



Volunteer Newsletter

Vol II – May 2022

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!!!

Happy Spring everyone! I hope you are all enjoying the longer days and warmer weather. I also hope you're keeping well. I know this most recent strain of Covid hit me and I was off work for a week. Hopefully, we've all gained some immunity now and will be able to stay healthy. Life can also be hard, so please know I'm here if there's anything I can do to help you through a challenging time or just to be a listening ear. I know all the staff and volunteers feel the same way. We've become like family (the good, supportive & loving kind). ☺

For those of you that weren't around the week of April 25^m, it was National Volunteer Appreciation Week. We set up a display and had a small token of appreciation for each of you. I have quite a few cards still in my office, so I'll be sure to get those to you next time you're in. We appreciate you all so much so truly hope you feel valued and part of a community of like-minded helpers. We really hope to plan a parking lot BBQ to get everyone together!



Staff: Christina, Char & Bente wearing our "We Love our Volunteers" shirts. Here's Lena from our Wednesday Walmart team. She was really "getting into" the job that day! HAH!

Safety & Protocol Reminders

As the weather gets warmer, I'd like to gently remind everyone that we need to wear closed-toe shoes in the warehouse. If you arrive in sandals, we will unfortunately have to send you home. Shorts are great though! I've discovered this is Carl's work uniform from now until the snow falls again!

We have our new forklift as well. Please listen and watch carefully when you're in the warehouse as this machine is a lot quieter than the old one!



Better Impact Volunteer Management System

It's taking longer than I thought to get through the training with Better Impact. Soon I will have more information for you on how to sign up for additional shifts, see shifts that you're scheduled for (those of you who work on a regular basis), as well as additional information I'd love to have from you. For example, I'd love to be able to acknowledge everyone's birthdays so will be asking you for those. Birth year will be optional. This program will be so helpful when it's finally in place. The goal is to have it ready by August.

New Staff Spotlight

Please join us in welcoming Christina Williams to the role of Client Intake/Office Administration Coordinator. She is already a fantastic addition to our team! Here's a little more about her:

Christina loves having the opportunity to serve those in need in her community. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and Spanish from the University of Calgary. Christina spent her days training volunteers at Samaritan's Purse Canada and at the Calgary Food Bank before landing in Okotoks with her husband and two young kids. She and her husband served on the Board of Directors at City Mosaic Church in Calgary for several years. Christina enjoys taking part in all that Okotoks and the Foothills have to offer with her family, including walking the trails, attending town events and discovering gems hidden in the many small shops around town.

- True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. – C. S. Lewis



Gardening Season

We are planning to plant our community garden next week providing the weather cooperates with us.

We could use more volunteers for planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting. Please let Bente or Char know if you're interested.

New Policy for Volunteers

Our Board of Directors has implemented a new policy that each volunteer needs to provide a Vulnerable Sector Check that has been completed in the last 12 months. We will provide you with a letter that you can take to the RCMP in town and we are hopeful they will waive the \$5 fee. Once complete, you will be able to upload the form to the Better Impact website or can email it and I'll upload it for you. The goal is to have this in place by the end of the summer.

Volunteer Hours for Quarter I – WOW!

Core Volunteers	1443
Cobb's Bread	70
Food Bank Shopper	36
Store Pickups	225
Garden	5
Hamper Delivery	30
Corporate Groups	35
Board Meetings	108
Students	117.5
TOTAL	2069.5

Every contribution makes a HUGE difference!

