



Salt Spring Island & Mayne Island Branches

GIFT EXCHANGE

1st Quarter, 2012

Issue 65

The Victoria Human Exchange Society pays tribute to the Salt Spring Island Foundation



salt spring
island FOUNDATION

Connecting your giving with island needs

We would like to honour the **Salt Spring Island Foundation** for supporting our transitional-type housing on Salt Spring Island at Bittancourt (women) and at Grandma's House (men). This housing provides a furnished room with kitchen and laundry facilities as an alternative to a shelter mat while a person in need is looking for permanent housing.

So many people are homeless these days--many of them have always had homes and jobs but now find themselves on the street.

Our Society is based on *sharing life's gifts* so we are called: *The Human Exchange Society*. Landlords with a social conscience rent houses to us and allow sub-letting to men and women in need--in the case of Grandma's House for men, the Land Bank Society raised the funds to buy the house and rents it to our Society; the Society gifts the Owner with caring for their property; the Occupants develop their gifts in the service of the Society and the community; donors give what they can spare to support the men and women in the houses. We are totally volunteer--no paid staff--so all funds go to the needs of the Occupants.

We are a registered charity founded twenty years ago out of concern for the group of homeless people whom the media named "Apple Tree Club" under the Johnson Street Bridge--which is why our logo represents earth as an apple---Our hope is that the spirit of sharing epitomized by the Human Exchange will spread throughout the world.

Meet us on Facebook where you will also find grateful acknowledgement of the Salt Spring Island Foundation. Visit our web-site www.humanx.org

GRANDMA'S HOUSE

After an enormous amount of work and frustration, The Land Bank has opened the house for men that we call **Grandma's House**. The renovated building is up and running just in time for our 20th Anniversary as a Society and the 18th Anniversary of the Salt Spring Island Branch. Sincere thanks go to the new occupants and their supporters who weathered the first month in various places while last minute challenges were ironed out—notably a hydro pole problem. Thanks again to Neddy, Teresa, Tim, Jordan, Billy, Jeremy, Jamie and staff at SSI Community Services for hard work and patience. **Jordan** will be the new Facilitator.

Every Meeting of persons can be an exchange of life's gifts – a Human Exchange.

Sincere thanks to:

- ◆ **Judith W.** who is facing a long convalescence and will be moving closer to supports. Thanks for everything Judith!
- ◆ The generous folk at **Electronic Arc** for the donated computer and for the maintenance of it at the women's house.
- ◆ **Teresa** for supporting those who live in both Houses, for attracting other volunteers and donations and for generous hours of volunteering.
- ◆ **Neddy of the SSLBS** for the example of patience and steadfast determination in the face of seemingly insuperable problems.
- ◆ **Emily H.** and the **Catholic Women's League** for further financial help and networking.
- ◆ Thank you to **Cydney of Duncan MHSB; SSI Transition House** and **Copper Kettle** for working with us to house men and women on SSI.
- ◆ **Country Grocer** for funds from Grocery Tape program. **Thrifty Foods for Smile Card program** and other kind gifts. **Mouats** for supporting us with gifts of goods and discounts.
- ◆ **Irene C.** for discovering needed items for our Houses; **Cherie of Copper Kettle** for answering the calls for help.
- ◆ **Margaret B.,** for great generosity to women with minimal income.
- ◆ Our good **Landlords,** the **Facilitators** and **all churches, businesses and individuals** who have supported us in any way.

MAYNE ISLAND BRANCH - More Info: 250-539-5310

- ◆ **Monica** for offering to build a new Web-site for us and for all your helpfulness.
- ◆ Financial Assistance from **Yvette B.; Lazlo B.; & all donors.**
- ◆ **Pat & Ferdie R.** Clothing, footwear and household goods.
- ◆ **The Mayne Island Thrift store** for regular generous donations.
- ◆ **Joyce K** for many food gifts and all anonymous donors for goods dropped off.
- ◆ **ALEA** for generous service when needed.
- ◆ **Lina B.** for excellent book-keeping services, including budgets and Year End statements.

In the Gulf Islands, Monetary gifts should be mailed to:

VHES, Box 8534, Victoria BC V8W 3S1 & memo'd SSI or Mayne Branches
Email: grandmas@saltspring.com *Outside Victoria : 1-800-691-9366*

www.humanx.org

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