

Connecting women
in need with
technology through
mentoring

iSisters Technology Mentoring Inc.

Summer 2007
Newsletter

Hike and Picnic: biggest ever!



On June 9, 159 supporters participated in our fourth annual iSisters Hike and Picnic in the Park. It was a beautiful sunny day, and participants enjoyed the sporty and social festivities. **Scotiabank** was our event sponsor for the second year.



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Breakfast, catered by **Rideau Carleton Raceway**, was highlighted with spectacular fresh and personalized omelettes, while people perused the auction items. Children played both in and outside the chalet as the hike got underway. Many people worked up a healthy appetite tromping through the woods, dodging slippery rocks and roots, and were treated to a delicious lunch upon returning to the chalet.



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After lunch, iSisters shared successes of the past year and outlined some future plans. The day's events wrapped up with silent auction winner announcements.

Thanks to our many generous donors and supporters, numerous people walked away with lovely winnings and iSisters raised over \$12,000.

A special thank you to our event planning team: Angela Ingratta, Tim Birch-Jones, Gregor Hollander and Jenn Spallin.

Thank you iSisters supporters!

IWSO Relationship Growing



Our partnership with Immigrant Women Services Ottawa (IWSO) is growing and offering new Canadians more options. New courses, extended lab times, and additional iSisters volunteers has excitement bubbling.

An additional Level I Technology and Employability Program was delivered to an eager group of learners by Gloria Schwartz this spring. The learners benefited from Gloria's first-hand experience in the tech sector and enjoyed her warm humour and approach. Thank you so much Gloria!

Over an eight-week period this summer, thanks to Petra Watzlawik, IWSO clients will be able to improve their keyboarding skills, work on resumes, and generally expand their technology and employability skills. It is terrific to see the lab open over the summer. Thanks, Petra!

Also this past spring, a brand new, Level II Technology and Employability Program was delivered to a group of learners who had successfully completed the Level I course. In the new course, the women continued to develop keyboarding skills, learned

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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

New Program: Cornerstone Women's Shelter



Some of you have heard the buzz... iSisters has a new partnership beginning this fall! Earlier this spring, the Board approved Cornerstone Women's Shelter as the next partner for iSisters.

At the Hike and Picnic, Sue Garvey, Executive Director, explained, "Cornerstone is about giving women a second chance. It's about helping women get back on their feet when they've hit a situation they need to escape from... We're excited about the natural synergy with iSisters ... We provide the immediate support for women, while iSisters will give

these women the skills and confidence to stay on their feet and recover better if they hit that same situation again." iSisters will also be taking a new approach to the partnership with Cornerstone beginning with staff professional development in September; courses for learners will begin in November.

The pilot program for this new partnership has been generously funded by the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

Further information can be found at www.cornerstonewomen.ca.

iSisters is Hiring

iSisters is seeking a **part-time program manager** to teach onsite at our new learning centre at Cornerstone. Special education and front-line community teaching and/or classroom experience would be considered valuable assets.

Topics of instruction include technology basics (e.g. email, Internet use, word processing) and career exploration (e.g. resume writing and interview preparation). Experience designing / planning / teaching in these areas would be highly desirable.

To view a full job description and application details, visit Charity Village www.charityvillage.ca. Applications will be accepted until August 16, 2007.

Board Recruitment

iSisters is changing and growing at the organizational level in many ways. Beyond replacing two departing board members, iSisters is looking for people to fill two new board positions.

The position of Board Chair will be filled internally, by a current board member. That leaves iSisters looking to recruit a treasurer, as well as individuals to fulfil two new roles: Volunteer Coordinator and Human Resources Advisor. Should you be interested in applying for any of these roles you can find further details on our website, www.isisters.org, under the heading *Our Team*.

Our remaining eight directors are an incredibly committed and talented group who have fun while effectively leading during this exciting time of growth.

More Thanks Needed...

Speaking of growth... iSisters would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and the Community Foundation of Ottawa (CFO) for recent and generous grants. Both organizations are sharing in the vision of iSisters and supporting our time of expansion.

The CFO is supporting our programs—both at IWSO and our pilot at Cornerstone. In a complimentary manner, the OTF is supporting our organization as we prepare to scale our programs and services.

Thank you to both groups!

IWSO Program

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advanced Word features, examined Excel basics, learned how to create online photo albums, and furthered their resume skills.

Learners in this program are highly engaged and thankful for the opportunity to learn about technology...

"I became more confident and able to understand and work more independently."

"Thank you for giving me, and others this opportunity and making difference in somebody's life."

[What did you like most about the program]

"The knowledge and the information I got from the course, to work in a team from different countries. Specially the teacher who was so patient and also the way she teaches taking time and easy to understand and stimulating."

Thank you

We would like to say a fond farewell and thank you to **Sarah Gray** (Board Chair) and **Carol Sollows** (Treasurer), who are resigning from the Board.



Sarah has provided iSisters with strong leadership, support, and vision since 2002 and we wish her well in

her future endeavors as a new mom and in her professional career. Sarah's passion and extreme generosity of time have been critical factors to the success of iSisters.

Carol has been efficiently managing our accounting and financial responsibilities since 2003 and we wish her well as she moves on. Carol's wise voice on the board will be missed.



You will both be missed very much, thank you for your years of generous support.

Upcoming Events

- Volunteer Orientation, Sept 24 (To register email info@isisters.org)
- Opening Cornerstone Lab, Sept 2007
- IWSO Year 2 Program Start, Sept 2007
- Annual General Meeting, Nov 5
- Visit www.isisters.org for up to date event information.

