



Nanaimo Branch of the Victoria Human Exchange Society

#38- 3200 Island Highway, P.O. Box 37082, Nanaimo BC V9T 6N4
Cell: 250-668-6008

1st Quarter, 2014

Issue 6



Debbie Scott shows Sr Frieda Raab the TV donated by the Class of 1950, St Ann's Academy, to honour her partnership with VHES on behalf of the Sisters of St Ann. We wish Sister Frieda a happy retirement.

Thank you Pauline and friends!

Nanaimo Committee Chair/VHES Board member Debbie Scott gave the following welcome at the Opening of Mary Gordon House on Monday December 16th:

Good afternoon and thank you all for coming out to join us to celebrate the opening of our 2nd house for Nanaimo- Mary Gordon House. Mary Gordon was one of the members of the group that began the Victoria Human Exchange Society. It was her dream to see this type of housing.



We are Nanaimo Branch of the Victoria Human Exchange Society. Early in 2011 Leanne Salter approached the Victoria based Society, then invited us to work with her in bring the concept to Nanaimo. Although Leanne has since moved on, we work with VHES bringing safe, affordable, drug and alcohol-free housing to Nanaimo

We began with Esther's House and with the generous donation of \$10,000 from the Sisters of St Ann. Many donations came from within the community and with a lot of volunteer hard work we have managed to keep Esther's House full and found it was so successful that we had a waiting list and needed a 2nd house. Thanks to the generous gift of storage space from U Lock we were able to gather together donations of furniture and household items while we looked for a 2nd property. We needed a large place but we also needed a landlord that was open to negotiation as we could not afford a high rent. Jason, the owner of the house was not only open to negotiation but he also provided most of the furnishings in the house.

The men that reside in our houses work together in a family like environment to support each other in their sobriety. The length of stay depends on the individual. Some may only need a few months, others may need much longer. So long as they are working on themselves and growing, attending meetings and maintaining their sobriety, they can stay. We also provide a room on a nightly basis for men that may need 1 or 2 nights as they travel from north island to south for medical treatment or something along those lines. Space permitting of course. A lot of our current residents are now students. They are working to improve their lives by having more skills and better tools to build a better life. The Society is non-profit and we depend totally on donations and volunteers to make this happen. Currently we have only 4 volunteers. *We all work full time so it makes time a little tight. We are always looking for more volunteers. So if you have time to spare please let us know.*

Every Meeting of persons can be an Exchange of Life's Gifts – a Human Exchange.