



“Caring Hearts”

for Underprivileged Children Society
(Dedicated to keeping children in need warm and cozy)

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Spring Issue 2010

2009...a challenging year

THIS YEAR HAS been very challenging for Caring Hearts. As some of you already know, funding has been very limited. Some foundations lost money while others have changed their requirements. Some foundations have asked us to send in applications and they are already in the mail while others have told us to re-apply this year.

Currently we are trying to renegotiate our lease while at the same time find a new space in the same area. This ultimately will be the decision of the new board.

This year's AGM is being held on a Sunday afternoon. We are hoping that this will bring out more volunteers and no one will have to drive home in the dark.

Volunteers... I would like to take this opportunity to “THANK” all the volunteers for their time and effort during these hard times. We have depended on donated wool and fabric but managed to keep our numbers up. Some volunteers prefer to purchase their own materials and we can give tax receipts when we receive their receipts in April.

Inspiration... This year we delivered a bag of toques, scarves and mitts to Strathcona Elementary. We received a call from the Principal a few days later saying “Thank You”. The children were so excited – nothing like this had ever happened before. The children asked if they could learn how to knit. So, the teachers got some wool and knitting needles for them to use. The kids want to learn how to knit scarves so they can give them to the homeless on the Downtown Eastside.

Newsletter... The newsletter is only being sent out by e-mail because of the cost of postage and lack of funds. So if you know someone that does not have a computer, please print off a copy for these volunteers. There will also be printed copies at the office.

Marilynne Cron, President

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010

Time: 2:00 p.m.

**Place: Caring Hearts office
#240 – 8138 128th Street
Payal Business Centre**

We will be reviewing the past year's activities and voting in board members for the 2010 – 2011 year.

Please plan to attend. Your participation is needed and valued.

THANKS TO ALL...we can't thank you enough for all the help we have received this year.

We have seen a lot of different volunteers pitching in to help with the many tasks we undertook this year. Without those hours spent helping in the office, Caring Hearts would not have been able to deliver the amount of items we have this year. A lot of students have chosen Caring Hearts as their volunteer experience requirements. Others have found us on the VOLWEB site and have made the effort to give us a hand. We never say no to help. Please keep us running smoothly by sharing your time outside the home to help children in need.

Funding... more help is always needed. Caring Hearts was lucky to receive funds from a variety of sources. Service groups stepped up to the plate finding room in their budgets to help us with funds. We had a family from Chilliwack working on a pay it forward challenge that is still in the works. A group of Kwantlen college students provided funds from a bake sale. Job's daughters made a donation that matched their Bethel number in dollars. We also worked on an internal fundraiser of brooch donations that is ongoing. Every little bit helps and getting our charity name more known in the community can only help our chances of continued funding.

Del, Treasurer

Sewing: The sewing section has seen the most change this year. An effort by many to tackle the challenge of lowering the fabric levels has been working. A simple suggestion that items be pre-cut making it easier and quicker for sewers to get the items finished and out to the children started it all. Del apologizes to the sewers that experienced the frustrations with her textile challenges and thanks those that have helped her learning curve straighten out. During the week pre-cutting of simple patterns has been accomplished by both daytime and evening helpers and it keeps our boxes stocked with the most needed items to be completed and returned. We have pattern templates available for any sewers who would like to copy them, with a reminder that sizes 1-6 are most in demand this year. Please try to balance out the girl and boy outfits so the programs receive an even amount. Thanks again to each and every one who continues to help with this project. Your time and talents are very much appreciated.

Tuesday nights: Tuesday is the one evening per week that is solely a work night. Sometimes you can hear the pins drop as everyone is so busy working on something that makes the operation run smoother.

We have a great group of volunteers who give their time when they can. Bagging, cutting, sorting, serging, sewing, computer work, button sewing, wool winding...it all happens every week. With the luxury of so much space we can have all these tasks being worked on by the volunteers. We work hard but make sure there is a laugh or two, and the evening goes smoother when more folks join in to help. We invite anyone who wants to help to join us on Tuesday evenings for an hour or so of fun and fulfillment. We are in the office from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Funding: We are thankful for all the funding we have received this year. We have sent to many corporations and foundations and quite a few were unable to help this time. These are unstable economic times and those supporters listed below are very appreciated. Thanks to:

- ♠ Telus Dollars for Doers
- ♠ Soroptomist Society - Langley
- ♠ City of Surrey
- ♠ Shaw
- ♠ BC Gaming Commission
- ♠ Mr. Black
- ♠ Mrs. Williams
- ♠ Van-City
- ♠ Job's Daughters - Bethel #48
- ♠ Elk's - New Westminster
- ♠ Rotary Club - White Rock
- ♠ Kwantlen
- ♠ TransLink Logistic

With the funds we received, we were able to pay our rent while waiting for gaming funds to be issued. We made a small purchase of "boy" coloured yarn for sweaters and some elastic for all the pants and shorts we are now making. All other funds went to pay the basics...phone, hydro, rent and community venture delivery costs. It looks like next year will be much the same but we know our volunteers will do what it takes to continue to help the children.

Numbers, Numbers, Numbers: We are just so proud of you all. With your help between April 1, 2009 and February 28, 2010 we were able to give over 12,500 items (600 more than last year) to programs in the Lower Mainland. We weren't able to give out as many toques, mitts or scarves but made up the difference by providing pants, t-shirts and hoodies.

Moving again?

Moving: Perhaps. Our lease is up for review and the board will decide whether to renew or look for other premises. So, we are asking you to please hold onto the winter wear items till we have settled this matter. We will keep you informed. Thanks very much.

If we do move: We are working on a few options and can only promise to let you know once we know. We would like to find a solution that will be central for all volunteers. If you know of any sublet options, please call us right away so we can check them out along with our other options.