



THE GIFT EXCHANGE

2nd . Quarter , 2008

Issue 49

HOMELESSNESS TO BE ALLEVIATED Dreams become Reality

Congratulations to the Community Services; the Land Bank and Murakami Gardens for making such strides towards providing supportive housing for low income Salt Spring Islanders. Several programs are now emerging from dream to reality, notably the Murakami Gardens which is taking renters in July/ August 2008.

The Dean Rd project has operated for some time and several other initiatives are just around the corner. We especially praise the efforts of the Land Bank, through Neddy Harris, for not only raising the funds to provide a new venue for Grandma's House in 2006, but for always seeking new and better ways of providing supportive housing to the hardest to house on Salt Spring Island, and for all the advocacy done in the Community.

The VHES serves those who are in temporary need while awaiting permanent Housing. We have served Salt Spring in this capacity since August 1994. It is possible that one day Salt Spring will be able to serve all the needs of its homeless community, allowing VHES to concentrate on Victoria and other urban communities. But for now the need remains, so our Society's SSI Branch activities remain relevant on SSI.

Things we would be glad to receive.

Chests of drawers are needed for a family with several children.

Lawnmower for the women's house on SSI.

Plants for the Garden at Bittancourt Manor. Please phone 1-800-691-9366 if you can help.

The Smile Card Program: Thrifty Foods has accepted our application to benefit from the Smile Cards for another year. Remember to load the card and pay with it when shopping.

We have more cards to give out, so if you can help, please page **Patricia at 1-800-691-9366**

Cell: 920-5056. On SSI phone Nancy Wigen: 537-1041

Mayne Island Branch News:

Chapel Gatherings:

Monthly Gatherings to share spiritual gifts and to give support to those who are marginalized:

More info: *Outside Victoria:* --1-800-691-9366

On Mayne Island-- Phone 539-5310 E mail: grandmas@saltspring.com

Many thanks for taking part in "the exchange of life's gifts"!

***** Patricia would like to thank all those compassionate people who helped her *****
with the grandchildren after she fractured her wrist in a fall.

Our sincere thanks to:

Thrifty Foods for the regular cheques from the Smile Card program. Thanks to all who use the cards to raise money for VHES-SSI Branch..

Financial Gifts: Those who support the **Thrifty Foods Smile Card** program; **The Salt Spring Foundation** for funds to buy equipment and supplies in the recent year. **Margaret B** and **Mark S** for monthly support. **GVM** for Grocery Tape program.

Peter of Village Electric for fine work done cheerfully at Bittancourt. Thanks for all the advice.

Irene C. for all the wonderful gifts and GVM tapes. **Margaret B.** for many useful gifts

Palu B. for much work done to clean the women's house inside and out. **Rainer** for interest in making Grandma's House look as good as possible.

Cherie of Copper Kettle for boxes of food cheerfully delivered. And to the **Community Services Food Bank.**

Macie P. for advocacy and support offered to many people in our houses and in the other SSI programs for those who are poor and marginalized by mental illness..

Imagen for continued free Internet Access and excellent technical support..

All whose names we have missed but who have 'shared life's gifts'. **We thank you**

MAYNE ISLAND BRANCH.

Pat R. for two bags of ladies clothes, a bag of little girls clothes, and two small duvets.

McDonalds of Spinnaker for gifts of furniture and linen and other useful items.

Jason M. for pick-up of beds and of other furniture provided by the **Knights of Columbus Garage sale at St Elizabeth's in Sidney.** **Bob** for offer of couch and small tables.

Malcolm and Bob for gift of a wood stove to the Chapel. **Remax** for free photocopying.

Colleen F. at ALEA for printing our Chapel Notices and AGM booklets.

Financial Gifts from **Yvette Buziak** , **Laszlo B.** and **Chapel users.**

Grant B. for more men's clothes, footwear and suitcases. Much appreciated in our Houses.

Dawne C for much support and willingness to pick up items from donors.

Joyce K. for regular gifts of produce much appreciated by people in the houses..

Lina B. for Society Accounting and much advice and encouragement.

Joanna W., and the **Mayne Isl. Thrift Store** for further bags of linens and towels.

Charlie G. for single bed; **Raffi** for TV for Chapel and **Peter J.** for lots of volunteering.

*All who have dropped off goods anonymously or whom we missed. **We thank you all.***

In the Gulf Islands, Monetary gifts (With memo re usage) may be mailed to:

VHES Box 8534, Victoria BC, V8W 3S1

Email: grandmas@saltspring.com Outside Victoria Society pager: 1-800-691-9366 www.humanx.org



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Email: grandmas@saltspring.com Outside Victoria Society pager:
1-800-691-9366

On Mayne and Outer Islands: Tel: 539-5310

For Houses in Victoria : 418-9997 For Sidney Houses: 361-2762