



iSisters Technology Mentoring Inc. | Charitable # 87430 2714 RR0001



iSisters connects women in need with technology through mentoring.

Our mission:

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

Our vision:

iSisters Technology Mentoring, leader in technology learning and development, helps empower women in need to live better lives, create brighter futures and build stronger communities.

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Welcome Zahide Program Manager

We are thrilled to announce that Zahide Yilbas has been hired by iSisters as our new Program Manager.

Zahide loves teaching and has over 20 years of experience in a broad range of teaching related positions at various institutions around the world. She has worked with students from diverse cultural backgrounds and educational levels.

Zahide is an Electronic Engineer with an M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Electronic Engineering. As the new iSisters Program Manager, Zahide will plan and teach technology programs at various levels in collaboration with our partners.

"I truly believe that the iSisters program touches people's lives and helps women to realize their inner strengths, abilities, and gives them hope. As a computer instructor I see this happening every time I teach. I am so happy to be a part of iSisters" says Zahide.

This has been an exciting few months for Zahide. She is featured in the Community Foundation of Ottawa's 2009 Vital Signs Report, was awarded a United Way 2009 Community Builder Award, and recognized by Immigrant Woman Services of Ottawa at their gala.



Zahide working at the IWSO iSisters technology learning centre.

To access the 2009 Vital Signs Report visit <http://www.cfo-fco.ca>.

Welcome officially to the iSisters family Zahide!



Give the gift of Learning

At iSisters we believe in giving the gift of opportunity through learning.

Education is something that never wears out and won't be recycled. Giving the gift of learning is longer lasting than giving a shirt or a book. This gift will make a huge difference and you can make it happen.

iSisters classes provide life-changing opportunities for women. Through community partnerships we increase

economic independence and self-esteem while empowering women in need to live better lives, create brighter futures and build stronger communities.

You can help someone like Linda, who has been taking iSisters courses for a year and has successfully completed levels one and two and is halfway through taking level three. "I feel alive again. It's outstanding for me! All I knew how to do before I took this course was to turn a computer on and off, now I

know how to do so many things...I can use Word, Excel and the Internet."

For more information on our Christmas Giving Campaign, please visit our website and see how you can make a difference.

If you wish to make a donation, you may do so securely online at www.iSisters.org, or mail a donation to iSisters, 167 Frank St. Ottawa ON K2P 0X4





iSisters Learner Linda

Feedback from Sarah and Yaquelin:

I am taking the level 3 computer course now and I found it very very useful to attend this course. It opened many many locked doors in front of me. I'm getting now a new job and after my interview they gave me the job because I finished level 1 and 2 and attending level 3 now. I feel very lucky to come to all these courses and it's very successful because of our teacher Zahide. She's very special with her knowledge, kindness and so generous with sharing her information with us. So we are very lucky to be here and I'm coming to level 3 class direct after finishing my night shift and without having any sleep because I don't want to miss any minute of my class (my level 3 computer class). Thank you very much for providing us with this wonderful opportunity. Thanks again, Sarah

My name is Yaquelin. The purpose of this letter is to tell everybody the way that the computer course helps me in achieving my goals. Right now I am taking a Master course at Ottawa University as a special student where I need computer skills. When I started level 1 last July, I did not know the names of the components of the computer. Now I am using almost all the software. I am writing in Microsoft Office Word, using Excel for graphs and formulas and more. I personally want to say thank you to our teacher Zahide for her patience and the way she transfers her knowledge to us. Thank you, Yaquelin

Leacross Foundation Supports Expansion

Roslyn Bern is President of the Leacross Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting education for women and children.

The Foundation has supported numerous initiatives across Canada. Roslyn has served on the board of the Canadian Women's Foundation focusing on violence prevention and economic development. She has also worked closely with university programs in Ottawa and Toronto promoting women in management and business.

Roslyn met iSisters in the summer of 2009 through the Canadian Women's Foundation and became genuinely interested and supportive of our programs.



The Leacross Foundation has funded a new community liaison position at iSisters. The new initiative will build formal and informal connections within the community to connect our learners with employment programs and

resources. Within a year, an asset map of employment resources will be produced and made available to our learners and partners, as well as being publicly accessible through our website.

This is an essential next step in our growth planning at iSisters. Thank you to Roslyn and the Leacross Foundation for sharing in our vision.

Interested in working or volunteering at iSisters? Visit our website for updates or contact us anytime at info@iSisters.ora.

iSisters 2009 AGM Highlights

A big thank you to all volunteers, donors and advocates who came out to support the 2009 Annual General Meeting on September 28, 2009 held at Algonquin College. Highlights of the evening included:

Our Volunteer of the Year award went to Paula Pyne. Paula joined the iSisters family a year ago and brings a fantastic amount of enthusiasm, event planning, communications and writing talent to the organization. *Congratulations Paula!*



Volunteer of Year Paula Payne (centre), J McEvoy and C Lewis

A first time Special Recognition Award went to one of iSisters very own Board of Directors – Diana Vidal, Director of Volunteer Management. This award was given to Diana for her dedication and enthusiasm with volunteer recruitment.

Congratulations Diana!

We had inspiring guests speak at our AGM.

Bibi Petal, Vice President, Community Foundation spoke of our collaboration and growth over the years.

Bow Boih Hring Ngen, an iSisters graduate from Immigrant Women Services Ottawa, spoke from the heart about what she has learned as a student.



Karen Soloman and Zahide Yilbas

Zahide Yilbas was surprised to be honoured with a United Way Community Builder Award. Her name will be added to the Community Builder Wall of Inspiration on permanent display at Ottawa City Hall. This award recognizes Zahide's enormous volunteer contributions to the city since arriving to Canada in 2005.

A special thank you to our MC and dedicated board member, Karen Soloman, who led the evening with expertise and grace.



Special thank you to Core-Elation and B2B



Special thank you to long time supporter **Core-Elation** and new supporter **Begin2Believe**.

Long time iSisters supporter Core-Elation is donating the proceeds from every Friday 5:30 pm yoga class to iSisters from Oct 26 - Dec 11. Thank you to Core-Elation and Movement to Health for your generous and on-going support of iSisters and our programs. To view the class schedule and learn more about Core-Elation and Movement to Health, visit www.core-elation.com.

Mark your calendars for the next Live Vitally Now event to be held on Friday, February 12, 2010. All funds raised from the event will be donated to iSisters.

iSisters would like to thank Begin2Believe, a new community partner, for their enthusiasm and support. The Begin2Believe Association is a Canadian group of university students based in Ottawa, who have come together to help raise money for local and international charities. Begin2Believe hosted a beach volleyball tournament this summer at Mooney's Bay and donated \$700 of the proceeds to iSisters! Thank you for support and advocacy of our organization.



www.begin2believe.com



Program Updates

Immigrant Women Services Ottawa (IWSO)

iSisters is thrilled to announce that our level 3 class is running full steam ahead at IWSO. Level 1 and 2 continue to burst at the seams with eager students. We're delighted to report that more than 80 women have graduated from our level 1 and level 2 courses in 2009. *"The iSisters computer training program is one of the very successful programs we have at IWSO. We have calls from clients as well as service providers almost every day, asking us for information on dates, etc. The classes are full and we always have a waiting list."* says Farida Awal, Manager Employment and Settlement Services. www.immigrantwomenservices.com

St. Joe's Women's Centre

iSisters is delighted to continue level 1 classes in the lab in early 2010. *"Our partnership with iSisters is very successful even though our classes are small; the program generated a lot of interest with other non-participants. We look forward to future classes with iSisters so that they can continue to help the women of St. Joe's leave here with renewed hope that they can get jobs and pull themselves out of their cycle of undesirable circumstances."* Marsha Wilson, Director St. Joe's Women's Centre. www.stjoeswomenscentre.org

Cornerstone Women's Shelter

iSisters volunteers are on-site holding open lab sessions four evenings a week, Monday through Thursday from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The open lab sessions are a huge success and we congratulate all the learners who are continuing to enhance their skills after class. www.ottawa.anglican.ca/cornerstone

How Can you Help?

Please share this newsletter, tell others about iSisters.

Donate to our Christmas Campaign securely online at www.iSisters.org.

Volunteer at iSisters. Email info@iSisters.org or visit our website for information.

Allocate your United Way donations to iSisters by including our charitable number and name on your pledge form.

Secure a matching gift. Many employers will match your donation to a registered charity of your choice.

Donate lightly used magazines and cookbooks. Our learners love to read and share recipes.

Contact Us

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