

The Public Good

The newsletter of the Public Good Society of Dartmouth

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Hosting Information Sessions - A Connection that Works!

When I began my work as Community Outreach Facilitator with the Connections that Work program one of the stated goals was “hosting Information Sessions”. This coordination of Information Sessions with various service agencies at Dartmouth food banks allows these agencies to share their story and service with clients.

Two years later over 40 Information Sessions have been held at the four food banks I regularly attend. Here’s what that looks like; an agency that offers services in literacy, employment, education, computer training, etc...would arrive 15 minutes before the food bank opens, they would typically set up with a display board and brochures in a corner of the Hall. During the gathering time the food bank coordinator would call on the agency representative to share in 2 minutes what that organization can offer clients. For the next hour clients waiting for their number to be called would circulate around the table and ask questions, picking up brochures for themselves and others they know who might be interested.

Ten different agencies have participated in these Information Sessions for clients held at the food banks and they include; The Career Development Centre on Wyse Rd, the HRM downtown police officer, Lake City Employment, Solutions Learning Centre (formerly Dartmouth Work Activity), Team Work/Work Bridge, Mike Savage MP, the Dartmouth

Public Good Society Receives Charitable Status

On July 15, 2010 the Canada Revenue Agency announced that The Public Good Society qualified for Registration as a Charity.

Charitable status means that The Public Good Society is able to issue receipts for donations under the Income Tax Act.

Most charities depend on support from kind donors who support the work of the organization. The Public Good Society is no different.

The Public Good Society’s Charitable Registration Number is 85870 8928 RR0001

Learning Network, the Dartmouth Family Centre, Halifax Humanities 101, and WEE IT. In each case the presence of the agency helped raise its profile in the community assuring that new clients, who otherwise would never have heard of the agency, have had new and transformative experiences.

This is surely a “connection” that works. In some cases these connections really do lead to paid employment and in others to life-enhancing opportunities. And this now permanent connection between food bank and service agency is a lasting legacy of our program.

Kevin Little
Community Outreach Facilitator

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Public Good Society will be held on November 29th from 5:30-7:30 pm at Christ Church Hall.

Come learn more about The Public Good Society and help us launch our new logo and website!

All are welcome to attend!



Thanks to funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, the "Connections that Work" project will continue helping people in Dartmouth until March 2011.

Quincy Russell — Making a Difference

Quincy Russell is eager to become active in his community. His search to make a valuable contribution has led him to become the newest board member of The Public Good Society of Dartmouth. Quincy grew up in Cole Harbour and spent a great deal of his summer vacations in the downtown Dartmouth area. He is currently involved in the organization, Campus Action On Food, which is affiliated with Dalhousie University. As the student body becomes more international and diverse, it is his intention to help create food options reflecting that diversity for all students.

Working in the downtown Dartmouth area has reminded Quincy of the diversity within the neighbourhood and the need to further the sense of community displayed by its citizens. As the downtown area experiences a growth period, it is important that there is a place for all of its citizens. Quincy sees his involvement with the Public Good Society as an opportunity to support issues that directly affect the community. He is very pleased to be on the Board and he feels that, "the Society is made up of a strong group of individuals who value their community and want what is best for the citizens". Quincy sees the program, Connections That Work, as a great foundation program that links people to the services they need and he is eager to address the complex issues related to affordable housing. Quincy is looking forward to working with the Board as they focus on these issues.

As the most recent and youngest member of the Board Quincy offers a unique perspective. His genuine community interest and his eagerness and enthusiasm have proven to be a tremendous asset to the Board of The Public Good Society.

Consulting the Community

On July 29, The Public Good Society hosted an open discussion at the Christ Church Hall on Dundas St. The discussion began with a question, "where do you see The Public Good Society's efforts being best employed?" the evening brought together a diverse group of Dartmouth citizens from many walks of life, yet when asked, the response was mutual. Within the first fifteen minutes of the discussion, we had come to a consensus (a process we had expected to take up close to half of our time together). Just as we had expected, Housing Issues, and more specifically, Affordable Housing seems to be on Dartmouthians minds lately, with the theory that "If you don't have a roof over your head, you don't have much more than a hope and a prayer".

As the evening proceeded, members of the discussion circle were introduced to the realities of the struggles faced by those effected by the dilemma of Affordable Housing. These realities were shared by service providers, politicians, and first voice individuals, living the struggle day to day. Energy rose as stories, theories and ideas were shared, and by the end of the discussion, The Public Good Society had committed to hosting an Affordable Housing Forum in the near future. Such a forum would bring together representatives from all parties effected by Affordable Housing, and would welcome the broader community of the HRM, all in pursuit of making affordable housing a reality.

No Place Like Home

Join us to learn some facts, explore some options and identify workable, doable solutions. This event is free and everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Speaker: Paul O'Hara, Social Worker, North End Community Health Association

Friday, October 15, 8:30 am, Christ Church Hall, Dartmouth (near the corner of Dundas and Ochterloney, directly behind Christ Church)

"The Public Good" is published twice a year by the Public Good Society of Dartmouth.

For more information on the Society see our web site at www.publicgoodsociety.ca.

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