

Connecting women
in need with
technology through
mentoring

iSisters Technology Mentoring Inc.

Annual Fall Supporters Drive is on Now!
See page 2 for details

**September 2004
Newsletter**



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Our Mission:

- To provide access to technology
- To develop and deliver technology mentoring programs
- To enhance career opportunities through technological awareness

www.isisters.org

Federal Learning Award Recipients

iSisters Technology Mentoring Inc. were the proud recipients of the Conference Board of Canada's Community Learning Award. iSisters were awarded this honour in recognition of our exceptional "community-based learning opportunities for Aborigines."

The prestigious federal award is supported by the Office of Learning Technologies of the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and the Members of the Conference Board of Canada's Education and Learning Department.

The award recognizes initiatives that enhance learning using technology. The focus is on community initiatives, delivered through partnerships, that help individuals develop skills and competencies enabling them to participate more fully in the community and in the world of work.

Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) applied to partner with iSisters in January of 2003. After initial consultation, the partnership was sealed. Since this time we have collaboratively built a permanent Ottawa-based employment learning centre customized for Inuit.



Founders Michelle Hoffe and Helen Faber (both far left in photo) attended the awards ceremony in Montreal, Quebec.

A dynamic and challenging technology mentoring program has been design, implemented and refined. TI is now preparing to take over the Employment Learning Centre and its programs with virtual support from iSisters.

We have witnessed frustration, fear, pride, bravery, determination, improved self image, the creation of new dreams and restored hope with our learners in the Employment Learning Centre. We are proud of this partnership, this program and our learners.

Education is the key to better choices, brighter futures and healthier families and communities.

June Graduation at Tungasuvvingat Inuit

The second iSisters Technology Mentoring Inc. / Tungasuvvingat Inuit Employment Learning Centre graduation was held on June 15, 2004.

Another 12 Inuit received certificates in recognition of their sustained efforts and achievements at the warm and moving ceremony.

Participants in this program learn about computer basics, the Internet, searching the web, information literacy, using a word processor to create resumes and job hunting online.

Graduates have all completed a career plan created using technology. Congratulations graduates!



Meeka, a very proud graduate.

Fall Supporters Drive

It's that time again, the annual iSisters supporters drive. It happens once a year and the time has arrived.

Please donate and support our organization. Help us design and deliver award winning technology mentoring programs to women in need.

How do we define women in need? Who are our learners? Our learners are women for whom some or all of the following applies: live below the poverty line; are underemployed or unemployed; rely regularly on government and community services to live; are single mothers between 15 and 35; have not graduated high school; and have difficulty maintaining housing.

We provide a safe, exciting, customized and meaningful learning experience.

What do our learners say?

"This is hard!"

"Why do we have to learn the Internet?"

"I believe that everything happens for a reason and the reason that you were brought to us... to let me know that even the most technologically challenged person in the whole world could learn to use a Palm and the computer."

"Thank you."

"Keep doing what you do best... teaching and loving kids as much as you do."

"Thank you to iSisters for all you have done for me."

How to donate?

Mail your cheque to:

iSisters Technology Mentoring Inc.
117 Holmwood Ave.
Ottawa, ON K1S 2P1

Thank you!

Charitable Registration No. 87430 2714 RR0001

1st Annual Hike and Picnic in the Park Fundraiser a success!

We recently celebrated our third anniversary by hosting a new fundraiser *The iSisters Hike & Picnic in the Park*. Participants hiked in Gatineau Park followed by a picnic lunch and activities at a nearby chalet. **Karen Soloman** from the **New RO** graced the event by being our Honorary Chair and the **NewRO** was our event media sponsor.

The sun was shining, the weather was perfect, our lunch, sponsored by **The Table Vegetarian Restaurant**, was delicious. Our

impressive silent auction was a huge hit!

We met our three objectives for the event. We **increased awareness** in the Ottawa community about iSisters and our programs; we gained **new supporters and sponsors**; and we **exceeded our financial target**.

A special thank you to **Sarah Gray** our devoted Fundraising Coordinator and our dedicated volunteers **Melanie Cole** and **Monique Brûlé** for organizing the event.

Thank you to our event corporate sponsors
Nortel Networks



and **Alcatel**.



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How can you help?

- ✓ Share this newsletter.
- ✓ Donate to our annual **Supporters Drive** - every little bit helps.
- ✓ Organize a fundraiser at your office or in your neighbourhood and donate the proceeds to iSisters.
- ✓ Share the iSisters story.
- ✓ Become a monthly donor.
eMail creid@isisters.org for details.

Next Issue:

Announcement of our next program partnership!

Updates from the Tungasuvvin-gat Inuit Employment Learning Centre.

Annual General Meeting invitation and details.