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VANCOUVER AQUARIUM AND ERIC HAMBER SECONDARY SCHOOL TURN OLD UNIFORMS INTO NEW BLANKETS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Vancouver, B.C. – The Vancouver Aquarium, accompanied by 12 students from Eric Hamber Secondary School, made a visit to the Salvation Army’s Vancouver Harbour Light location earlier today to hand out blankets and toques that had been reconstructed from fleece Aquarium uniforms. The idea to reuse uniforms is part of the Aquarium’s low waste conservation efforts.

Under the instruction of teacher Nina Ho, the sewing class of Eric Hamber Secondary School has been diligently transforming the Aquarium uniforms into wearable warm weather items since September. Ranging from grades 10 through 12, the students have been deconstructing uniforms along the seams to save as much fabric as possible to create new items for the downtown eastside community. The students re-used gently worn uniforms to create 45 toques and 52 blankets from over 100 donated fleece jackets and vests. More than 90 per cent of the fabric was re-used.

“This multi-faceted project is a unique Aquarium conservation initiative created to help divert waste from the landfill. It is also a fantastic way for the Aquarium to get students involved in a volunteering opportunity that gives back to the community,” says Jonathan Hultquist, manager of curriculum programs at the Vancouver Aquarium. “We hope to make this project a holiday tradition to help make the holiday season a little warmer for members of our community.”

Vancouver Harbour Light is one of the largest Salvation Army centres in British Columbia and comprises a drop-in centre, learning centre, emergency shelters, corrections residential facilities, detox, treatment and much more.

The students who took part in the project enjoyed a special field trip today. Before heading to the Salvation Army, the participating secondary school students spent the morning at the Aquarium learning about how animals create and reflect light through the holiday feature, Luminescence. Transportation between destinations was generously donated by Landsea Tours.

About Vancouver Aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium is a recognized leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, research and direct action. Learn more at www.vanaqua.org.

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