



# “Caring Hearts”

for Underprivileged Children Society

(Dedicated to keeping children in need warm and cozy)

Tel: 604-598-1177 #240 – 8138 128th Street, Surrey, BC

Website: [www.caring-hearts.ca](http://www.caring-hearts.ca)

Spring Issue 2009

## What a year!

Caring Hearts had another terrific year thanks to all of our volunteers who helped to make the children's life a little bit better. This year, we have sent out more items than ever before and the need for our clothing and blankets just keeps growing.

We have received many letters and cards from our communities letting us know all of your efforts are so very much appreciated. By working together, we can accomplish so much. Your efforts make a tremendous difference to the children who are in need.

If you can make it to the office we would love to see you. Drop in for coffee, to chat or to see where things are going.

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up. The particulars are below.

### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

**Date: April 8, 2009**

**Time: 6:15 p.m.**

**Place: Caring Hearts office  
#240 – 8138 128th Street  
Payal Business Centre  
(A map is included.)**

**We will be reviewing the past year's activities and voting in board members for the 2009 – 2010 year.**

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

Again, thanks so much...  
Carol McKenzie, President

## Everyone...take a bow...

WHILE WE GIVE YOU A STANDING OVATION to salute you for all the magnificent work that you have so caringly handcrafted. Our members have so much talent. And the schools and programs are so appreciative. My personal thank you is extended to all who have given so willingly to help meet the needs in the communities we serve.

### But...more help is always needed:

We have made major strides over the past year in more effectively managing the behind-the-scenes activities that play an essential part in keeping the kids clothed, warm and cared for. The success we've had so far reinforces the need to build on these systems so we can reach even more kids. But to do this we need more help. So... do you have a couple of hours a week or even a month to help with any of the following administrative and/or organizational tasks?

ς Deliverers      ς Sorters      ς Baggers  
ς Office workers      ς Phoners (can be done from home)

(And a big 'thank you' to those who are already involved in these activities for their hard work and dedication.) Please call and let's discuss your schedule and see if we can work out something that suits you. Your caring hearts and hands are so necessary and your ideas and time are most welcome.

And that brings us to Membership: We have about the same number as last year. We would love to see membership growing. So, if you know of anyone who knits, crochets, sews and/or quilts, please tell them about Caring Hearts and how they can make a difference.

And our new card system: It's going well and certainly makes data entry more time efficient. In our continuing efforts to streamline the system, we are asking that you fill out your own card when you drop off something or pick up some materials. We'll show you how... just ask.

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM...  
Marguerite Davis, Vice President

**Sewing Corner:** The sewing corner is done. The fabric is sorted and the shelves are all labelled. We have a good selection in a variety of colours. We are still getting donations of fabric and notions. All we need is SEWERS!

Thanks again to each and every one of you that helped with this project. Your time and talents are very much appreciated.

Please note our **Sunday Openings** for the rest of the year. Drop by the office and meet some of the other members.

♠ April 5   ♠ May 3   ♠ June 7   ♠ July 5   ♠ August 9   ♠ September 13   ♠ October 4  
♠ November 8   ♠ December 6   **Time: 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.**

**Marilynne Cron, Fabric Committee**

**Bagging:** Thanks to all the volunteers for continuing to create all the clothing items we need to give to the programs. Without everyone we would not be able to do our jobs. We not only bag, but also we have been known to sew on a few buttons, trace patterns, sort yarn and keep the inventory bundled up in manageable amounts so we can quickly get items ready for delivery. Speaking of buttons...we have a great supply, so don't forget to pick some up when you get your materials.

Geri, Jennifer and myself invite anyone who wants to help to join us on **Tuesday evenings** for an hour or so of fun and fulfillment. We admire the talents of all and know that the items are being delivered to children who need them. There is always something to do and many hands make light work.

**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 Dollars**   ♠ **Shaw**   ♠ **BC Gaming Commission**   ♠ **Helen Lefeau**   ♠ **Mrs. Lawson**

With the funds we received, we were able to pay our rent while waiting for gaming funds to be issued. We purchased a couple of small orders of baby yarn in 'boy' colours as well as much needed popular-sized crochet hooks. We applaud the support we get from the volunteers when requesting help with the need to make large supplies of winter wear.

**Numbers, Numbers, Numbers...** We are just so proud of you all. With your help we were able to give over 11,900 items to programs in the Lower Mainland. The items break down as follows:

• Toques, mitts and scarves .....	5,975	• Slippers and stuffies/bears .....	1,602
• Sweaters .....	790	• Pants, T-shirts and hoodies.....	978
• Afghans .....	511	• Pyjamas .....	172
• Facecloths.....	518	• Baby Afghans .....	413
• Quilts.....	106	• Baby sweaters, sleepers, pant, tops .....	845

**Del Letendre, \$\$\$\$ Treasurer \$\$\$\$**

**Recipient Program:** Thank you to all of our hardworking and creative volunteers for another productive year! I continue to be amazed and inspired by the beautiful homemade items that arrive at our office. As head of the **Recipient Program Calling Committee**, it is such a pleasure to know that the programs I speak to will be receiving your wonderful handiwork, and that so many children will be warm and proud of their new blankets, clothing or toys.

Caring Hearts distributes donations to well over 100 Programs, including **schools, transition houses, shelters, baby programs** and **child care facilities**. We also provide blankets and comforting teddy bears to **Children Who Witness Abuse** programs and **Victim Services**, administered by the RCMP. The list is always growing.

The Recipient Program Calling Committee divides the Program list between its volunteer members, and we each make sure that every program is contacted on a regular basis. We find out what the program requires, and we pass that request on to the Bagging Committee, who then put all of the wonderful handcrafted items together, ready for delivery to the children that need them. Over this last year my fellow Board members and I have worked hard to get this and other systems in place. And it's working! Things are running more smoothly and we are helping a lot of needy kids all over the Lower Mainland. Thanks again to everyone.

**Cheryl Hunter, Secretary and Program Director**

**Reminders...**

- Please put sizes on all garments...it helps us save time. Something we are always trying to do.
- And help us create "striped" winter wear as we attempt to reach a goal of 10 striped toque and scarf sets for each school bag of winter wear.

**And for cozy comfort....**

- Recommended minimum size for Baby blankets..... 36" x 36"
- Recommended minimum size for Afghans ..... 40" x 40"