

Annual Report 2003-2004

MISSION STATEMENT

AIDS Vancouver Island provides comprehensive, accessible and effective education, prevention, care, treatment and support services to residents of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands to: (1) reduce the spread of, primarily, HIV/AIDS and also hepatitis C and/or other co-infections; and (2) improve the health and well-being of people infected and affected primarily by HIV/AIDS and also by hepatitis C and/or other co-infections.

Chair's Message

The past year has brought about many changes and new challenges for AIDS Vancouver Island. The board itself has been at the forefront of these changes; and with change comes new opportunity. We are striving to build a stronger, more diverse board, a stronger organization that works as a true team, a stronger financial base and better community awareness and agency presence.

I became the chair of AVI after the resignation of Del Thompson. I would like to thank Del for his hard work and dedication. His leadership on the Nanaimo Health Clinic was truly outstanding and he paved the way for this new, successful venture.

Other changes on the board include the resignation, for various reasons, of Mr Jim Kirk; Mr Les Chan and Mr Keith Brookes. Thank you all for your contribution and energy over the past year. We welcomed to the board Ms Sally Calich, Mr Patrick Corrigan both of whom have made a positive contribution to the organization.

I would also like to thank Fred Hughes, Ray Coombs and Ed Steele for their ongoing steady and experienced perspective on issues and challenges. In particular, Fred's hard work as treasurer has required a high level of commitment and attention to detail.

Also deserving thanks is our executive director and the tremendous hard working staff and volunteers at AVI for giving our organization momentum and direction as we move forward. Your dedication and commitment to the cause has never faltered or wavered. Thank you.

Events that have highlighted the past year include:

- The opening of the Nanaimo Methadone Clinic, by AVI Enterprises, our first venture to secure this funding stream.
- Hard work and leadership of AIDS Vancouver Island in the discussion regarding a safe injection site(s) in Victoria and in particular Miki's efforts to bring together a diverse community on a sensitive and complex issue.

- An organizational review to build a stronger team and to empower employees and management.
- Lobbying and networking with various government officials on fundraising and other needs of AVI.
- Building bridges in the community and expanding the awareness and presence of AVI and getting our message out.
- The development of a policy of transparency for the board and the organization.

Because these are changing and challenging times, the job yet to be done is huge. Make no mistake about it; as the journey goes on the work becomes greater.

I also recognize and am sensitive to the fact that the genesis of AVI was a group of gay men getting together to discuss issues and problems



Bert Hick

surrounding AIDS and the gay male population. Therefore, I will be taking an active interest in programming and funding initiatives aimed at the gay men's community—a cornerstone of AVI and HIV/AIDS work across the country.

We need your help. The members of a non-profit organization are its life blood and we need your help on committees and specific initiatives, advice and ideas.

Yours truly,
Bert Hick
Chair, AVI

Executive Director's Message

We continued to strengthen our collaborative efforts and initiatives with the community and to build on our strategic plan and its objectives in 2003/2004. Our commitment to provide services to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C has never been stronger.

In 2003-2004, AVI staff were invited to sit at both local and regional HIV/AIDS steering committee tables to develop action plans. These meetings focus on services provided across Vancouver Island. Research about HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, addictions, and public health informs all of these discussions. The meetings are an opportunity to participate in shaping the direction of services for those affected and infected with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C who live on the island. Participants include:

- Dr. Richard Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA);
- Dr. Charmaine Ends, North Island VIHA;
- Dr. Diane Rethon, Director of Addiction Services, VIHA;
- the Deputy Health Officer; and,
- representatives from service agencies from South, Central and North Vancouver Island.

Accomplishments linked to the first year of our new strategic plan include:

- The opening of the Health Centre in Nanaimo by AVI Enterprises on December 1, 2003. In a short period of time, this centre is achieving success.
- Targeting youth continues to be a priority for us. With help from the United Way of Victoria, we facilitated Esquimalt youth to become peer educators for safer sex practices.
- Bridges were built and reinforced with the Cowichan Tribes and the House of Friendship in Duncan. This work continues and has resulted in a funding submission waiting for approval by Health Canada. This initiative has been a success because of the people of Duncan and the client volunteers of AVI.
- Our peer educator program for hepatitis C continues in Victoria at Wilkinson Jail. We have also hired a part-time hepatitis C worker based in Nanaimo.

AVI Enterprises continues to look for new opportunities. With the support of the VanCity Community Fund, we are exploring new social enterprises that can support client programs and the agency's financial health in the future.

AVI continues to be a member of Pacific AIDS Network (PAN), a coalition of AIDS service organizations in BC. AVI members can look forward to the spring of 2005, when a PAN skills-building conference will be held in Victoria. There will be opportunities for us to create activities for PAN delegates and to have AVI staff, members and volunteers attend.



Joanne Bamfield and Miki Hansen

In the spring of 2004, AVI was approached by VIHA to assume responsibility for the administration of services on the North Island after the death of North Island AIDS Coalition's executive director. We began the transition in March and took full responsibility on May 1. After 6 months of review and assessment, the board will decide whether to continue with this amalgamation.

AVI staff have adapted and excelled in the context of changes across the organization. Over the next six months, a comprehensive organizational review will take place in order to improve our services and to ensure the smooth operation of the organization.

We have had many changes in staffing in 2003/2004, and my gratitude to everyone for their solid efforts to maintain quality services. It is the passion for our work and our commitment to the people we serve, including the larger community, that marks the calibre of AVI staff.

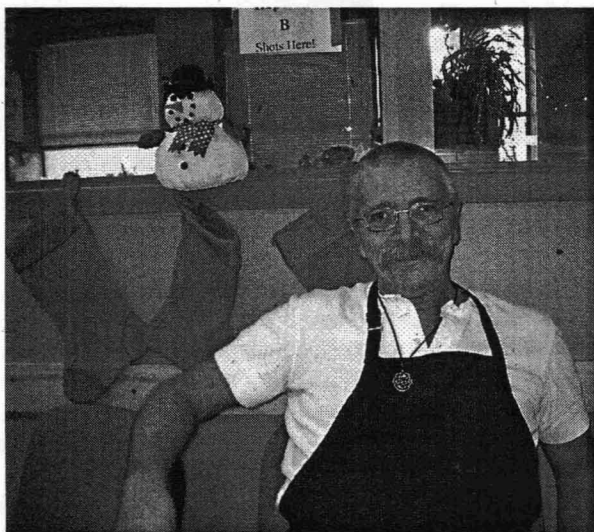
On the road ahead, I wish everyone strong hearts and the wind behind us to affect the changes we need for the future.

Miki Hansen, Executive Director

Direct Services

Positive Wellness Program

The Positive Wellness Program provides a daily drop-in and hot lunch program to registered HIV positive clients. We recorded more than 8,000 lunches served and a great many clients accessed counseling, income assistance advocacy, housing advocacy, information and referrals in 2003/2004.



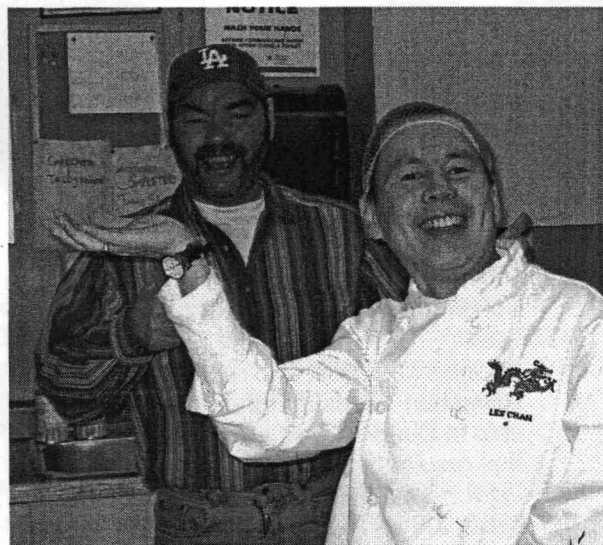
Ron Hebert,
chef of the Hot Meal Program

Dr. Chris Fraser, of the SwiftStreet Clinic, continued to provide a once-a-week clinic out of the drop-in centre. A blood test clinic run by the Royal Jubilee Hospital also continues, and is run once each month.

The program attracts more and more clients every quarter, which is creating challenges in finding new ways to meet demands for services, both financially and in terms of staff

time. We have now combined the casual lists of SOS and PWP in order to give us a broader staff pool for both departments. This is working well.

We continue to benefit from the University of Victoria and Camosun College Nursing and Social Work practicum programs. The students we had in 2003/2004 were so energetic, enthusiastic and hard-working that some were hired after their practices were complete.



Special guest chef, Board member Les Chan and
volunteer busser, Gerard Berthelette

Direct Services

Street Outreach Services (SOS)

SOS offers needle exchange and health promotion and harm reduction information in addition to relevant programming (acupuncture, Christian drug and alcohol support groups, art therapy, etc.) and a drop-in with a monthly community dinner.

Anonymous HIV, hep C, hep A and B, pregnancy and STD testing are provided on-site by the Capital Health Region Street Nurse Program; vaccinations, referrals and other services are also available.



Rick Barnes and Kim Toombes

SOS is contracted with Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre to provide trainings for peer educators in health and harm reduction issues. SOS also runs the Cowichan Valley Mobile Needle Exchange which is based out of Duncan.

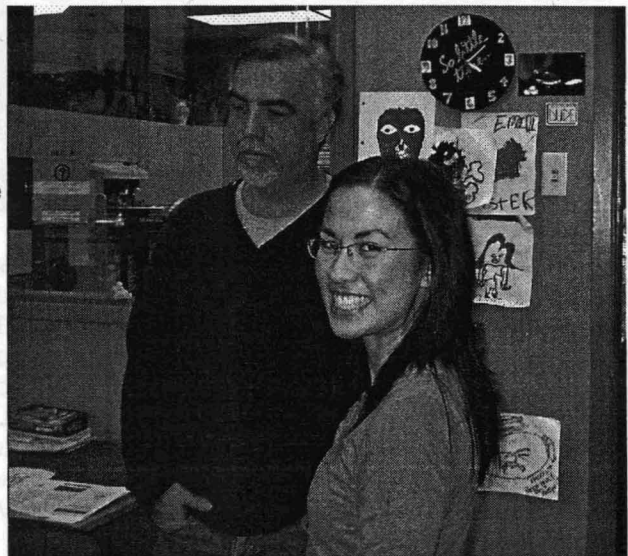
SOS experienced an increase in client numbers and syringe exchanges in 2003/2004. 519 new clients registered with SOS. Through the needle exchange we distributed 814,023 syringes with even more returns. The program had an exchange rate of 110%.

SOS continues to provide peer based "rig-digs"—regular sweeps of the neighbourhood and the

downtown core—to dispose of discarded syringes and related refuse.

SOS participated in a second national pilot study, I-Track, a surveillance system that monitors HIV/HCV associated risk behaviours and testing behaviours among individuals who use drugs by injection. The data from this survey will help us to identify trends and to evaluate prevention programs and policies.

For information or to access services, call SOS in Victoria at (250) 384-2366 and in Duncan at (250) 701-3667.



Dan Cowan and Heather Mah

Health Promotion and Community Development

The Health Promotion and Community Development team has worked hard to provide a range of educational services to communities across the South and Central Vancouver Island areas. We have answered calls to our Infoline from across the island and delivered workshops in venues as diverse as prisons and churches in locations ranging from Sooke and Tofino to Salt Spring Island. The Men's Wellness Program has remained a leader in providing a range of community development programs, including education and support to gay and bisexual men.

We continue to search for innovative ways to deliver prevention and support messages.

In Nanaimo, we worked with a local playwright and HIV educator, Odette Laramée for a World

Theatre Day event at Nanaimo District Secondary School. Laramée has used 12-foot puppets in aboriginal communities in Canada, Latin America and Africa as part of HIV/AIDS education. Grade 10 students in Nanaimo were given an overview before using the puppets to re-enact an HIV script written by African youth. They then wrote their own scripts about the disclosure of HIV status. The Men's Wellness Project collaborated with the Victoria Film Festival to screen a "bareback" exploration film, "The Gift," followed by a panel debate and discussion. A gay and bi men's health forum, "Sex Now! The Cabaret," used music and theatre to deliver survey results and implications for gay men in our community. The forum reached a higher level of community participation than any forum to date. The year's World AIDS Day activities included the use of "Infinity Man," an innovative art work developed by Jamie Hillyer that deals with the challenges of HIV treatment.

The Men's Wellness Discussion Group continues to attract a core group of men with topics covering a range of health and wellness issues. We responded to an expressed need for a greater range of social support and connection opportunities outside of bars by initiating well attended,

bi-weekly coffee house evenings. We continued to provide support and information to area youth groups, including gay-straight alliances.

We were successful in securing funding from the United Way for a peer-based prevention-education project with Esquimalt School's Gay-Straight Alliance. We also delivered training sessions on the connections between HIV infection, homophobia and low self esteem at a United Way conference.



Katrina Jensen and her son, Felix

We continue our efforts to reach more marginalized groups in our community while ensuring that information remain available to the general public through the Infoline, Resource Centre and information sessions. Groups reached for the first time in-

cluded health care workers from various Nu-Chal-Nuth First Nations bands, the Cowichan tribes and the Brain Injury Society. We ran a successful Valentine's Day campaign in Nanaimo, and 10 nursing students participated in outreach to various bars in Duncan, Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Gabriola Island, Parksville, Port Alberni, Ucluelet and Tofino. They distributed over 2,300 condom packs.

We played a leadership role in assisting others to develop curriculum materials on HIV/AIDS issues. These included the former Capital Health Region public health nurses, a course at Pearson College on developing critical thinking and the Gay and Lesbian Educators of BC. Educators from both Victoria and Nanaimo were also involved in several Vancouver Island Health Authority HIV/AIDS service planning meetings.

We expanded our use of volunteers in the Men's Wellness Project and in the Speakers Bureau in order to increase their diversity and scope.

The Health Promotion and Community Development team also played a key role in the launch of the agency's new website, www.avi.org.

Volunteer Services

Volunteers of AIDS Vancouver Island provide much of the backbone and stabilizing force that enable programs and services to be supported and delivered. The commitment, energy, time, enthusiasm, and diversity of skills, ideas, and personal attributes of the volunteers made a significant difference in the lives of the clients, paid staff and other volunteers. We thank them for their many contributions during this past year.

In 2003, approximately 200 volunteers in the Nanaimo and Victoria offices gave of themselves through regular volunteer shifts, time-limited projects and the planning and delivery of a number of special events.

Volunteers who served on our board of directors



Staff: MaryKay MacVicar, Kim Toombs
and George Pine

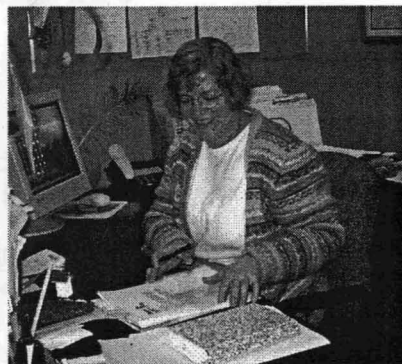
dedicated many hours in addressing the business of the organization in their respective capacities. It was not an easy task and we thank them for their many contributions.

Over the past year volunteers in Nanaimo committed more than 1,000 hours to provide reception related duties and with assembling sex packs for distribution within the community. Volunteers also helped with the annual Nanaimo AIDS Walk.

In the Victoria office, volunteers provided more than 2,991 hours to the Positive Wellness Program as bussers and midday meal preparation cooks. Several volunteers also attended Client Advisory Committee meetings. In December, volunteers and staff assembled nearly 295 holiday hampers for clients of the Positive Wellness Program. This initiative was enriched through the community support of the Girl Guides who contributed art work on

the hampers.

At Street Outreach Services volunteers gave 2,117 hours serving as shift volunteers, drop-in hosts, delivering soup to the agency for clients, supervisors of other volunteers involved in retrieving used



Brigitte MacKenzie,
Volunteer Coordinator

syringes from identified surrounding locations and as leaders of a weekly art group and a movie night.

Volunteers provided numerous office-related services including reception related duties of 2,806 hours; assistance with data entry; the redevelopment of the AVI website; and with mailouts. Our maintenance and gardening volunteer was especially busy this past year, the evidence of which shows in the well maintained appearance of our building, inside and out, and our public property.

Volunteers supported health promotion and community development by staffing booths at special events/information fairs; making presentations to numerous audiences about HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and safer sex; planning and presenting a number of special Men's Wellness forums and assembling and distributing sex packs.

Individuals learn about volunteer opportunities at AVI through community agencies such as Volunteer Victoria and the Volunteer Bureau of Nanaimo, as well as at public festivals and volunteer and information fairs. Individuals are also referred to AVI by probation officers to complete community service hours. In 2003, 8 practicum students from Camosun College and the University of Victoria completed a community agency placement at AIDS Vancouver Island. Three series of volunteer training sessions were offered in 2003, providing participants with an intensive, experientially based foundation of knowledge. Certificates were awarded upon completion of the training.

Annual events and fundraisers in 2003 included the Pride Parade in July, the AIDS Walk in September, AIDS Awareness Week in November and World AIDS Day in December. Volunteers staffed two volunteer fairs as well.

Volunteers enrich all of us through their participation and their many contributions.

Public Relations

The past year saw the development of a communications plan for the agency. The plan was drafted in alignment with key areas of the agency's strategic plan along with consultation with staff and external stakeholders.

Three priorities were identified in the plan. The agency must:

1. reflect and enhance its overall profile;
2. better position itself in the public, the media and among stakeholders as a principle source of information and services relating to HIV/AIDS; and,
3. position itself as a leader on HIV/AIDS and harm reduction issues on Vancouver Island.



Kealey Pringle and Jim Oliver provide World AIDS Day interviews for CH TV

Canadian Youth, Sexual Health and AIDS Study (Council of Ministers of Education, Canada and Health Canada);

- *HIV/AIDS - No end in sight* for the Nanaimo AIDS Walk; and,

- *The Gift*, a special screening of documentary filmmaker Louise Hogarth's controversial film that discusses the deliberate giving and receiving of HIV among a select group of gay men.

A display advertising campaign for the *Times-Colonist* was also developed and coordinated by the agency in its effort to support the Victoria AIDS Walk.

On-going media relations, management and issues management included requests for comments and interviews on a wide variety of topics related to HIV and harm reduction. The agency responded to more than 40 media requests in 2003/2004.

Proactive communications initiatives included the broadcast of a number of media releases. These included:

- *The Wake Up Call* in response to two reports, *HIV/AIDS: An Attitudinal Survey* (Ipsos-Reid for Health Canada) and

The final element of the communications plan required the development of an internal communications tool designed to clarify the agency's feedback and approval needs. The agency adopted the new "routing" system to ensure accountability and timeliness in its internal communications. The system facilitates a step-by-step approach that can be used for feedback, information and approval. Its ability to streamline the agency's decision-making and internal communications functions will be evaluated in the fall of 2004.

Fund Development

AIDS Vancouver Island continued to diversify its funding base and to enlist additional supports to advance program initiatives.

We gratefully recognize the following funders, sponsors and donors:

Vancouver Island Health Authority
Health Canada
United Way of Greater Victoria
BC Gaming Commission
Thrifty Foods
Times Colonist
Chateau Victoria
Off the Cuff
MAC AIDS Fund
First Metropolitan Church
Shire
Island Savings Credit Union
Canadian Springs Water Company
Starbucks Coffee Canada, Inc.

ALDO
Bank of Montreal
Belfry Theatre
City of Victoria
Top Shelf Bookkeeping Ltd.
VanCity Savings Credit Union
Victoria Foundation
Fraternal Order of Eagles ~
Ladies Auxillary #2101
The GAP Foundation
First Unitarian Church
City of Victoria
Pat MacLean,
(soup maker extraordinaire!)

...and countless businesses and individuals who donated products, services and pledges to the annual AIDS Walk. THANK YOU.



Brian Ritchie, AVI's director of finance, accepts collected donations from *Off the Cuff* owners Lisa Montroy and Jason Maher

Financial Reports

Vancouver Island AIDS Society

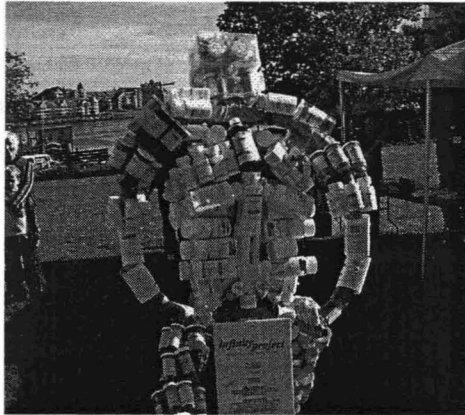
Statement of Operations (Unaudited)

Year Ended March 31	2004	2003
Revenue		
Grants		
Provincial government	\$ 974,920	\$ 941,748
Federal government	47,345	158,188
United Way	48,466	50,374
Donations	36,374	35,329
Fundraising		
Corporate sponsorship	12,270	22,531
Dancers for Life	-	1,590
Gaming Commission	40,424	20,496
Merchandising	95	-
Raffles	-	1,389
Honoraria	4,070	4,976
Interest and other income	23,712	26,208
Rent recovery	5,125	5,125
	<u>1,192,801</u>	<u>1,267,954</u>
Expenses		
Administration fees	2,289	1,600
Agency disbursements	7,076	7,027
Contract services	36,291	18,943
Equipment, leaseholds and maintenance	12,501	38,089
Financial assistance	8,625	12,133
Licences, fees, and dues	2,591	2,659
Meetings, honoraria and travel	57,394	54,854
Medical supplies and needle disposal	15,514	10,872
Office and stationery	51,080	46,598
Professional fees	19,417	9,853
Program materials	46,482	73,324
Promotion and advertising	3,618	4,004
Relocation expenses	-	1,748
Rent	92,275	81,693
Salaries and benefits	872,903	826,706
Telephone, utilities and internet	32,607	28,779
Volunteer recognition	5,125	7,197
	<u>1,265,788</u>	<u>1,226,079</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses before the following:	(72,987)	41,875
Capital assets included in equipment, leaseholds and maintenance above	4,447	25,575
Amortization	(30,528)	(33,696)
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses	<u>\$ (99,068)</u>	<u>\$ 33,754</u>

Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)

March 31	2004	2003
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 13,192	\$ 98,341
Term deposits	158,450	200,697
Receivables	25,627	30,020
Due from AVI Enterprises Society	58,827	-
Prepays	<u>23,565</u>	<u>15,593</u>
	279,661	344,651
Capital assets	<u>70,640</u>	<u>96,721</u>
	<u>\$ 350,301</u>	<u>\$ 441,372</u>
Liabilities		
Current		
Payables and accruals	\$ 29,973	\$ 55,317
Accrued employee benefits	22,108	12,217
Deferred revenue	41,510	7,504
Due to Pacific AIDS Network	<u>96,669</u>	<u>107,225</u>
	190,260	182,263
Net assets		
Invested in capital assets	70,640	96,721
Restricted for endowment purposes	1,708	1,708
General operating	<u>87,693</u>	<u>160,680</u>
	<u>160,041</u>	<u>259,109</u>
	<u>\$ 350,301</u>	<u>\$ 441,372</u>

More Photos



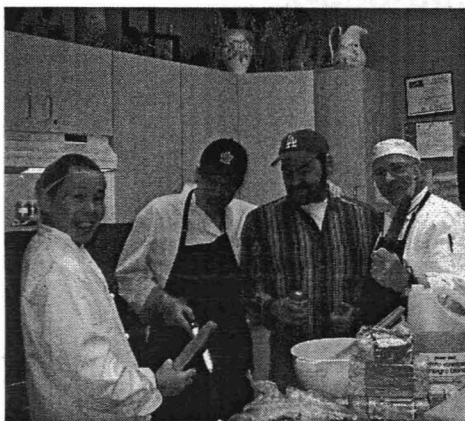
Infinity Man,
by Jamie Hilyer



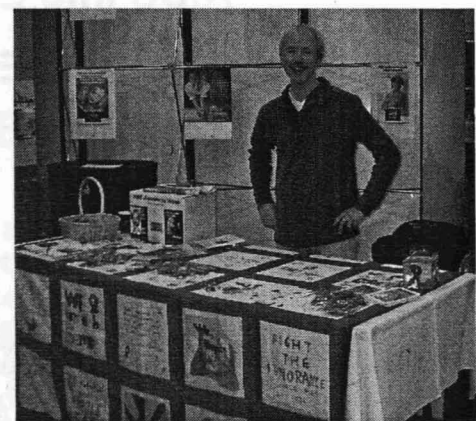
Heather Hobbs
and Santa



Our multi-talented employee,
Heather Hobbs



Les Chan, former board member,
David Morgan, chef, Gerard Berthdette,
busser, and Ron Herbert, chef for a
special Chinese New Years lunch



Our everready battery powered
Men's Wellness coordinator,
Rick Barnes



AVI Victoria

1601 Blanshard Street
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2J5
Telephone: (250) 384-2366
Fax: (250) 380-9411

AVI Nanaimo

201—55 Victoria Road
Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5N9
Telephone: (250) 753-2437
Fax: (250) 753-4595

Cowichan Valley Needle Exchange

Telephone: (250) 701-3667

AIDS Info Line Toll Free: 1-800-665-2437

Email: info@avi.org

www.avi.org

AIDS Vancouver Island is a founding member of the
Canadian AIDS Society and the Pacific AIDS Network.
We are also a member agency of the United Way
of Greater Victoria.

Charitable Registration # 130642440RR0001