



DECEMBER 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 in the non-profit sector. We welcome your comments, suggestions and submissions at

250-758-7121 or at vn3148@gmail.com

DECEMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH



Giving
Hope
Today

Ring the Bells -- Fill the Giving Wells!

By Anne Middleton

The season is upon us! It is a jolly time, but also time to think of folks alone, cold or hungry. The Salvation Army is an extremely hard-working charity supporting worthy causes year-round. At Christmastime, the Sally Ann goes into high gear adding extra programs that require many volunteers.

Predictably, Dawne Anderson, with her mighty crew, has been busily readying for the 2019 KETTLE CAMPAIGN. This program provides funding for most of the Salvation Army's local outreach programs. These Kettles cannot reach their goals without the many bell ringers volunteering at the 25 locations from Nanaimo to Ladysmith. Anderson puts the *challenge to all businesses each year to help "man" the volunteer stations for 2 ½ hour shifts*. Join as a group

and enjoy, ringing the bells of hope any day of the week, to help the Salvation Army do its community work.

Hamperville is another successful initiative loading food donations and creating hampers, providing the simple gift of sustenance to many hungry souls. For nearly 20 years this program has successfully filled food hampers required year round but at Christmas time, a bustling workshop evolves to fill more than 800 singles hampers and another 900 family hampers. Hamperville 2019 begins Nov 22. *(Location to be announced)*

For more information and to volunteer for either program call Salvation Army @ 250-740-1004.



VOLUNTEER VIEW

We happily introduce Wendy Molchan, a dedicated Kettle Bell ringing volunteer each Christmas season for the past 5 years.

Wendy found her way to the Volunteer office a number of years ago. Reading over the seasonal opportunities, she spied the Sally Ann's Kettle program and said, "That is for me"!

She is a solid soldier at each year's Kris Kringle Kraft Fair held at Beban. Wendy is always standing watch with her Kettle at the 'seek for the Kettle' Campaign. She then takes a post at a main door at Country Club Mall to complete the whole of December, manning a Kettle and ringing a bell.

Wendy thoroughly enjoys these shifts over the Christmas season; she enjoys meeting the many people coming by her Kettle, chatting and reconnecting with old friends but mostly it is the children who make her day! Children get excited as they understand that their donation will provide some less fortunate child with gifts and a Christmas!!

Wendy volunteers extensively throughout the year in our community but she so looks forward to her yearly stint on the Kettles. She believes strongly in the Sally Ann as a giving, supportive, non-judgmental charity that is there for everyone!!!

The Sally Ann (soldiers' endearing nick name) salutes Wendy and her generous donation of time!



Salvation Army Ministries is looking for volunteers to deliver Christmas dinner to isolated seniors on **Tuesday, December 24th, 2019**. We need people with a vehicle to deliver meals and additional volunteers to help prepare and package meals for delivery. If you are interested in this position, please contact Porsha Paladini at 250-754-2621 or by email porsha_paladini@sanainimo.org

VOLUNTEER NANAIMO SERVICE
CHRISTMAS ANGEL NETWORK



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

Would you like to join the Volunteer Nanaimo “Angel Brigade”? It is probably so much easier than you 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

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.

If you have any questions about the programme please feel free to call our office at 250-758-7121 or email at ynanaimo@gmail.com

Baa Baa Black sheep Have you any wool?



FOR THE NANAIMO KNITTERS CLUB

Volunteer Nanaimo needs 3 or 4 ply yarn to make 8 by 8 inch squares (or you can make them yourself and donate them!) We use these squares to create blankets for shelters.

We also gratefully accept donations to help us buy yarn !



Volunteer Nanaimo & VICKA

E-3148 BARONS ROAD
(250)-758-7121

vn@volunteernanaimo.com



VICKA Knitters are based at the offices of Volunteer Nanaimo, E – 3148 Barons Rd, Nanaimo. Volunteer Nanaimo acts as liaison between knitters in the Nanaimo community and those in need. We receive donations of knitted items including children’s clothing, scarves, gloves, etc. and blanket squares which VICKA collects on a regular basis. The squares are sewn together to form blankets which are distributed to the needy in wintertime, and the children’s clothing is also donated to those families who need them. VICKA also provides donated wool to their community knitters as and when received.

Christmas Tree Chipping Fundraiser



In Support of Volunteer Nanaimo



Sat - Jan. 4th & Sun - Jan. 5th

10:00am - 3:00pm

Real Canadian Superstore

Thanks to MJR Tree Services, we will be offering
Christmas tree chipping by donation.

Proceeds towards
Volunteer Nanaimo's Programs and Services
www.volunteernanaimo.ca

Sponsored by:



VOLUNTEER NANAIMO PRESENTS

COMING EVENTS



The laughs are bigger and the spirits are spookier for this year's production of A Christmas Carol!

Running from Nov. 21 to Dec. 15,

Thurs-Sat 7- 9pm & Sun 2-4pm.

Tickets range from \$10 to \$15.

Location [Harbour City Theatre](#)

[25 Victoria Road](#)

[Nanaimo BC V9R 4N9](#)

www.hcta.ca

THOUGHT FOR DECEMBER

Canadian Opinions on Volunteering

So what *do* Canadians think about volunteering? For this report, IPSOS Public Affairs surveyed 1200 Canadians aged 16 and over in 2016. The poll found that Canadians greatly value volunteering: 87% felt that our society would suffer without volunteers, and 75% felt the economy would suffer without volunteers. At the same time, respondents considered helping family, random acts of kindness, and improving one's community as more important than volunteering.



Some other interesting findings from the survey include:

- 75% of Canadians view volunteering as an easy activity.
- 75% of Canadians are very willing to volunteer in times of crisis.

- 68% would be more motivated to choose an employer with a strong volunteer culture.
- 82% of Canadians believe that all Canadians have something to offer.
- 72% of Canadians agree that communities thrive when people know each other.

This is a great foundation of passion and interest for non-profits to continue to build on!

The survey also explored the barriers to greater involvement that Canadians face. The main barrier is lack of physical or social opportunities (ex. lack of time and resources; friends and family not volunteering), followed by lack of physical or psychological capability (ex. lack of skills or knowledge). These insights provide opportunities for non-profits to be flexible and to meet volunteers where they are. For instance, from the poll:

- 60% agreed people would volunteer more if it was organized by their employer.
- 68% agreed people would volunteer more if they could do it as a family.

Does your non-profit currently offer employee-supported volunteering (ESV) opportunities or volunteer work that could be done as a family? Volunteer Canada has more resources on both styles of volunteer engagement on their website.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!