



November 2019 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our monthly VOLUNTEER NANAIMO NEWSLETTER! Information, events and regular features will be shared on a monthly basis, bringing you up to date with what's happening here and within the non-profit sector. We welcome your comments, suggestions and submissions.

NOVEMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH



GLOBAL VILLAGE

“Fair Trade Better Than Aid” by Anne Middleton

Treasures have arrived, making this colourful Store, “*the little shop that Gives*”

GVN has been a seasonal shop since the late 1990 after being an organized educational initiative. Global Village is in its 22nd year of bringing fair- trade treasures to Nanaimo.

GVN specializes in handcrafted giftware and accessories, children’s toys and Christmas decorations. The shop offers distinct and unique handmade items by artisans from around the globe.

Working with fair trade suppliers, the collective imports bags designed in Bangladesh, India, Vietnam and Guatemala. Customers can select bags made from jute, cotton or silk in a range of sizes, colours and designs. Some of the bags are very practical and can be conveniently folded

into pocket size; all are very decorative and colorful.

GVN is a not-for-profit social enterprise, not a charity, and its mission is fair trade. This business sets a strong example of a social enterprise. The loyal and committed volunteer salespeople are key to the store's immense success. Their regular business hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday until December 24th.

Please check out their website: <https://www.globalvillagenanaimo.com/>

VOLUNTEER VIEW

We met today with Ian and Bonnie Robertson, who have been volunteers with Global Village for 4 years, and loving every minute of it. But that is not surprising when you discover that they are continuing on a journey of passion for many years. Leaving behind a career in finance, Ian joined CIDA and moved from Toronto, with his wife Bonnie, to work in Ottawa and on two postings in Asia over a 10-year period. They then served a further 9 years on a CIDA contract in Southeast Asia, based in Singapore.

Back in Canada they worked with the NGO Tabitha, selling goods made in Cambodia. Four years ago they discovered that Global Village Nanaimo also was selling items from the developing countries, and since then they have been deeply involved with Global Village Nanaimo (GVN).

Ian and Bonnie have nothing but praise for Joan Hiemstra, GVN's Executive Director and Volunteer Coordinator. "With her background in major retail, Joan is able to handle the complex process of running an operation like GVN" says Bonnie. "From sourcing lovely handicraft goods from all over the world, to customs clearances and pricing, to handling a staff of volunteers, Joan does a superb job. She made sure that we were well trained for our positions, and made us feel much appreciated."

Ian and Bonnie both enjoy the selling process at GVN, and this is not the only volunteer work they do. Bonnie also volunteers with the Alzheimer's Society, and works with a refugee family in Parksville. Ian does volunteer work in the local housing sector.

Ian spoke about the Fair Trade system of which GVN is a part. "We know that the people (artisans) doing the work in the poor countries are being paid a living wage, on time, in their own countries. It is important that they have reasonable working conditions, and are being given the opportunity to improve their own quality of life."

Ian and Bonnie are the kind of volunteers who strive to make the world a better and fairer place for everyone. This is their view, and we think it is a pretty great one!

VOLUNTEER NANAIMO SERVICE

Christmas Angels



Christmas Angels are found everywhere! Volunteer Nanaimo is reaching out to find Angels in our community to help us to brighten the Christmas morning of those less fortunate this year.

Last year we positively affected 386 households! That's a lot of Angel magic at work. But the need continues to grow, and we are diligently working to rise up to the challenge!

Would you like to join the Volunteer Nanaimo "Angel Brigade"? It is probably so much easier than you might think. Here's how you can help:

Adopt a family with your friends, family or co-workers (families range from 2 persons to 10!)

Adopt a vulnerable youth (attending school but in foster care, group housing, etc.)

Adopt a senior or individual

If you can't adopt a family or individual, you can donate an item or small gift card (which will be used towards filling a gift hamper for any of the above. Ideas: tea towels, shampoo/conditioner, socks, movie passes, \$10 card for groceries, Tim Hortons, Subway, etc., earbuds, adult colouring books and/or felt markers.

We believe that all of our Angels are amazing and are happy to offer the opportunity to everyone to be able to contribute a bit of Christmas joy.

Volunteer Nanaimo is a registered charity, so if you would rather make a monetary donation, we would be pleased to provide a tax receipt. All money raised is used exclusively for the Angel programme. We use the funds to purchase the gifts for those families not "adopted". The families/individuals referred to our programme are vetted by the organization or agency that is working with them, so we are assured that they are in need of a helping hand. Please call 250-768-7121 or email: vnanaimo@gmail.com for more info!

**VOLUNTEER NANAIMO PRESENTS
COMING EVENTS**



Youth 20/20 Can Presents:

Coats For Christmas

...Give the gift of warmth

Come donate your new/ gently used
coats, hats, gloves and socks

December 6th

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

December 8th

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

@Lions Pavilion, Maffeo Sutton Park



Enjoy hot chocolate, cookies and music

Tim Hortons.



Funded by the Government of
Canada under the Canada
Service Corps program

Canada



Barney Bentall and the Cariboo Express Tour is coming to Nanaimo's Port Theatre on Friday November 24th with proceeds to support the Nanaimo Region John Howard Society.

BUY TICKETS NOW

The Cariboo Express Theatre from across the Rockies is hitching up the team and heading over to Nanaimo's Port this coming Friday November 24th, 2017. The performance is raising funds to support the Nanaimo Region John Howard Society and its programs to house the homeless, treat addiction, find jobs for the chronically unemployed, mentor troubled youth to avoid crime, and even offer low cost community dental services.

Each year, the Cariboo Express Tour is a highly anticipated show like no other – a heart-warming, hilarious variety showcase of astonishing talents in roots, country, and rock 'n roll, with a sense of community at the centre of it all.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

