



**Volunteer
Victoria**

When you give to Volunteer Victoria you
make the biggest impact on your community.

Volunteer Victoria is the **only volunteer centre** serving people of all ages and stages of life in neighbourhoods and communities across Greater Victoria. As a registered charity we raise generations of volunteers; train individuals and organization that work with volunteers; and create opportunities that do not exist anywhere else.

Our mission is to
inspire everyone
to volunteer



*“Volunteering is not just another activity.
It’s a true value in my life.”
– Emma, volunteer*

Our vision sees a time when
volunteering is a pillar in everyone’s life,
because everyone who lives in our
community is impacted by volunteerism.

Why now?

For more than 40 years, the number of volunteers in Canada grew as baby boomers retired from the workforce. In many communities there were more volunteers than volunteer positions.

In 2010 this trend ended.

People, causes, neighbourhoods, ideas, and movements feel the impact.

There are 3 major reasons volunteering trends have changed locally and why we need to act now.

1. Older volunteers are skilled, dedicated, and passionate about volunteering but after the age of 75 volunteer rates drop due to health concerns, care giving responsibilities, and moving homes.
2. People are waiting longer to start their families. Parents with young children are now in their 30s and 40s and volunteer mostly in schools and with child-related activities.
3. Volunteering rates are declining at a significant rate. (StatsCanada 2013).

Yet the demand for skilled, caring volunteers remains.



How does Volunteer Victoria help?

People who learn about volunteerism give 10% more time and think more strategically than those with no introduction to community service (Legacy Youth Study 2016.) When we can educate youth, newcomers, and others about volunteerism we change their volunteering patterns. We create a greater return on investment by working strategically and breaking down boundaries.

Volunteer Victoria is the only organization in Greater Victoria working on volunteer-related challenges that impact people, organizations, ideas, and spaces. We are the only volunteer centre that serves all types of organizations and people of all ages and stages of life.

After more than 44 years in the business and hundreds of thousands of people served, we have the tools and experience to make change happen.

With your kind donation we can help make the future a lot brighter.

***‘The Better at Home Program places volunteers with seniors to help with light household chores, medical appointment drives, and reassurance visits. There is an urgent shortage of volunteers to work with seniors in every municipality in Victoria.’
– Seniors Outreach Worker August 2018.***

Judy's Story

Judy attends a local Secondary School and was introduced to volunteering on August 26, 2017. It's a very specific date that Judy remembers very well. She sent us a hand-drawn card to share what volunteering means to her:

“Thank you so much for writing a reference letter for me! And thank you for the volunteering experiences and the workshops you provided for me and the other students. The people I have met through Volunteer Victoria have been the coolest people I have ever met. Words cannot express how grateful I am. (The leaves on the cover of the card symbolize the first time I volunteered with the youth team in August 26, 2017. We did the “Spirit Garden” Clean Up and I made it on to Vital Signs. No Big Deal Right?)”

We think it is a huge deal when youth know that they are seen, when they have a place to belong, and when they are given opportunities to engage in community that have value and purpose.

We know that investing in youth has a big return, because a local youth with volunteering knowledge gives about 10% more time than their peers. Over a life-time that translates into 1,000's of additional volunteering hours.

Volunteer Victoria meets with more than 3,500 youth in schools, community centres, and gathering places each year. A donation to Volunteer Victoria is an investment in each of these youth.

Giving to Volunteer Victoria strengthens our community.

Your donation will ensure that new generations of volunteer are recruited, trained, and referred to areas, causes, and positions where they are needed the most, and also that volunteer-led organizations have the tools they need to thrive and succeed, because, when you help Volunteer Victoria, you help every organization that recruits and values volunteers.

Thousands of local people rely on volunteers everyday to help them move, read, eat, grow, and feel stronger.

The arts, environment, neighbourhoods, spaces, ideas and movements also need volunteers to shine light, even during the darkest of times.

When you donate to Volunteer Victoria you help communities thrive – as communities cannot function without volunteers.



“I sort my life into categories. I have my family, my work, and my volunteering. Volunteering is a pillar in my life.” – Geoff

Over the last six years, Volunteer Victoria has:

- Provided programs for **862** individuals on a mental health or addictions journey
- Delivered learning and training opportunities to **5,562** individuals
- Met **10,047** youth in schools to educate them about volunteering
- Added **783,666** volunteer hours to the youth volunteer pool – that’s an added contribution of **\$8.1 million** at today’s minimum wage
- Consulted with more than **640** seniors about their leadership journeys and their volunteering needs
- Supported members of the public with more than **1 million** searches on our online database of volunteer positions

“With wildfires threatening communities throughout B.C., volunteer fire departments across the province have suddenly found themselves tested.” – Global News July 2017.

68% of Canadian employees, when given a choice between two jobs, would choose the company that had an employer-supported volunteering program. In 2016, registered charities in Victoria generated \$4 billion in economic activity and 63,000 full-time jobs.



Don Monsour's Volunteering Journey

"Retiring can be a new beginning. About 15 years ago when I was ready to retire I thought to myself what will I do for the rest of my life? The light bulb then went off. So I gave up my working life and used that time to help others improve their lives. Since then it has become a full time job.

I found out the more you give the more you get. Now the past 15 years have gone by in a flash and I go to sleep every night with a smile on my face knowing that by helping others I have really helped myself.

Some say it's better to give than receive, I say it's best to do both."

Older volunteers remain the cornerstone of many volunteer programs in Greater Victoria. Volunteers, like Don, bring skills, knowledge, and experience and they take on all types of

tasks and duties that help ensure that non-profit groups operate effectively and efficiently.

But, just as demand for volunteers is growing, dedicated older adults are aging out of volunteering. By 2028, we will lose more than 549,000 volunteer hours in Greater Victoria each year.

Organizations that you use and trust, that protect animals and the local environment, strengthen the arts, food security, and seniors' services, and provide help for vulnerable populations - including schools, libraries and hospitals - will feel the impact most.

Did you know that there are more than 3,000 societies in Greater Victoria and all of them need volunteers? So when you donate to Volunteer Victoria you are also helping many more organizations succeed.

“I have been a volunteer for decades and have willingly given my time and skills. As I grow older, I know that I need to change the way I support volunteerism. I can’t give as much time, but I can make a difference with a donation.” – Val

Katie Ganassin’s Volunteer Journey

“I was not a volunteer in my youth, I was motivated to start volunteering to build my career opportunities. In my first role, I volunteered to assist in the MS art program. The participants and I absolutely enjoyed our weekly time together.

Within a year, I was offered work at the MS Society. My work and volunteer experience brought me to assist in the physiotherapy gym.

A year later, I was running the gym and the community center. This is when I began gathering resources and learning about volunteer management and leadership through classes and events run by Volunteer Victoria. The network of professionals was remarkable, and the opportunities created a space where I could learn and grow.

Some of my favorite memories are the Emerging Leaders Network and a course entitled “Building your Non-Profit Leadership Practice”.

I began my work with the board at Volunteer Victoria as a member of the Agency Relations Committee. 5 years later, I am co-chair of the Volunteer Victoria board of directors alongside the lovely Laura Cox.

I have also held volunteer positions with This is Vic, Innovative Communities, and Rifflandia, to name a few.

Now, I am the Manager of Community Services at the MS Society of Canada for BC and Yukon and am working toward a master’s in leadership at Royal Roads University.

There is no finish line. Volunteering is the foundation of my career and a pillar in my life.”

If you would like to help Volunteer Victoria recruit more volunteers who will grow into leadership roles, and help people of all ages and stages volunteer more, we invite you to make a donation today.

The best ways to donate to Volunteer Victoria

Whether you are a volunteer, have been helped by volunteers, or you work or live with volunteers, you have witnessed the power of volunteerism. We invite you to make a donation to Volunteer Victoria. Here are some of the giving options to make a lasting difference:

ONE-TIME, MONTHLY, OR ANNUAL DONATIONS –

- Donate online at volunteervictoria.bc.ca
- Drop by the office or mail a donation to Volunteer Victoria, 306-620 View Street Victoria, V8W 1J6

MAJOR GIFTS – Make a larger donation to our general fund or to a specific program or service that furthers your wishes and vision.

ORGANIZE AN EVENT – Host an independent event to raise money and awareness.

MAKE A CHARITABLE BEQUEST IN YOUR WILL – Look after your loved ones and leave a legacy gift to Volunteer Victoria that will benefit the community for years to come.

DONATE STOCKS AND PUBLICLY TRADED FUNDS, REAL ESTATE, OR LIFE INSURANCE – Talk to one of our staff about the many giving options.

For more information call 250.386.2269 or visit volunteervictoria.bc.ca. Tax receipts are issued for all eligible donations.



THIS IS
THE SIGN
YOU'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR



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Connect:

306-620 View Street
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