



National Volunteer Week - April 23 - April 29, 2017

Salute your Volunteers

# Volunteers vital to award-winning Lifetime Networks

Jennifer Blyth  
Black Press

The Saanich-based Lifetime Networks is the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce 2017 Non-Profit of the Year.

"It's very, very exciting," Lifetime Networks executive director Wendy-Sue Andrew says of the Chamber award, sponsored by Children's Health Foundation of Vancouver Island.

Lifetime Networks is a not-for-

profit organization that builds networks of friends, provides continuing education, community engagement support, employment preparation, job search, 'on the job' support and more for people with disabilities from inclusive, safe, welcoming settings.

Because so much of the organization's efforts relies on community support, the award will raise awareness for both fundraising efforts and the volunteers, Andrew said.

Last year, Lifetime Networks recorded more than 6,000 volunteer

hours ranging from fundraising events to the Best Buddies program that pairs UVic students with individuals with developmental disabilities, Andrew said, adding they're always looking for more people to help out.

Since its founding in 1998, Lifetime Networks has expanded beyond establishing personal support networks to the addition of a wide range of offerings, including fine arts programs, Best Buddies, continuing education and employment support services.

Throughout this growth, however,

Lifetime Networks' goal remains the same: increase the number of relationships in the lives of people with disabilities.

Runner-up in the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce awards was Our Place Society, whose services include 45-room transitional housing, a dining room and nutrition bar serving more than 1,200 free, nutritious weekday meals and a drop-in centre offering numerous programs and a place of welcome.

Learn more about Lifetime Net-

works at [Lifetimenetworks.org](http://Lifetimenetworks.org) and about Our Place at [ourplacesociety.com](http://ourplacesociety.com).

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## DID YOU KNOW?

While older adults contribute more hours per year, Canada's youth (aged 15 to 24) have the highest volunteer rate (58 per cent) (Statistics Canada, 2012).

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# HarbourCats volunteers pitch in for community

Tim Collins  
News contributor

The HarbourCats belong to Victoria...and they're proud of it.

"This is first and foremost a community team and we do everything possible to maintain that community focus," says the team's general manager, Jim Swanson.

A big part of that philosophy is reflected in the team's pow-



Harvey, the HarbourCats mascot

"It doesn't matter whether they're working as ticket takers or ushers...or just picking up trash, they all have this great attitude that reflects the attitude of the whole team. It's really something to see, and it does so much to create the atmosphere that's so important to us."

Another special aspect