

Health Care Auxiliary Society

*Submitted by June Minaker
Executive IHCAS*

The Thrift Store operates seven days a week! That's right - the Auxiliary volunteers are at the store each day of the week. On average, over 27,000 volunteer hours are donated each year. These hard working women and men are sorting and pricing the donated items and placing the items for sale on the store's shelves.

Over the years, the Society has raised many hundreds of thousands of dollars for equipment and patient comfort, working tirelessly to strengthen health

initiatives in the Columbia Valley.

The Thrift Store depends on the generous donations of new and gently used goods from the community. We welcome donations of clean and good quality items. We do not accept furniture nor large electronic items such as TV's, computers or printers.

Donations to the community were down in 2020 due to closure for four months. However, we were able to donate \$25,143 to Invermere Interior Health (Invermere Hospital), \$10,000 to East Kootenay Foundation for Health (Not Alone Campaign), \$5,000 to Invermere Hospice Society, and \$12,000 in Scholarships (for students enrolled in a post-secondary health related program). Since 2001, we have donated \$2,666,034.

2020 has been a challenging year. COVID-19 protocols were put in place prior to reopening. All donated items are stored for 72 hours prior to being placed out for sale.

The Thrift Store is able to provide these incredible services to the Columbia Valley residents through our volunteers, without them, we would simply cease to exist. We, the volunteers, members, and the people in our community (who are generously donating all the goods we are selling), really make a difference!

The Invermere Health Care Auxiliary Society would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to all in the community who donate so generously!

