



Salt Spring Island & Mayne Island Branches

GIFT EXCHANGE

1st . Quarter , 2009

Issue 52

New Year Gratitude

Many thanks to all those individuals and groups who made Christmas a special time for the men at Grandma's House and the women at Bittancourt Manor (see reverse for names). And thanks to those who traveled to Victoria for our Christmas party bringing gifts such as poetry reading and photography and receiving gifts from our laden Gift Table. The event was attended by occupants from many of our 12 Houses and is a celebration of the talents and gifts of all those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to exhibit their abilities.



PHOTO: Maureen O. (long time volunteer) chats with Judith A., our valiant volunteer treasurer, at the Christmas Party. *Photography: Palu B.*

Thrifty Food's Smile Card Program:

"I am pleased to inform you after re-reviewing the proposal from Victoria Human Exchange Society - Salt Spring Island Branch, Thrifty Foods has increased the original fundraising maximum from \$1,000 to \$1,500!"

Lynanne Smith, Community Relations Co-ordinator, Thrifty Foods Marketing Office.

We have more cards to give out, so if you can help, please page **Patricia at 1-800-691-9366**
Cell: 920-5056.

Things we would be glad to receive:

Phone cards or store gift cards (some of the people seeking shelter have literally no money at all for their needs) . All gifts in kind are appreciated, especially warm blankets, duvets and heavy curtains. Household cleaners; toilet tissue and detergents as well as personal toiletries are always appreciated.

Mayne Island Branch News:

Donations of all kinds are received and dispersed at 313 Mariners Way: 539-5310

Chapel of St Francis of Assisi: *sharing spiritual gifts with those who are marginalized:*

The next Day Retreat under the guidance of Peter Renner, Buddhist lay monk from Galiano, will be held on a **Sunday in March** *phone for more info.*

** Meditations are held in the Chapel weekly—phone for details.

** *Monthly Gatherings* to share spiritual gifts and to give support to those who are marginalized will be held again in the Spring. If you are interested in taking part contact us at: *Outside Victoria: --1-800-691-9366 In Victoria: 250-361-2762*

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

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

Our sincere thanks to:

The Salt Spring Foundation for funds to help with the purchase of electronic equipment.

The Staff at Salt Spring Community Services for supporting the occupants of the Houses.

Irene C. for distributing our newsletters, for GVM tapes; men's clothing and household items, and pillows for Grandma's House. **Margaret B.** post dated cheques for 2009 and for many useful items plus a beautiful chest of drawers.

Financial Gifts: Catholic Womens' League of Our Lady of Grace church for donation to the support of men and women staying in our SSI Houses. And for Christmas gifts through Emily. **Mark S.** monthly gift for persons with mental illness. **David H.;** **Unitarian church** for *Life Line Project*.

Sharon, Debbie and Catherine for winterizing the women's house on SSI. **Catherine and Debra** for maintenance and shopping for the house.

Macie P. for giving support through her Drop In- Lunch Program and Inn from the Cold.

GVM for the Grocery Tape program—remember to hand in your **GVM** receipts to us.

Imagen for discounted Internet Access and excellent technical support.

Our generous landlords for working with us to keep the rents and maintenance under control.

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

MAYNE ISLAND BRANCH.

Financial Gifts from **Laszlo B., Pat and Ferdie R., Les and Natalie B.,** and **Chapel users.** **ALEA** for printing our Chapel Notices.

Cecile for donating wonderful DVD's for others to view. **Peter R.** for another silent Retreat.

Joyce K. for continued gifts of veggies and fruits. **Shirley H.** for books and household items.

Anneli S. for excellent sleeping bags. **Henry T.** for electronic equipment and a microwave.

Pat R. for Owl magazines, clothes; skates and toiletries. **Kathy B** for a bed much appreciated.

Myrna and Warren C. for bags of clothing for men and women; handbags and shoes.

Lina B. for keeping us honest and for offering excellent advice. **Monica** for Web-site and newsletter work and especially for donating the hosting of our site: www.humanx.org

Joanna W., and the **Mayne Isl. Thrift Store** for helping with the set up of our new houses by donating kitchen utensils and pots and pans. Also linens and other items

Whoever sends Grocery Gift Vouchers to low-income families—your generosity is appreciated.

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