

VOLUNTEER SUCCESS STORY: ADA WONG

Ada has been an active volunteer with VCN on and off the past 5 years. She worked with us while she advanced her knowledge in nursing and technology. Ada felt that professionally, she needed to keep up-to-date, keep her computer free from viruses and know where to purchase computer hardware at an affordable price.

VCN helped Ada by enhancing her basic technical knowledge in computer hardware and software to the point that she was able to take on a volunteer role, answering basic computer inquiries, teaching others about the use of computers, and ultimately to design and create her own professional webpage.



When asked “Why volunteer for VCN”? She says: *‘VCN has the right resources and helps many individuals, small businesses, and non-profit organizations across Metro Vancouver, and does so in a charitable way. VCN requires some core staff, volunteers, generous donors, and grants to keep its charitable services up and running. I’m thankful to VCN for helping me save my computer from the recycle bin a few times!’*

Read Ada’s full story here: <http://www2.vcn.bc.ca/success-story-ada-wong/>

KEEP YOUR WORDPRESS SITE UP-TO-DATE AND SAFE!



WordPress is one of the most popular and user-friendly website building tools today.

Regular maintenance of sites developed with WordPress is essential for stability and to remain free of security challenges. Keeping your website up-to-date with the current releases are key in preventing your website from vulnerabilities.

In recent months, VCN’s web|team has been busy restoring sites that have been hijacked by unfriendly code, or in situations where the original code contributor no longer updates their plugin or theme. It can then fail to have the site operate the way it was designed to. It’s vital that maintenance takes place as it can be very stressful to restore it once it is down.

VCN’s web|team does this work for smaller sites on our servers but larger sites really need more support. We provide these services at an affordable rate. Contact the VCN web|team for a quote: <http://webteam.vcn.bc.ca/contact-us/>

2015 TAX RETURNS

The tax season is once again upon us. VCN will be issuing 2015 electronic tax returns starting in February. If you sent in a donation prior to January 1, 2016 expect a pdf in your email's in bin soon! For contributions made to VCN through the **CanadaHelps** website, please check junk/spam folders for tax receipts.

Hard copy tax receipts are available upon request at help@vcn.bc.ca.

Keep in mind - If you file your return after April 30, 2016, your GST/HST credit (including any related provincial credits), Canada child tax benefit payments (including related provincial or territorial payments), and old age security payments may be delayed.



TELUS AWARDS VCN FUNDS TO ADVANCE THE SMS PROJECT



On January 11th TELUS Vancouver Community Board and Covenant House Board Member Allan Seckell presented VCN Executive Director Tracey Axelsson with a cheque for \$10,000 for the development of the Street Messaging System.

VCN will work to improve the architecture of the Street Message System to include new features. Funds will be used to further revamp the site to serve the needs of the community.

TELUS' Grant Program focuses on supporting local initiatives working to positively impact local communities.

VOLUNTEER, PAY DUES and/or DONATE TO VCN

VCN's vision to 'bridge the digital divide' has never been more essential. Our work began with offer local people a public amenity for each to freely access what is now the single most important economic instrument of our time – the Internet. It's a fabulous success story!

But any bridge builder knows the work more precarious as it gets closer to the final gap. VCN knows this and works with low income and marginalized people every day who are in real danger of being left behind.

As VCN approaches its 23rd year of operation, help to keep VCN's open and inclusive program going by keeping your membership dues paid, and donating what you can - including your time!

Please give: <http://www2.vcn.bc.ca/get-involved/donate/>

