

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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## United Way Capacity Builder Award

iSisters was delighted to discover we had won the United Way Community Builders Award for Capacity Building.

Cathy and Jennifer were on-hand to accept the award and Cathy gave an inspiring speech.

The United Way/Centraide Ottawa's Community Capacity Building award recognizes the important role agencies and neighbourhoods play in the community.

This award category recognizes groups that provide research about community needs, raise awareness of our community assets as well as gaps in services, and promote volunteer involvement and support.

iSisters was recognized for their work in increasing the capacity of agencies with technology training, in response to the growing need for community-based technical skills, job readiness and career planning.



Jennifer McEvoy and Cathy Lewis accepting the award, May 2008

## Our AGM – You are Invited

Please join us at our Annual General Meeting to find out what else is new with iSisters, including the launch of our online learning program *iTeachnology*.

Meet our sponsors, new Executive Director and re-connect with other iSisters supporters.

During the course of the evening we will announce our Volunteer of the Year and hear from special guests, including a program manager and a

learner, on the impact that iSisters has had on their lives.

We will be releasing our multi-year research project funded by the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) which showcases our program model as best practice in community learning.



**Date:** November 24

**Time:** 7:00 pm

**Location:** "A"  
87 George St  
(Formerly A Channel)

Free street parking available after 5:30 pm

Refreshments will be served

**Space is limited, please RSVP to reserve your spot**

**Email:** [info@isisters.org](mailto:info@isisters.org)  
**Phone:** 613.565.7337



When asked **what they like most about the program**, our learners say:

*"First, I don't know anything. Now I learned many things about the computer."*

*"The all embracing way the course has been designed so that each student was able to find her level of computer knowledge and work without hindering each others progress."*

*"The daycare and staff are great , it's a more laid back program than most schools"*

*"The lecturer is patient kind and explains every topic clearly."*

*"My wonderful teacher!"*

When asked **what the most valuable things they learned** were, our learners say:

*"How to make a resume."*

*"How to use the internet."*

*"To be relaxed with computer vocabulary in English."*

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

*"...don't be scared with the computer."*

*"How I can do my own E-mail How I can type by using all my fingers. I'm so happy with that. I try to do that many times, I couldn't ,but now I can!"*

*"To not be afraid of the computer, and enjoy the knowledge that comes with working daily on the computer."*

## iSisters hires a New Executive Director

By now, many of you have met the dynamic and ever-cheerful **Jennifer McEvoy**, who became the Executive Director of iSisters in May.

Her exuberant personality, independence, passion and comfort with technology make her an ideal choice to take over daily operations for Cathy Lewis.

Cathy, an insightful and encouraging mentor, will continue to steer the ship with her energy and vision as the CEO of iSisters. Jennifer will manage the

day-to-day operations from our new storefront office at 167 Frank Street.

Jennifer's commitment is to increase the reach of iSisters, particularly the number of women to whom our services are available.

Prior to becoming staff, she served on the Board of Directors for over a year while working at Canadian Blood Services.



Jennifer can be reached at [jmcevoy@isisters.org](mailto:jmcevoy@isisters.org) or 613.565.7337

## Conference Board of Canada Event

September 2008 iSisters participated in the Conference Board of Canada's national Skills and Productivity Forum.

Cathy Lewis and Zahide Yilbas were asked to speak on community-based learning programs for Aboriginal persons.

Experiences related to the challenges and successes of our community-based learning programs were shared.

Representatives from across Canada participated in this multi-day event representing government, corporate and non-profit sectors.

iSisters was asked to participate because of our success building community-based learning programs for Inuit through our partnership with Tungasuvvingat Inuit.

iSisters learning programs are aligned to the Conference Board of Canada's Employability Skills 2000+.

To learn more about this resource visit [www.conferenceboard.ca](http://www.conferenceboard.ca) and look under Education.



## Expanding Programs to St. Joe's

Talks are currently underway to begin a new partnership with St. Joe's Woman's Centre over the next year.

St. Joe's offers social and educational programs to promote empowerment, autonomy, and dignity in a

safe, non-judgmental environment for women since 1984. They are located downtown across from Ottawa University.

iSisters is pleased to begin work with St. Joe's to help offer support and services

to homeless and disadvantaged women.

Stay tuned for more information.

To learn more about St. Joe's visit their website at [stjoeswomenscentre.org](http://stjoeswomenscentre.org)

## Our Hike and Picnic and Fundraising Events

In true iSisters fashion, the clouds parted and the sun came out just long enough for over 100 people of all ages to enjoy an albeit slightly muddy yet fun-filled 5km walk in the Gatineau Park on May 31 at our annual **Hike and Picnic**. After the hike, we enjoyed a hearty lunch and competed with each other over an amazing selection of donated items in the silent auction. In total, the silent auction, in-kind donation and participants fundraising efforts totalled over \$7000!



iSisters was happy to be the charity of choice chosen by the **Simply Raw Festival** held in September. Volunteers were on hand to talk about iSisters which generated great exposure within a community of people who share an interest in healthy lifestyles and communities. Nearly \$300 was raised through raffle ticket sales.

iSisters has been the beneficiary of generous support from **Core-Elation** for years. Community day in September at Core-Elation raised \$266 for iSisters. iSisters' vision to be a leader in *technology learning and development, helping empower women in need to live better lives, create brighter futures and build stronger communities aligns succinctly with the contributions of Core-Elation to the health of our community. Learn more about Core-Elation at [www.core-elation.com](http://www.core-elation.com).*

### Contact Us

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### Program Updates

iSisters will be back onsite at **Tungasuvvingat Inuit** running workshops through November.

Zahide is managing our programs with great success at **Immigrant Women Services Ottawa (IWSO)**. Multi-level classes are now offered here for women that Zahide describes as "sponges" wanting to learn more. Additional staff has been added to the IWSO team to provide onsite teaching support and promote program sustainability.

New classes at **Cornerstone** are being implemented where we will be testing out a new topic specific workshop format.

### United Way Donations

If you're a public servant a canvasser has likely already approached you at work.

The goal of the Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) is to make it easy for government employees to contribute to any charity in Canada through payroll deduction or a one time donation.

All you need to know is the Charitable Status Number.

**BN: 874302714RR0001**

Did you know that United Way donations can be directed to any Canadian charity such as iSisters?

### How Can you Help?

Share this newsletter.

Tell others about iSisters

Volunteer at iSisters (email [info@isisters.org](mailto:info@isisters.org) for information). We are *always* looking for good people to join our team.

Allocate your 2008 United Way donation to iSisters by including our charitable number and name.

Come to our AGM on Nov 24 to show your support and learn more about our current and future activities.

Host a fundraising event at your workplace and donate the proceeds to iSisters.

