



Salt Spring Island/Mayne Island Branches **THE GIFT EXCHANGE**

Some of our members and supporters enjoying a Mayne Island retreat day....

Sincere thanks to: Michele, Jim, Yvette, Pat, Viola, Lois, Gillian, Reine and many others for wonderful monthly Gatherings, so empowering and nurturing.



Homelessness on Salt Spring Island.

At a meeting called by Land Bank representative, Neddy Harris, held at the Ganges Anglican Church on Feb. 24th, VHES board member Margaret (Macie) Pring gave a talk about our activities on SSI. She told the audience that included Island Trust and CRD representatives how the SSI Branch of the VHES has responded to the need for short-term housing on Salt Spring Island since 1994. Macie talked about the philosophy of the Society which emphasizes respect for and solidarity with those who are homeless in the knowledge that losing a job or home can happen to anyone these days. Those who are comfortably off are asked by our Society to share with those who have 'fallen on hard times' in the spirit of an 'exchange of life's gifts.'

Thanks to the generosity of the owners of our houses we have rented **Grandma's House** (for men) and **Bittancourt Manor** (for women). The first Grandma's House(1994) has given way to a new home purchased and leased to the Human Exchange by the SSI Land Bank Society. Bittancourt Manor, was initiated in 1996 under the name of Charlie Pyott House to accommodate 3 seniors whose facility, Autumn House, was closing until the made the transition to other facilities for seniors. Macie explained how the Human Exchange operates--as a family of friends; what our Guidelines are for housing applications; and how to contact us. Her talk was warmly received. *Thank you Macie!*



THANK YOUs FROM THE GULF ISLANDS

- **The Anglican Parish Outreach** for their monthly gift to subsidize rents and utilities, without which we could not offer dignified and affordable accommodation to those facing housing challenges.
- Financial donations from the **Catholic Women's League** of Our Lady of Grace; and **Sally and Charles B.**
- **Mark S.** of Pender for monthly donation to assist persons with mental illness.
- **Margaret B.** for once again preparing post dated cheques to assist us with the monthly expenses--a much appreciated gesture Margaret. And thank you for the GVM tapes; the many little gifts of all kinds that you gather for us; for taking an interest in Artists in our houses and most recently--for a Bequest in your Will.
- **The Pedersen Family** who prepared wonderful stockings for everyone in all of our houses.
- **Palu** for composing songs about homelessness and our Homes. He hopes his CDs will sell to raise money for the Society. Thanks Palu for making this gesture in gratitude for living at Grandma's House
- **Irene C.** and **Rod.B** for obtaining a bed for Grandma's House from the **Lions Club of SSI**. And for delivering a table and chairs and household goods from the estate of **Marjorie H.** who passed away recently.
- **Neddy** of the **Land Bank Society** for continued fundraising for the needs of homeless people on SSI.
- **Macie P.** for working to set up a *VHES Committee on Salt Spring Island*; for representing us with the Anglican Church; and also for advocacy and generous service for persons facing housing challenges.
- **Ganges Village Market** for bread and baked goods. **Macie, Jean K.,** and **Joan** for pick up and distribution.
- **Imagen** for free Internet Access; **Cablelan** for discounted internet access.
- **David** and all who live at Grandma's House for all your co-operation in keeping the house free of drugs and alcohol.
- **All** whose names we have missed but who have 'shared life's gifts'. **We thank you!**

MAYNE ISLAND BRANCH

- **Christie M.** for spreading the word that we are often glad to receive items people want to clear out of their homes.
- **Joanna W.,** and the **Mayne Isl. Thrift Store** for further bags of linens and towels.
- **Sue E.** for kitchenware; clothing and footwear, kindly delivered. **Myra C.** for bags of clothes.
- **Joyce K.** for lovingly sharing her new lambs with tiny visitors and for gifts of produce.
- **Yvette** for pick up and delivery of many gifts to be shared with those less materially fortunate and for many kind actions. Also for finding much needed help for widow
- **Ernie R.** for further household goods, sports equipment, books, a vacuum cleaner, and lawn mower.
- *Financial donations:* **Lazlo B ; Yvette B.; Patricia F.; Elizabeth T.**
- **Remax** for donation of photocopying.
- **Sunny Mayne Bakery** for gift of breads and baked goods generously given for the working poor.
- **Monica** of **MonicaWorks** for keeping our web- site (whose design she donated) up to date.
- **Lina B.** for much advice and extra accounting for Fundraising Applications
- *All who have dropped off goods anonymously or whom we missed. We thank you all.*

In the Gulf Islands, Monetary gifts may be mailed (with memo re: usage) to:
384 Fulford-Ganges Rd. SSI, BC, V8W 2K1

Email: grandmas@saltspring.com
Outside Victoria Society pager: **1-800-691-9366**
On Mayne and Outer Islands: Tel: 539-5310

<http://www.humanx.org>