at St Patrick's** prompted by **Paul R.** and daughter **Janette R.** Also **Victoria Council** (see McGivney House Report)
- **Pauline M.** for many household and clothing gifts for many people in our houses.
- **First Unitarian Church** for generous giving from **Share the Plate fund!**
- Funds through **United Way** from **Naden Military Band.**
- **Wayne D**, facilitator of McGivney House, who has serious health problems
- **Susan D.** for continuing work on our society brochure. Wes for photos.
- **Steve**, Facilitator of Charlie Pyott House, for caring for each man & helping them forward.
- **All volunteers** especially **facilitators** and all **Landlords** for sharing of life's gifts.
- See also **Newsletter Inserts** for gratitude to **donors in Gulf Islands and 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 76 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.*

