

# The Anawim News

T H E A N A W I M C O M P A N I O N S S O C I E T Y

## Finding the "Sweet Spot"

In sports, the "sweet spot" is the unique combination of factors that delivers the perfect stroke, the perfect catch, the effortless home run...

In Recovery, the "sweet spot" is the peace that one achieves when his life comes into balance; when the immediate future looks brighter than the immediate past. It's a time when serving others is at least as rewarding as serving oneself.

In a therapeutic community like Anawim, finding the "sweet spot" takes a unique combination of all its constituents and stakeholders to fulfill the mission with compassion, understanding and excellence.

In this publication we are pleased to offer the stories of some individuals who have been a key part of the Anawim experience this year.

### Empowered People Embracing Life

One of our residents, a former drop-in guest, gave a heartfelt, riveting speech at our AGM this year. He shared resident insights about the journey from despair to determination. Excerpts from this presentation are on Page 6.

Guy, a former resident and now a drop-in guest, has used the Anawim Shop this summer to design and manufacture musical instruments from scratch. His story is on Page 3.

Bernice, a regular drop-in guest, talks about the benefits of having Anawim in her life and about her efforts in the broader community on Page 3.

Simone, who along with her mother, vol-

unteers her time at Anawim each week, shares her thoughts on volunteering on Page 4.

### Our New Logo

This year we introduced a new logo for our organization.

## ANAWIM HOUSE



EMPOWERED PEOPLE EMBRACING LIFE

The "arch" references the honeysuckle pergola at the entrance to the Anawim property. Over the years, more than 175,000 people-in-need have found their way to Anawim's services through this portal.



The "light" beyond the doorway is a reference to the Anawim experience. The light is our friendship. The light is our guidance. The light is our inspiration. The light is our Anawim family. The light is our beacon of hope.

"Empowered People Embracing Life" is our guiding principle. This principle gives us a benchmark for our mission. It doesn't discriminate. It applies equally to everyone here...the Staff, the Residents, the Volunteers, and the Drop-in Guests.

It reminds us that we are all on the same journey and it is incumbent on all of us to continue to "empower" each other.

### Donor Acknowledgment

See page 12 for complete listing

### Teacher Tom Vickers & Students

For 19 years in a row they have made our Christmas Stocking Giveaway a reality. Read more on Pg. 5

### Starbucks - Fairfield Plaza

Donates Baked Goods and Coffee four days every week

### Thrifty Foods - Fairfield Plaza

Four times a week Thrifty's donates Bread, Desserts, Fruits & Vegetables

### Aegean Café

Fresh homemade Deli soups

### Downtown Hotels Association and The Grande Pacific Hotel

Provides us with toiletry kits for our guests. These include Shampoo, Conditioner, Soaps and Lotions to support our guest shower program.

### Mitzvah Day Volunteers

Last Spring a group of dedicated volunteers generously joined us for a Spring Cleaning project, helping residents clean the whole house in one day. They also brought food, a chef and cooked a great meal for everyone



**Anawim's Christmas Tree Fundraiser Starts November 29th.**

## OUR HISTORY



*The original Anawim House...*

This is a very special time for us at Anawim. As we head into our 22nd year in service to those less-fortunate, it is worthwhile to reflect on where we began.

The Founders of Anawim had a goal: to help people realize that they were capable of living a more fulfilling life. Their unique vision was to provide a home where those in need could contribute, rather than just be provided for, to restore their self-worth and function in a family setting, and to experience true compassion and support.

In 1991 a little house was purchased on the corner of Vancouver St. and Caledonia Ave. This house soon proved to be too small to meet the needs of Victoria's "street community".

In 1994, through fundraising and community support, the present Anawim House opened its doors.

Over the years our service model has continually evolved. Our residents and Drop-in Guests now enjoy an environment free of the effects of drugs and alcohol. They find that the house is a safe, peaceful haven - away from the violence and abuse and dysfunction that is all too common when living in poverty or dealing with homelessness.

Now, in addition to our Day Program and our Residential Program,

we have expanded our reach further into the community.

We are using our resident-volunteers to pick up over-stock and date-sensitive fruit & produce from local grocery chains, and re-purposing it to other shelters, community agencies and food banks...adding more nutrition to the diets of those who need it the most.

Today, the Big Blue House is proud to be recognized by all as a good citizen, and as a good neighbour.



*...and a proud 22 years later*

## KEEPING UP WITH THE TIMES



*Putting a new roof over the homeless*



Our big blue house is aging, and as any homeowner knows, large repair & maintenance bills are not welcome at any time, particularly for a charitable organization such as Anawim.

This year it became apparent that our roof had reached the end of its useful life. The quotations we received were beyond our budget, but with a tremendous price reduction from our roofing contractor, **Aerial Roofing**, and the support of **Harbourside Rotary**, we were able to go ahead with this project.

**Aerial** did a first-class job, did it quickly, and in such a fashion that we were able to stay open to meet the needs of our drop-in guests throughout the project.

As our guest totals have grown over the years, so has the demand for hot water. Our standard gas-fired water tanks were no longer able to keep up with the increase in guest showers and guest laun-

dry services. Anawim is still one of the only places providing free laundry services to people in need. Our new "hot water on demand" system means that we can meet the increased demand and reduce our energy bills by not storing heated water during times of lower demand.

**West Bay Mechanical** did the project and kept our down-time to a minimum.



*Continuous "hot water on demand"*

*1723 showers*

*1939 loads of laundry*



## GIVING & RECEIVING



*Bernice...Giving, Receiving, Advocating.*

I started coming to Anawim because I was out of work. I had been in recovery for 9 months and needed a safe place in which to spend my days.

Having my meals at Anawim kept me well-nourished, and allowed me to pay my bills, including my rent. Yes, I have my own place but I'm technically living in poverty and can't afford luxuries like

food.

I've developed really good friendships at the house. I enjoy helping prepare the meals and sharing in the clean-up chores.

I feel empowered by the daily inspirational pre-meal readings and discussion. I find that each message resonates in some way with me and I can carry that inspiration with me for the whole day.

In spite of my poverty, I feel blessed to be where I'm at in my life. There are people who have far less.

I am currently volunteering with The Coalition To End Homelessness. I serve on the *Social Inclusion Committee* with several of my peers. I will speak on First Nations Issues, another on Youth, someone else on Disability, and another on Women At Risk. Each of these tie back into the central theme of Homelessness and Poverty. We have been tasked with bringing the

*"I can carry that inspiration with me for the whole day..."*

street community together to create a forum, to discuss the issues and to bring visibility to the Invisible at all levels of government. The first-ever Street AGM was recently held in September 2013.

We will also be speaking to the Chamber of Commerce, Church Groups and other agencies to raise the profile of those without a voice.

I have worked in the last 2 elections, staffing a polling station that was set up at Our Place on Pandora, so that the people of the street could vote where they feel comfortable and accepted.

I'm proud of my First Nations heritage and I participated in the National Truth

and Reconciliation Walk in Vancouver this fall.

I'm proud of my work as a community advocate, and thankful that Anawim provides the services it does so I can do this important work.

## SHAPING A FUTURE



*Guy at work on his new ukulele*

After my girlfriend passed away, I was really struggling with alcohol dependency and isolation.

I checked myself into a treatment program and was accepted into Anawim upon my completion of the program. I can't overstate the importance of having a transition house like Anawim for those of us completing treatment. The opportunity to build on

*"I can't overstate the importance of having a transition house like Anawim for those of us completing treatment"*

what I'd learned in the 28-day program, in the safety of a therapeutic community of other men was invaluable.

Anawim gave me a bed, meals, spiritual guidance and a place to hone my luthiery skills. Now I live nearby, I've found work from time to time, and have the opportunity to visit frequently. Their drop-in meal program helps me with my monthly budget as I work towards living independently.

I still have a tendency to isolate, and find that the familiar faces and welcoming smiles at the Anawim House always lift my spirits as I run into old friends and make new ones.

I've never had the resources to buy all the tools I need to build my stringed instruments. Anawim's fully-equipped woodshop has helped me reconnect with my passion and I'm currently working on several ukulele projects.

Using rosewood, ebony, and mahogany as my main raw materials, it takes approximately 20 hours to fully construct a ukulele from scratch. I supply the materials and Anawim graciously provides the use of the equipment.

My goal is to eventually teach a course at Anawim in the construction of musical instruments. Participants will leave the course with a finished product that they have built themselves.

I hope that they get the same pride and sense of worth out of their projects as I have gained from mine.



## VOLUNTEERING THEIR THOUGHTS



*Simone (l) and her mom, Dasha are in their 3rd year of baking weekly at Anawim House*

I feel blessed to be where I am at in my life and have always wanted to volunteer my time.

Deciding *where* to volunteer was not an easy choice. I chose Anawim because of its atmosphere, energy, and what the house stands for. Interaction with guests and residents was always encouraged and that was very important to me.

I wanted to meet people and hear their stories, to develop a relationship with them. My Mom and I

felt comfortable and safe and welcome the moment we walked through Anawim's door. Over time, we have developed a relationship with all the residents and drop-in guests, many of whom I consider to be very good friends.

From time-to-time we'll bring one of my young daughters to the house. They, too feel safe and appreciated. My girls hadn't had any exposure to homelessness

and poverty before coming to Anawim. But they have both enjoyed meeting new people and they are at an ideal age to learn that a person's circumstances don't define that person. They have brought a lot of joy to the house and the house has returned the favour. I want them to learn to treat everyone with kindness, compassion and love. There just isn't enough of that.

This experience of being able to volunteer and to do it as a family, for the Anawim family, has been very enriching in my life.

It has opened my eyes to see poverty is an issue and does exist. I'm thankful there is such a place as Anawim to help those who are less fortunate.

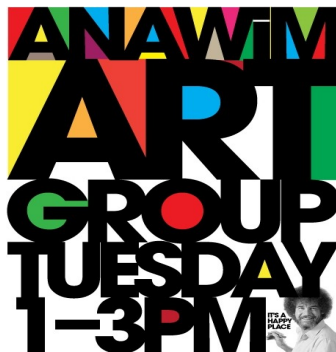
*"I wanted to meet people and hear their stories..."*

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

Anawim House is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to share their time with us.

We welcome students, retired folks, business people, and stay at home moms to help out where they can.

For those who can't volunteer their time, you can always help us out by providing donations of good used clothing, especially cold-weather items, and bath towels which are so important to our shower program.



### Drop-In Guest Program Volunteer Opportunity

- Greet Guests at the Door
- Help with Meal Preparation
- Organize Used-Clothing Room
- Gardening and Landscaping

### Board Committees Volunteer Opportunity

- Fundraising
- Finance
- Website Development

### Afternoon Workshops Volunteer Opportunity

- Creative Writing
- Stained Glass
- Carving
- Computer Knowledge
- Baking Bread
- Drawing/Painting

Anawim is open Monday thru Saturday. If you feel that you can offer an hour or two of your time between 10am and 4pm, we'd love to talk to you.

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator:

Wendy Payne  
anawimhouse@shaw.ca



*Jayme, is one of our newest Saturday Volunteers*



## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS STOCKING GIVEAWAY



The annual Anawim Christmas Stocking Giveaway is now in its 19th year.

The project was conceived by Tom Vickers, a former teacher who is now Principal of Sidney Elementary School. Each year he has led his teachers and students in making Christmas stockings and stuffing them with basic life necessities for those less fortunate.

Schools that have participated in the past are Brentwood Elementary, Bayside Middle School, Kelset Elementary

School, Parklands High School, North Saanich Middle School and Stelly's.

Terry Edison-Brown, Anawim's House Director, works closely with other community agencies to spread the word and ensure that as many people as possible can benefit. Each

year those efforts bring up to 200 people to Anawim's door for coffee, camaraderie and Christmas Stockings.

Children giving to adults - the 'haves' giving to the 'have-nots' - is a profound thing to witness and to be a part of...for the teachers, the students, the staff, the residents and those receiving the stockings.

A few of the Anawim residents use this opportunity to address the students. They share with them what homeless-

ness feels like, what despair feels like and the role that Anawim has played in helping them make transitions in their lives.

For these few hours, we are all the same - all part of a giving community. Last year one of the Kelset Elementary teachers gathered the students around the dining table, had them close their eyes, and gave them the following message:

"I want you to acknowledge the *joy of giving* and place that in your hearts. I want you to witness the *gratitude of receiving* and place that in your hearts. I want you to *see the hope* and place that in your hearts".

And now, a generation later, some of those same students are returning to Anawim as young adults, to buy Christmas trees, make donations, or volunteer their time...all thanks to a dedicated educator, his teachers, and his students.

## SENIOR RESIDENT - PEPPER THE CAT

Hi Folks. I'm the senior resident around here and my name is Pepper the Cat.

I climbed through one of the Anawim windows 18 years ago, and I've been here ever since.

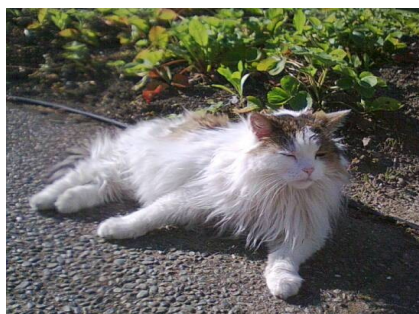
Because I was once homeless, I have a great affinity for all the human residents who have benefited from the house's programs and services, but particularly the new residents.

It's a big step to move into a house with 6 other guys, to learn how to do the chores and prepare the meals for our guests. But the biggest step is just trying to fit in, to be a part of things and to learn how to relate to the other guys.

No matter what their histories are or how old they are, they all have one thing in common; they came to a point in their lives where they all chose a common solution: living at Anawim House in service to each other and to people in the community who find themselves in the

same boat.

Each person is going to have their own take on how a chore should be done or how a meal should be prepared or whether the TV is too loud or the temperature is too hot or too cold.



Some of our guys do extra work around the house, some volunteer in the community. Others are very involved in recreational activities, or are busy pursuing an education, attending recovery meetings or nurturing their spiritual side at the church of their choice.

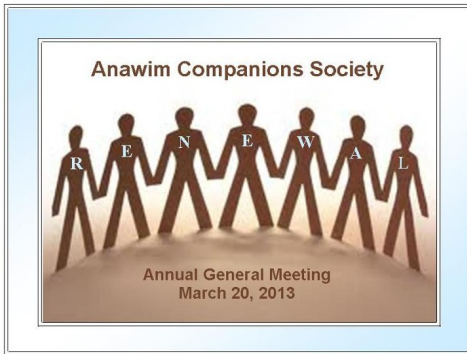
So, at Anawim I like it when the new guys make adjustments and come to realize that everyone is a unique individual, with their own passions and interests and that we can all learn and teach in this environment.

After living with hundreds of different residents and welcoming over 150,000 drop-in guests you'd think I, at least, should know it all. But guess what... They appointed a new guy to take over my feeding duties and he won't allow me to eat until I've sat, and shaken paws with him. (He must be a former dog-owner.)

At first I was pretty choked, but then I realized that if all the staff and residents can hold hands and pray before a meal, I can improve my manners a bit too. So now I do the "sit thing" and I do the "paw thing", and we're good to go...it's all about making adjustments and learning from the others.

And I've only been here 18 years!

## RESIDENTS' REPORT TO THE AGM



Each of the residents comes to Anawim by a different avenue. We come with different backgrounds and life experiences, and with uniquely personal issues. We arrive both challenged and challenging.

### The Road To Anawim

Before I came to Anawim, I was anxiety-ridden, sinking into debt, and unable to wrestle my thoughts into effective action. Depression, restless thoughts and sleep-deprivation contributed to an increasing state of lethargy and reactivity. Lacking any real sense of self, I found myself unable to take any decisive action to improve my situation, since I had little confidence that my efforts were appropriately directed. My outlook was disheartened and often despondent and I was living a socially-isolated existence.

### Shelter From The Storm

Anawim has, on occasion, been described as a sanctuary, a place of refuge and security.

It is a refuge from the dysfunctional activity that rendered our lives unsustainable; a place of security where the downward spiral can be arrested.

Each resident finds their way here in a different way, some by accident, others through various agencies.

In my case, I was told about Anawim by GT Hiring Solutions. After my first visit as a Drop-in Guest, I left with tears welling in my eyes even though I had simply been given a toothbrush and toothpaste. Yet that simple offering lifted a huge burden from my shoulders with the realization that I had found a place where I

could get a meal and do my laundry without deepening my debt load. I had found a sanctuary from the clutter of my apartment, from my social isolation and from constant worry and anxiety.

Anawim's Day Program continued to offer support during a brief return to work, but my unaddressed issues re-surfaced and led to my realization that I should consider residency at Anawim because I was ineffective at overcoming my challenges on my own.

In a piece of calligraphy created for Anawim by Daniel Farnan in 1993, Anawim was described as a "place for discovery".

### A Place for Discovery

Discovery, by definition, means to *observe, find, recognize, reveal, disclose, uncover, or to bring something to prominence for the first time*. Perhaps discover more accurately means to remove that which covers or veils a truer perception of what we have not been able to see or recognize before. In a way, that's exactly what the Resident Program at Anawim promises - to discover what lies below the surface dysfunction, to strip away what veils our true self, to remove what covers and hinders our purer essence from shining forth.

### Family Ties

The calligraphy further states: "*Here...is the opportunity for a new life. Here is a 'family' to support those with a personal investment in themselves.*"

Anawim is indeed a family - an extended family - and it experiences the same kind of dark clouds and silver linings as most families do.

It doesn't matter whether we come to Anawim with multiple college degrees or a prison record, our various challenges and dysfunctions have a way of levelling the ground - of making us all brothers in need; in need of being engaged and listened to; in need of compassion,

understanding and validation; in need of being loved in a more positive and supportive manner than we have previously experienced.

The challenge of discovering one's true self in the fog of recovery from alcoholism or drug-dependency or depression is difficult. It's a challenge that only we must take on ourselves, and this is the key to Anawim.

It is difficult to hide our faults in the milieu that is Anawim. It is difficult to be vulnerable, and it is difficult to embrace change. Anawim provides the environment in which to discover areas that need improvement, but more importantly those denied aspects of self that need to be allowed to come forward.

Doing daily assigned chores allows us to establish structure and self-discipline where it may have been lacking in our lives before. Facilitating the various services we provide for our Drop-in Guests, including the preparation of meals affords opportunities to realize growth through service, and helps us develop our cooking and household management skills.

But it's not all work. When we celebrate a family member's birthday, it's a unique experience. We gather after the family meal and each of us takes a few moments to offer positive, constructive comments about the person whom we are celebrating. It's a profound time. These acknowledgments can be both moving and healing. It reminds us to always look for the good in each other.





## RESIDENTS' REPORT TO THE AGM

### Residents' Report To the AGM (cont'd from pg. 6)

Essentially Anawim provides a respite from the unsustainable situations we were in, so we would have a chance to develop more beneficial life strategies and make superior lifestyle choices. This is apparent in some of the following resident comments:

*"Anawim House, with its shelter and support, combined with the opportunity to serve and help others daily, turned out to be the perfect environment for me to begin putting my life and my self esteem back together."*

*"Ongoing counselling, funded by Anawim, has been paramount in realizing the nature of my dysfunction, and is affording me the opportunity to reverse its unrewarding influence on my life".*

*"Living here has greatly improved my outlook on life...I now have hope for a future".*

### The After Life

The Anawim experience is different for

everyone, and so too are the circumstances of a resident's departure. Some people leave us successfully, and some leave under less than ideal circumstances.

Anawim does not guarantee us success in life but it does offer a foundation on which to build a new and re-invigorated life. It cannot ensure that we won't encounter challenges similar to those that brought us here, but it can assist us in developing better coping strategies, stronger communication and relationship skills, and greater community values to better manage our lives.

On behalf of the current residents, I would like to express our gratitude for the valuable contribution of the board mem-

bers, the staff, the volunteers and our supporters in the community, for providing a place where we might recover our sense of belonging and re-discover meaning in our lives. In some circumstances it can literally be a life-saver.



*Our Volunteers and our Staff are the backbone of Anawim House*



# AGM



# 2013



Monthly and yearly pledges help balance our ever-increasing costs of providing food and services. If you missed contributing this past year, perhaps you will think of Anawim for your next charitable donation.

In your kindness, please remember The Anawim Companions Society in your bequests and wills. If anyone wishes to make such a bequest in their will, the following clause may be included or added to a will or added by codicil:

**"I give devise and bequeath the sum of \$..... to The Anawim Companions Society in Victoria, BC to be used for the benefit of the needs of the society"**

Please remember that no donation is too small. Regular donations of cash, food, household essentials help keep our much-needed community operation alive.

Please think of us on your next shopping trip, maybe pick up a few extra groceries to help stock our shelves and then join us for a coffee.

## ANAWIM HELPING THE COMMUNITY



*Sharing the wealth with other agencies*

Anawim's work in the community extends well beyond the services that we provide to people in need. We're also mindful that other agencies struggle with the same budget issues that we face in trying to do the work we all do.

Four times each week one of the Anawim residents picks up free food from Thrifty Foods. These are items that are over-stocked, day-old products and those nearing their expiry date -

thousands of pounds of quality food that would otherwise find its way into a dumpster, instead of nourishing Victoria's poor.

Once the food is picked up and Anawim's food requirements have been met, Anawim staff and residents deliver the remaining goods to other service agencies at no charge. Some of these agencies are listed below.

St. Vincent de Paul

Sandy Merriman House (Women's Shelter)

Next Steps (Men's Shelter)

Quadra Village Community Centre

Rock Bay Landing (Shelter)

Our Place (Shelter)

St. John The Divine (Food Bank)

## ANAWIM IN THE COMMUNITY



*Joyce, Lynne and Terry at Project Connect*

Anawim staff and residents also participate in community organizations and "trade fairs" which share the same passion about helping those seeking recovery from substance abuse and those struggling with poverty and homelessness.

Our House Director, Terry Edison-Brown is a *loaned speaker* to the United Way of Greater Victoria and, as such, he speaks to many groups on behalf of the United Way.

Anawim was the central clearing point this year for all donations to Project Connect 2013.

The Action Homelessness Committee and the North Park Association used our Wood Shop and enlisted the help of one of our residents to build a Speakers Corner for one of their promotions.

Like many of our fellow agencies, Anawim's mission is to access as many people as we can, so that we can be front and centre in the battle against poverty and addiction. If you would like us to speak to your group, please contact Terry at 250-812-2495.

Recovery Day 2013

Project Connect

United Way Kickoff Campaign

Member of  
Coalition to End Homelessness

North Park Association

Speaking to Schools & Church Groups



## HOUSE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



*Terry Edison-Brown  
Anawim House Director*

Over the last few years we have seen an increase in the number of people attending our drop in program and we are reaching the limits of our ability to provide for our guests. We have had many days where we have to let people know that we are full because of our building capacity. This is a good thing in that people are coming to us for help, but it is also a very sad thing in that there are so many that need our help. We have been

helping the poor since 1991. Many things have changed over the years but the desperation and hardship that our people face is still the same, if not worse.

I have been asked about our success rate at Anawim. This is a very hard question to answer: what unit of measurement are you using? For me there are many different types of success - it could be having the courage to see a doctor; the desire to find a way to stop drinking; the confidence to seek new friendships. All of these have one thing in common: the desire to change a destructive pattern in one's life. Most people start with just talking about what they wish they could do. This is where Anawim comes in. We see where our people are and we help guide them in the direction that's right for them. The second a person starts to accept the help, they start down the road toward success. That road is never-ending; it can go on forever as people develop new skills and decide on

the next thing they want, and the next thing after that. We need to look at each individual and see the successes that they are accomplishing without measuring them against anyone else. This is why Anawim is different than so many other organizations. We see people for who they are and challenge them to improve their own personal lives in ways that are unique to each person. So when people ask me about success I say, yes. I see it in our guests, our residents, and even in our volunteers. We might not be able to plot it on a graph, but I know we are successful anytime a guest is doing better this week than they were the week before.

I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to Anawim with goods, services or financially. We would not be able to help the many people we do without your support. On behalf of the staff, residents and guests of Anawim, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the best in the coming year.

## ANAWIM STATISTICS



In the past year, in the different ways that only Anawim can, it has been our pleasure to welcome over **7,500 Guests**. We provide them meals, offer laundry and shower services and have a good used clothing room which is open every day.

Total Meals	13,652
Breakfast	5,457
Lunch	6,541
Dinner	2,679
Showers	1,723
Laundry	1,939

*Thank you to all that make this possible.  
Our guests are very grateful for having a place they can get their basic needs met in a nurturing environment.*

**...and 35,000 Cups of Coffee**



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## REFLECTIONS BY SISTER JOYCE



*Sister Joyce Harris*

Once again, it is my joy to be able to share some "highlights" of my experience as the liaison Board Member with residents and staff.

This year I want to focus on the importance of relationships. All of us know how we need a sense of belonging in order to grow and embrace the challenges of life. Because of the various

traumas that family members have had in their past and the erosion of trust which followed, forming positive, meaningful relationships is not easy.

The day-to-day rubbing shoulders with different personalities can trigger unhealed wounds as we try to build community together. However, I continue to be inspired by the dedication and commitment each person gives to this process. As a woman who lives in community myself, I am struck at the many small steps each resident is willing to make to show respect for themselves and each other. Many have thought that they would never be able to have positive interpersonal relationships again.

In order to continue improving our communications skills, we have invited Sr.

Judi Morin who has extensive knowledge in Marshall Rosenberg's method of non-violent communication: a language of compassion. On four consecutive nights this Fall, Judi will join staff and residents for supper followed by a workshop. As we continue to grow our programs, this is an excellent opportunity for us to participate in something that will benefit us all.

*... "non-violent communication:  
a language of compassion..."*

I am proud to know each resident and staff member and am hopeful at the contribution each already makes to create a spirit of trust at Anawim House. This trust and growth in

more effective communication skills will enhance our ability to identify our needs and show respect to others. Thanks to each of you, I am inspired to stretch and meet the challenges of building stronger relationships in my own life. Making this kind of difference is at the heart of Anawim.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - 2013

Anawim House often serves as a challenge to my complacency. All of us, like so many of the forgotten poor have experienced the darkness of tragedy, the swords and arrows of hurtful and unkind words and the pain not only from our own suffering but in experiencing just such sorrow in those whom we know and love. We are all challenged not to succumb to bitterness and despair but rather to reach out, forgive, and find peace.

Nevertheless, we must acknowledge that you and I and the poor we serve have also been wonderfully blessed. Anawim House teaches us that, in the end, we are but one family under God; children of the universe who happen to find themselves on a speck of a planet in the outer remote reaches of space. We are a family. Together we see beauty, feel joy, suffer pain, drift into depression or de-

spair, hurt and fret for our children and our grandchildren. We are family.

At Anawim we share our gifts and together we support one another. Perhaps you have never heard about us or are new to Victoria. Will you join us and acknowledge our sisters and brothers in need who seek solace in the Anawim Family? We do need

support throughout the year. Perhaps you would consider a monthly donation, or an arrangement through CANADA-HELPS on-line or through our pre-authorized debit plan (PAD). Will you help us? Thank you

*"we are all challenged not to  
succumb to  
bitterness and despair"*

### Board of Directors

Mark Lemay President  
Tony Joe Vice-President  
Denise Mullis Correspondence Secretary  
Robin McLeod Treasurer  
Alan Bailey Recording Secretary  
Sister Joyce Harris House Liaison  
Shane King Fundraising Committee  
Dan Greco Fundraising Committee



*Anawim Board President Mark Lemay (r)  
United Way's Catherine Schissel (l)*



## CORPORATE AND AGENCY DONORS

Access Records & Media Management  
Anonymous Donor thru Victoria Foundation  
BC Hydro Power Pioneers  
Catholic Foundation of Vancouver Island  
Christ Church Cathedral

Church of the Advent Ladies Guild  
CIBC Employee as Ambassador Program  
Cote Family Memorial Foundation  
CUPE 947

Downtown Hotels Association

Esther's Dream Foundation  
Hillside Mall Administration  
Holy Cross Church  
Kiwanis Golden K Project

Knights of Columbus  
Our Lady of Fatima Church  
Royal Canadian Legion, Britannia #7

Saanich Peninsula Catholic Parish  
Sacred Heart Christian Charities  
Sacred Heart Parish  
Schneider Electric North American Found'n

Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Sisters of St. Ann

St. Andrew's Catholic Cathedral  
St. Andrew's Elementary School  
St. Joseph The Worker Parish  
St. Joseph's Elementary School  
St. Michael's University School

St. Patrick's Church  
St. Patrick's School

St. Rose of Lima Parish  
The Rotary - Harbourside  
The Rotary - Royal Oak  
The Rotary - Saanich  
The Victoria Foundation

United Way of Greater Victoria  
VanCity Victoria Community Branch  
Victoria Automatic Transmission & Auto Care  
Victoria Choral Society  
Victoria Volunteer Bureau



## WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE 1000'S OF INDIVIDUAL DONORS

This Newsletter is designed and edited at Anawim House and was produced with the support of Flynn Printing, Victoria B.C.

# YES!

## I WOULD LIKE TO HELP THE ANAWIM COMPANIONS SOCIETY CONTINUE ITS MISSION

Single Gift Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Cash  
☐ Cheque



Monthly Pledge Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Post-Dated Cheques Enclosed  
☐ Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD)

Anawim now accepts Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD). If you have selected the PAD option, please fill out the Contact Information below.  
The appropriate forms will be sent to you. Charitable Tax Receipts will be mailed annually

NAME MR.  
MRS.  
MS. \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PROV \_\_\_\_\_ POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

☐ If you would like to receive the Anawim Newsletter via E-Mail, Please enter your e-mail address above

### PLEASE DETACH & MAIL THIS FORM TO:

ANAWIM COMPANIONS SOCIETY  
973 Caledonia Ave. Victoria, BC V8T 1E7



### CONTACT US AT:

E-Mail: anawimhouse@shaw.ca  
Phone: 250-382-0283  
Registered Charity No. 119212256 RR0001

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER STARTS NOVEMBER 29TH

Since 1987, Anawim has been raising funds through its Annual Sale of Christmas Trees.



Each December the residents of the house donate over 400 hours of their time to help local families choose a tree and cut it to size on-site.

Our trees are Island-grown Douglas Firs. They are of the highest quality and are available in 5 different sizes and price categories. You will find our prices are

competitive and the service excellent.

Sales proceeds are used to fund recreational outings and educational programs that are so vital to the growth and development of Anawim residents and our Drop-In guests.

This Christmas, bring your family to pick out a tree, meet some hard-working people and help out one of Victoria's great charitable organizations at the same time.

Anawim House is located in Victoria. 973 Caledonia Ave.



Anawim Companions Society  
973 Caledonia Ave.  
Victoria, BC V8T 1E7

POSTAGE

TO: