

Volunteer Nanaimo



September 2021

3148 Barons Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 4B5

Dates to Remember

Our office will be closed

Monday, September 6
Labour Day

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Contact Us

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V9T 4B5

Phone: 250-758-7121

Email: vn3148@gmail.com

Facebook: 'Volunteer Nanaimo'

Website:

<http://www.volunteernanaimo.ca>

Hours of Business:

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday to Thursday



Member of the Month: The Wiltshire Education Society

Chasing Dreams, Changing Lives

Our Mission is to assist deserving young women and men who have left unsafe situations in their home countries to pursue educational opportunities in Canada. **Our Vision is** to create a stronger and more prosperous community through enabling our newcomer children to fulfill their educational, economic and social potential.

The Wiltshire Education Society was established in 2013 in Nanaimo to support young people from war-torn regions to complete their education and to maintain ties with their families. WES is a non-profit, non-political and non-religious organization, and is a registered BC Society.

In our first two projects, we raised over \$225,000 through donations and fundraising events to assist the children in two refugee families from Afghanistan who were living in perilous conditions. Both families are now resident in Nanaimo, their children are studying or working in safety and they are able to build new lives. Our current project is designed to support newcomers already in our community who face special challenges in achieving their educational goals. When arriving in a new country as a teenager or young adult, there are so many challenges to overcome.

Success in schooling requires mastering a new language, learning a different curriculum, understanding unfamiliar teaching methods, and making new friends. It also means leaving behind the comfort of familiar places and loved ones as well as, for many newcomers, being haunted by memories of armed conflict and personal danger.



WES

The Wiltshire Education Society

The Wiltshire Education Society Cont.

A new life, with so many opportunities, beckons – but achieving it demands a great deal of effort, courage and determination.



WES supports the aspirations of the young newcomers in our community through two strands of funding:

- 1. WES Newcomer Scholarships** (up to \$2000) for individual students wishing to take extracurricular or post-secondary courses that will enable them to access, or continue, college or university programs;
- 2. WES Community Grants** (up to \$3000) to support community projects that will assist multiple students develop the confidence and skills required for success in post-secondary education.

Funding will be available for students who are within five years of arrival in Canada and who demonstrate good potential for successful outcomes. Applications will be accepted twice a year: October 31 for courses or projects starting in the following spring, April 30 for the following fall. The first call for applications will close on

October 31 2021. For further details and application forms go to: www.WESociety.org.

WES welcomes new supporters and volunteers.

We believe that education changes lives and enriches the community for us all. With your support, we can help our newcomers fulfill their dreams. We hold regular fund-raising events and we are always looking for new volunteers with a variety of interests and skills to help us in our efforts. If you would like to be actively involved in the Society, consider applying to become a member of the **WES Board of Directors**. We are a convivial group who meet quarterly to get updates, make decisions and enjoy each others' company! If you are willing to help out or make a donation, please email: tamingoftheshrew@hotmail.com or call 250 585 5654. We will get in touch with you about our activities and need for support.

"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela



Developed by Volunteer Nanaimo, and with a grant from New Horizons for Seniors Program, the **Hand in Hand Intergenerational storytelling project** connects seniors with volunteers to record incidents and memories of their lives.

Volunteers create a written and/or digital memento for the senior to share with family and friends. Volunteers and seniors interact through phone calls, FaceTime chats, and - when permitted - in-person visits.



For more information or to register:

Volunteers: Gwen 250-667-1803

Seniors: Michelle 250-713-9630

Or email

handinhandnanaimo@gmail.com

"No story lives unless someone wants to listen."

J. K. Rowling





Helping Hands

**Call for
Volunteers**

This free service helps seniors and adults with challenges with small household tasks, running errands, yard work, de-cluttering, etc.

REGISTER NOW
to lend a helping hand.

Volunteers will be asked to:

- Complete a Helping Hands Application Form
- Undergo a vulnerable sector police check (no fee)
- Review a one-hour training video

Providing short term / one-time assistance is a wonderful and simple way for volunteers to make a difference in someone's life!

Contact Volunteer Nanaimo 250-758-7121 or vnhelpinghandsvolunteer@gmail.com
www.volunteernanaimo.ca

COMING SOON: Information for clients seeking help.

Watch this space and check our website: www.volunteernanaimo.ca.

CRAFTERS' CORNER: Baa Baa Black Sheep...

Join our Angel Brigade to knit or crochet squares which are made into blankets for infants, seniors and everyone in between. We provide the yarn and template.

Call us for more information 250-758-7121, or drop into our office at 3418 Barons Road, Monday to Thursday to learn more.



Volunteer Nanaimo Youth Making a Difference!



Youth 20/20 Can & Youth NetWork of Volunteer Nanaimo

We have a fun summer of volunteering!

From singing at a senior's centre, drawing inspirational chalk art to hosting pop up fairs, our youth have made a significant difference in our community.

Our programs run all year long, so if you're looking for fun volunteer opportunities, check out Youth NetWork and Youth 20/20 Can. If you are between 11-29 years old and want to be involved, get connected and help shape the community, we want to hear from you! Our volunteer programs allow youth to follow their passions, explore their interests, have fun, all while helping them build their self confidence, personal skills

and resumes for the future.



Upcoming opportunities this September

Youth Art Show. On September 19th we are hosting a youth art show and invite all Nanaimo youth artists to participate.

Youth Network is hosting free guitar lessons every Tuesday evening at 5 o'clock at the Volunteer Nanaimo office. To join the fun, email Cam at volunteernanaimo.youthnetwork@gmail.com

We will be joining in at the **celebration at VIU** for back to school students on September 7th-9th. Come say hi and learn more about our youth programs!

Follow our Instagram and Facebook pages @youth2020cannanaimo and @volunteernanaimo.youthnetwork.



For more information email:
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volunteernanaimo.youthnetwork@gmail.com

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

www.volunteernanaimo.com

Editor Lois Peterson.

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.