

Volunteer Nanaimo



November 2021

3148 Barons Road, Nanaimo. BC V9T 4B5

Dates to Remember

**CLOSED for
REMEMBRANCE DAY
Thursday, Nov 11**



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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: Mon. to Thurs.
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Member of the Month:

Nanaimo Unitarian Shelter

For the past thirteen years, the Nanaimo Unitarian Shelter has provided respite from the streets for adults experiencing homelessness.



In 2008 the City of Nanaimo was coping with a growing challenge of increasing homelessness in the community. The City approached the First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo, who took on the challenge, in the early days providing mats on the floor of the Sanctuary for a limited number of overnight guests during the wettest and coldest months of the year – November to March.

When the tenant of the Fellowship basement gave up their lease, the Shelter moved down there. With funding from the City, BC Housing and the Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy Program the shelter grew over the years, offering more beds on a seasonal basis, hiring staff, and offering supper and breakfast, laundry facilities and other supports and services.

In 2019, the Shelter took on the City's new free shower program at Caledonia Park, and with a grant from the Nanaimo Foundation launched a pilot Outreach Program, expanding services to shelter guests and other unhoused people.

Continued over

Nanaimo Unitarian Shelter cont.

The numbers of people using the showers is growing, and thanks to a grant from BC Gaming, the Outreach Program has been extended for a further year, with opportunities for further funding now being explored. And in 2019 BC Housing extended funding to allow for all-year shelter program rather than just seasonal.

Then came COVID.

To ensure continuous service to marginalized people of our community, the Shelter implemented new measures – reducing the nightly capacity to 24 beds from 30 and putting health and distancing measures in place, following provincial and regional health requirements.

The First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo has been proud to help meet this very vital need in our community over the past decade. Guests are welcomed warmly, provided with healthy meals, a comfortable bed and offered guidance and support in finding programs and services to help them improve their lives.

From day one, the program has benefitted greatly from support of volunteers who enhanced and supplemented the human contact provided by staff, and allowed for additional services and supports for shelter guests. During COVID, the volunteer program was put on hiatus to ensure everyone's safety and security; this will be revisited in the New Year, with new opportunities, criteria and guidelines in place.

Generous residents, businesses and school classes continue to provide invaluable donations in cash and in kind. They run coat and sock drives to help ensure guests have the warm clothing they need, provide coffee gift cards, donate Christmas packages and personal care items. And cash donations allow the shelter to respond to emerging needs such upgrading appliances, offering snacks to clients of the shower program, and purchasing supplies for this vital community service.

The First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo shares information the Shelter on its website at <https://ufon.ca/weather-shelter/> and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/unitariansshelter>.

THANK YOU

to everyone who supports the work of the Nanaimo Unitarian Shelter.

To make a donation or to enquire about volunteer opportunities, please email shelter@ufon.ca.



Volunteer Nanaimo Tax Clinics

No tax clinics in November or December.

We resume this service in January.

Call 250-758-7121 for an appointment.



Calling volunteers & seniors!

Hand in Hand connects volunteers and seniors through phone calls and in-person visits (when permitted) to record memories of senior's lives.

The result - creation of a written and/or digital memento for the senior to share with family and friends.

For more information or to register:

Volunteers: Gwen 250-667-1803

Seniors: Michelle 250-713-9630
Or email

Global Village Nanaimo

**#580A - 2980 Island Hwy N
Monday to Saturday
10am to 5pm**

Global Village Nanaimo is now open for business. This non-profit Fair Trade store, staffed almost entirely by volunteers, is open until December 24, also offering online shopping, curbside pickup and contactless delivery to help clients enjoy a safe shopping experience.

www.globalvillagenanaimo.com
gvnanaimo@gmail.com



We believe in angels!

Last year, our **Christmas Angels** program helped make the holiday a little brighter for 387 households, reaching nearly 1,200 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, etc.)
- ★ **Contribute small items such as tea towels, gloves, hats and socks, umbrellas, colouring books and markers, personal care items** 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.



Angel Network Fundraiser

Craft, Gift and Bake Sale Saturday, November 20

9:30am to 2:30pm

Upstairs at Moose Lodge
1356 Cranberry Road, Nanaimo

Vaccination passport & masks required

Call 250-758-7121

to book a vendor table
or for more information



To learn more about this program,

or to offer to join this year's *Angel Brigade*,

please contact Rita at vnanaimo@gmail.com

or call 250-758-7121.

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

Volunteer Nanaimo Youth Making a Difference!



There are a million reasons to volunteer!

You can gain employment skills, references, networking opportunities, friends, skills, fulfillment, and best of - its fun!



If you are between 11-29 years old, Volunteer Nanaimo has youth-based volunteer programs for you! We offer two programs - Youth NetWork and Youth 20/20 Can.

Ages 11-18 are welcome to join our Youth NetWork program and volunteer with other youth at events and projects within Nanaimo.

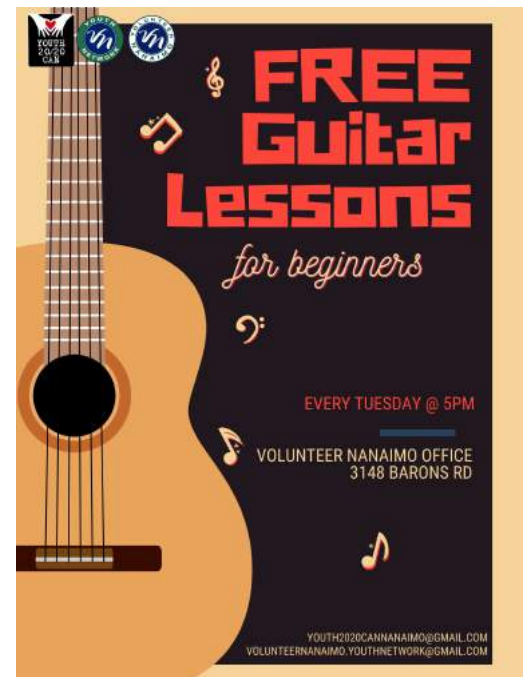
If you are looking for a more hands on opportunity, Youth 20/20 Can is a youth-led project for ages 15-29 that connects volunteers across Vancouver Island and Powell River. In this program youth volunteers share their ideas about projects, events or activities that matter to them. Then working with community partners turn their ideas into reality.

Coming Events

- ❖ **Group Guitar Lessons with Cam**
- ❖ Every Tuesday we offer **group guitar lessons** at Volunteer Nanaimo.
- ❖ Email volunteernanaimo.youthnetwork@gmail.com for more information
- ❖ **Workshop with GT Hiring**
- We are excited to participate in a workshop with GT Hiring on Personal Branding & Career Assessment
- ❖ **Juggling Workshop**
- ❖ **Departure Bay & Diver Lake Clean Ups** This month we are doing a beach clean up and later in the month joining in the Invasive Plant Work Party with the City of Nanaimo.
- ❖ **Katimavik Presentation** We will be hosting a zoom night with our local Katimavik members to learn all about the opportunities Katimavik offers.
- ❖ **Work Party with the Young Professionals of Nanaimo**
- ❖ We are joining in a **work party with the Young Professionals of Nanaimo** to plant native plants in their adopted park.
- ❖ We are hosting our **Coats for Christmas** event to collect coats, hats, gloves & socks for community members who are homeless on Dec. 10 & 11 at Maffeo Sutton Park. Be sure to save your coats & watch for our poster.

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

For more information email: youth2020cannanaimo@gmail.com
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 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.