

Volunteer Nanaimo



November 2020

3148 Barons Road, Nanaimo. BC V9T 4B5

Dates to Remember

Wed. Nov 11
CLOSED for REMEMBRANCE

In This Issue

p.1

Member of the Month:
Literacy Central
Vancouver Island

p.2

Global Village Nanaimo

p.3

**YOU can be a
Christmas Angel**

p.4

**YouthCan 20/20
Youth NetWork**

Contact Us

3148 Barons Road Nanaimo, BC
V9T 4B5

Phone: 250-758-7121

Email: vn3148@gmail.com

Facebook: 'Volunteer Nanaimo'

Website:

<http://www.volunteernanaimo.ca>

Hours of Business: Mon. to Thurs.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Member of the Month

Literacy Central Vancouver Island

Literacy Central Vancouver Island (LCVI) was incorporated in March 1990 as a community-based, nonprofit, registered charity. Its purpose is *to promote literacy for all individuals*. Its mandate, as originally defined, is purposefully very broad:

- To determine the needs of the community and to work within the frameworks of existing literacy programs to increase accessibility and participation.
- To provide a highly visible, easily accessed learning centre.
- To recruit and train volunteer tutors.
- To recruit literacy learners.
- To match volunteer tutors with learners and provide support and ongoing assessment of learners' progress.

The volunteer tutor program assists learners who wish to improve their reading, writing, math or computer skills. Community volunteers with teaching credentials and experience are asked to commit a minimum of three hours per week for tutoring for a minimum of six months. Tutor Coordinators work with adults, youth and family from Ladysmith to Nanoose, including Snaw-Naw-As, Snuneymuxw, and Stz'uminus Nations, Nanaimo Corrections Centre and other outreach locations, as well as walk-ins.

Literacy Centrals' **computer refurbishing program** welcomes donations of used laptops, parts and software from Individuals, organizations and companies in the Nanaimo area.



Cont. over

Continued on page 2

Literacy Central Vancouver Island cont.

A long-time volunteer has set up an amazing workshop downstairs where he takes the computers apart and refurbishes them. These are then donated to families and individuals who otherwise could not afford them.

The distribution of the computers is managed through community agencies. Teachers and/or community workers identify families and individuals they feel would benefit from having a computer in their home and they make the request to Literacy Central VI. Since 1999, Literacy Central Vancouver Island has distributed more than **2500** computers!

A popular destination for booklovers is Literacy Central's **Well Read Books**. Opening in 1994, this used bookstore is a steady source of revenue for LCVI. The store is staffed by many volunteers who generously donate their time and energy. All books are donated by individuals in our community and many are collected by Rotarians from the book bins around Nanaimo. The store has proved to be more than just a source of revenue. Situated in downtown Nanaimo, it is highly visible. Staff and volunteers are friendly and helpful, often the first contact for individuals with low literacy skills.

Many books are donated to other area agencies such as schools, our First Nation communities, the free little library bookcases around town and to service agencies.

Without the support of our Volunteer Tutors, Bookstore Volunteers, our Volunteer Computer Refurbisher, and Volunteer Board of Directors, our organization would not exist. Our volunteers contribute many hours of support to Literacy Central and we are so very grateful for their dedication and commitment.

Literacy Central Vancouver Island

19 Commercial Street, Nanaimo V9R 5G3

info@lcvl.ca ~ 250-754-8988

<https://www.literacycentralvi.org>

**Current Hours of Business: 10am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday.
Bookstore also open Saturdays 10am to 4pm as of Nov. 7.**



Global Village Nanaimo

6581 Aulds Road
(Metral Place)

www.globalvillagenanaimo.com

gvnanaimoto@gmail.com

**Monday to Saturday
10am to 5pm**

Global Village Nanaimo is fulfilling its mandate of supporting Fair Trade businesses around the world. With fresh inventory, a bright seasonal store and an online one, it is now open for business.

Volunteers are working hard to ensure the unique, ethically-sourced merchandise is available for the mid-island market in a safe, comfortable environment.

Global Village Nanaimo is a non-profit Fair Trade store staffed almost entirely by volunteers. It operates two seasonal stores each year, one in the spring and one that is open from fall until Christmas.

This store will be open until December 24 this year, also offering online shopping, curbside pickup and contactless delivery to help clients enjoy a safe shopping experience.

"Fair Trade is about improving lives. But we don't do it through charity. There are no handouts in the Fair Trade world."

Paul Rice



Brooklyn, Paige and Hannah were three of our youngest Christmas Angels last year.

At this time of year, we at Volunteer Nanaimo have good reason to believe in angels!

Last year, our Christmas Angels program helped make the holiday a little brighter for 397 households, reaching 1,190 individuals.

That's a lot of Christmas cheer!

This year we expect the need to be even greater.

We invite families, individuals and local businesses to join our Angel Brigade.

With your family members, neighbours, friends and co-workers, you might choose to:

- ★ **Adopt a family** - of two or more people.
- ★ **Adopt a vulnerable youth** who is attending school, but in foster care, group housing, etc.
- ★ **Adopt an individual senior or adult.**
- ★ **Donate grocery store, restaurant or movie gift cards** – even \$10 would help.
(E.g. Tim Horton's, Subway, Thrifty Foods, Cineplex, Marks, etc.)
- ★ **Contribute small items such as tea towels, gloves, hats and socks, umbrellas, colouring books and markers, cosmetics** such as shampoo and hand cream.
- ★ **Make a cash donation** – which we will use to buy gifts for clients for whom we have not found an Angel.
We accept donations in cash, by cheque, or through the 'Please Donate' link on our website at www.volunteernanaimo.ca.

To learn more about this program, or to offer to join this year's Angel Brigade, please contact Rita at vnanaimo@gmail.com or 250-758-7121.

We offer particular thanks to

Brad Bailey of Colliers International for providing us with a site for sorting, storing and distributing Christmas Angel donations this year.

Individuals and families who benefit from the Christmas Angels program are referred to us by many agencies and support staff in our community.

If you need a hamper through this program, please contact your social service agency or support worker to learn more.

Volunteer Nanaimo Youth Making a Difference!



Youth 20/20 Can & YouthNetWork members are busy making a difference in our community. We welcome youth between 11-29 years old to join us. Come share your ideas and passion, get connected and have fun while helping to shape our community.

In October, members created a Thanksgiving board, volunteered at an NAC group home yard clean up, fed the homeless, and contributed their time at the Foodshare farm. We also sponsored a 'Halloween for Hunger' event and collected non-perishable food for Loaves & Fishes. We teamed up with local Katimavik members and held a Food Forestry/Signs of Hope painting event at Bayview Elementary School. Members also participated in the VIU Food Security online event and in a virtual painting night.

Now members are working on a video to honour Remembrance Day. We are interviewing veterans, sharing our feelings on what freedom means to us and showing our appreciation for the sacrifices that have been made to make this beautiful country called Canada free. Youth 20/20 Can members Island-wide are also participating in a series Anti Racism workshops and are learning how to shift from being silent bystanders to becoming active responders by disrupting racism and helping build a safer, and more inclusive community.

In December, we will be hosting our second annual Coats for Christmas event to collect coats, hats, gloves and socks for the homeless members of our community. Stay tuned for details in the December Newsletter. We hope we can count on the amazing support of our community again this year.

For more information on Volunteer Nanaimo Youth Programs, call Gwen & Kamilla at Volunteer Nanaimo 250-758-7121.



*November 11
We Will Remember*



This newsletter is published monthly by Volunteer Nanaimo, which is solely responsible for its content.

www.volunteernanaimo.com

Editor Lois Peterson. Proofreader Mary Jane Katz.

If you'd like to know more about anything you read here, or would like to contribute material, please email us at vn3148@volunteernanaimo.ca with 'Newsletter' in the subject line.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Province of British Columbia – Gaming Commission

