

Volunteer Nanaimo



Dates to Remember

We are closed
Dec 22 to Jan 5

*Happy
New Year*

Reopening Monday, Jan 8

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Youth 2020 Can

Contact Us

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Facebook: 'Volunteer Nanaimo'

Website:

<http://www.volunteernanaimo.ca>

Hours of Business:

Mon. to Thurs. 9am to 3pm



Christmas Angels

A hearty round of thanks

One of Volunteer Nanaimo's most significant and longstanding initiatives, this year's Christmas Angels program served more than 1500 individuals and over 550 households.



We have a lot of angels to thank for their generosity and efforts.

It took a lot of donating, shopping, sorting, packing, and delivering to make sure all our clients received their packages in time for Christmas.

Whether you donated \$10 cash or gifts for a family of five, we thank you. To the volunteers who sorted and packed gifts, your support was invaluable. To the drivers who delivered packages to our clients' doorsteps, we could not have done it without you. To the businesses and organizations who provided drop-off points for donations, you made a real difference.

Thank you all.

Member of the Month

Elder Dog – in Nanaimo

Seniors' lives are often built around what they can no longer do.

If they forget to turn off the stove, their children unplug it and buy them a microwave instead. If they forget to take their medication or leave spoiled food in the fridge, they are moved to residential care. If they are no longer able to their dog for a walk or need to go into the hospital for a few days, they are told to give away the dog.

Too many seniors lose the only loving, non judgmental companion they have, which brings meaning and purpose to their days.

So, what if there were a way to keep love in the home despite an aging owner's inability to take half-hour walks, drive to the vet or be at home for a few days following needed surgery? What if, rather than unplugging that relationship as if it were just a microwave, the community recognized the essential bond and supported it?

That's where Elderdog Nanaimo comes in. Elderdog volunteers help seniors, age 55+, with daily pet care activities, such as dog walking, transportation to veterinary/grooming appointments and pet food delivery.

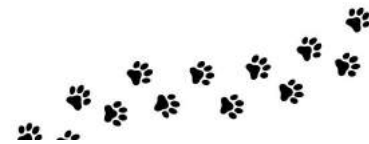


If the owner is unable to temporarily care for the dog, such as during a period of hospitalization, ElderDog provides foster care in a pre-approved home. All services are provided for free and cover the Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Parksville and Qualicum communities.



If you can spare an hour a week, you can make a world of difference and help "keep love in the home". Your fellow volunteers can pitch in during times when you may be away on vacation or otherwise unable to complete a shift. If the dogs are compatible, you can even take your own dog for a walk with the senior's dog and get twice as much love and gratitude!

For more information, contact Veronica at elderdognanaimovol@gmail.com or visit www.elderdog.ca



Volunteer Nanaimo – Ongoing programs

Tax Program

Resumes Friday, Mar 3. By appointment. Friday and Saturday, once a month. Call 250-758-7121 for information.

Watchdog Computer Services

Technical support for non-profit agencies and individuals. Offered by donation – plus costs if parts are purchased. **We welcome donations** of used computers – especially laptops – which are refurbished and redistributed to members of our community. Contact: 250-758-7121.





Fling into Spring

will be back this March with games, draw prizes,



and a book for every child.

Stay tuned for details.

"Volunteering can be a rewarding experience on so many levels.

It can draw you into a community of like- minded folks dedicated to giving back to an idea, cause, or need.

Consider a one-time, short term, or simply a few hours, whatever works.

Kickstart the New Year by volunteering for something that is important to you.

You don't know what you don't know, until you try it. "

*AnneMarie Koeppen,
Volunteer BC President*

If you want to be an angel in your community...

check the Volunteer Nanaimo website www.volunteernanaimo.ca where a wide range of local volunteer opportunities are posted every week.

So many agencies and organizations need:

- Board members
- Event help
- Office support
- Drivers
- Servers
- Grocery shoppers...

Or contact our office to learn more about supporting our programs and activities.

Best wishes to all for a giving 2024!



Volunteer Nanaimo Youth Making a Difference!



A heartfelt Thank You to our community for contributing to the success of our December **Coats for Christmas clothing drive**. With your generous donations, we collected 855 warm clothing items, which have been forwarded to the Salvation Army for distribution to individuals in need. Your support warms our hearts.

Upcoming Events starting January 8th

- ◆ **Bi-weekly Games Night.** Mondays, January 8 and 22, from 6-8 pm at Volunteer Nanaimo.
- ◆ **Group Guitar Lessons:** Every Tuesday, from 5-6 pm at Volunteer Nanaimo. Guitars are available for use at the office.
- ◆ **Weekly Study Group Meetings:** Every Wednesday, from 5-6 pm at Volunteer Nanaimo.
Come and learn in a group setting.
- ◆ **Bi-weekly Planning Meetings:** Wednesdays, January 10 and 24, from 6-7:30 pm. Youth 20/20 Can hosts project and event planning sessions at Volunteer Nanaimo.
- ◆ **Introduction to Roleplaying:** Every Thursday, from 5-8 pm our Dungeons and Dragons club meets at Volunteer Nanaimo.
- ◆ **Bus Stop Garbage Clean-up:** On Saturday, January 13, from 11:45 am–2:30 pm. Youth-led initiative for cleaner bus stops.
- ◆ **Bi-weekly Safe Space Meetings:** Mondays, January 15 and 29, from 6-8 pm we are holding safe space meetings for LGBTQ+ youth and allies at Volunteer Nanaimo.
- ◆ **Diver Lake Work Party:** Saturday, January 20, from 10 am–12 pm we are removing invasive species at Diver Lake Park.
- ◆ **Interview Skills Workshop .** Wednesday, January 31, from 5-6:30 pm at Volunteer Nanaimo.

Turning bottles into donations!

We have a charitable account at the Regional Recycling Depot Nanaimo.

1. Return your bottles to the Bottle Depot.
 2. Mention our charitable account name: **Volunteer Nanaimo Youth**
- Proceeds will go directly to YouthNetwork and Youth 20/20 Can**

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

www.volunteernanaimo.ca

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@gmail.com with 'Newsletter' in the subject line.

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