

Thrift Shop Report to the Board September 2018

It has been a very busy summer at the shop. While other church shops close for the summer, we gear up and open Saturdays as well as Fridays from May 1 through the end of August. This means that we have had 35 sales days since May 1; the financials speak for themselves as to dollar contribution this makes to the church operating account. What that number fails to take into account is the incredible increase in exposure; new relationships that are built and many more neighbours who have experienced the friendliness and compassion of the JBUC community. Our partnership with the Community Market has again resulted in more exposure for their market and our store, we are grateful for the relationship, nurtured by our own Judy too. We are indeed "becoming known".

We have 48 volunteers on our roster. As usual, some are currently "on the schedule" and some are away and will return. The amazing Judy Langford orchestrates the various comings and goings and we are grateful (and sometimes amazed) at how she always manages to see that we are staffed and ready to meet the ever-increasing crowds on sale days. A huge appreciation for this magic!

An innovation that has boosted our profile in a really fun way is the new energy that Franklyn has brought to the facebook page. Her quirky online humour and her creative offerings in our front hall have really added a drama and sense of expectation each week as visitors line up to see what's on offer from her. Thanks for "just more fun", Franklyn!

The array of gifts brought by volunteers is staggering; we are blessed.

We continue to expand our reach as far as sending on things we cannot use. We have a new connection with the Compassionate Warehouse (thanks to a volunteer), we now have regular pickups each week for Our Place as well as Big Brothers, and we have ongoing regular deliveries to James Bay Community School and The Project. We have had a great connection through Alex (a past volunteer and current fan) who takes our excess books, being sure that some we cannot use are passed on to a GVPL staff person responsible for supplying books to Our Place and The Wilkinson Road Correction Center.....did you know that our Public Library had that commitment? Along with the usual SPCA, Sandy Merriman Centre, Value Village and ReStore, we do a prodigious amount of re-cycling!

After a rousing "Customer Appreciation Day" and a convivial staff Hot Dog Day, we all went home tired but satisfied last Friday and are ready to settle in to our regular fall routine of Wednesday and Thursday work days and Friday sales.

We have had some sad times this summer with illness and death in the lives of volunteers; we are grateful for the caring of one another.

Marg Lunam for the leadership team
Aleksa Harkness, Judy Langford, Franklyn Roy