

# iSisters Technology Mentoring Inc.

3781 Strandherd Road, PO Box 34025, Ottawa, ON K2J 5B1  
www.isisters.org T: 613.565.7337



## Upcoming Events

### October 24

iSisters Annual General Meeting

Info @ [www.isisters.org](http://www.isisters.org)

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the September edition of the iSisters Newsletter.

We have had an exciting year and look forward to telling you all about it.

If you have any questions, or would like to contribute, please let us know at [info@isisters.org](mailto:info@isisters.org).

We hope you enjoy reading our latest news.

Thank you,

Linda Milton Perreault, Acting Executive Director

## Important Announcements

**Cowan** Donates \$30,000 to the iSisters Career Connections Program

**Community Foundation of Ottawa** grants iSisters \$10,000 from the Canyon Foundation Fund for the Technology for Young At-Risk Mothers project at Bethany Hope

**The Johansen-Larsen Foundation** grants iSisters with \$10,000 for the Technology for Young At-Risk Mothers project at Bethany Hope

## New Leadership

The iSisters Board of Directors appointed Linda Milton Perreault as Acting Executive Director in February of this year. Linda served as a Board member from 2008 – until present. We are happy to have Linda lead the organization.

## Our Mission:

Our mission is to provide access to technology, to develop and deliver technology mentoring programs and to enhance career opportunities through technological awareness.

## OUR VALUES

We are passionate and committed to being ...

Learner-Focused | Community Oriented | Excellent | Respectful | Accountable

## More Important News

### Career Connections receives donation from Cowan!

On August 27<sup>th</sup> our IWSO (Immigrant Women Services Ottawa) Career Connections graduates were honoured with a visit from Heather McGlachlin, President of Cowan Insurance Group.

Cowan selected iSisters as their 2013 Charity of Choice in the Ottawa area and raised \$30,000 for the program.

iSisters Board Chair Patricia den Boer was presented with a cheque by Ms. McGlachlin to benefit this new program.

We wish to thank Heather and everyone at Cowan for their generous contribution.

Congratulations to our graduates!

### OCISO Career Connections Pilot a Success

iSisters launched its first Career Connections Pilot this spring at OCISO (Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization).

Career Connections' purpose was to connect our learners and graduates with employment opportunities, expand and mature iSisters' program offering to meet the needs of our learners and to leverage existing resources to support the transition to work for our learners.

Jeannine Bradley, Career Connections Volunteer at OCISO talks about her experience with our learners and the program.

*"I have had the pleasure of participating in the iSister's pilot project Career Connections, an especially meaningful venture for students. The iSister's Career Connection program took the students beyond the theoretical learning of computer skills to the practical application of these skills in the Canadian workplace. This comprehensive addition informed students about Resume preparation, Interviewing Skills, Appropriate Dress for the Workplace and Options for Self-Employment. Above all, it gave the students a chance to bond with one another, ask questions, and receive encouragement from staff and teachers as well as receive many suggestions for their job search. Over the eight week*



Mercy Lawlivi from IWSO, Heather McLachlin, President, Cowan Insurance Group and Patricia den Boer, Chair, iSisters

## More Grant News

### The Harry P. Ward Foundation

In support of the new Bethany Hope Technology for Young At-Risk Mothers program, the Harry P. Ward Foundation has donated \$2,500. We thank them for their continued support.

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period, I observed a transformation in the women as they became engaged and self-assured, as witnessed during their graduation in their stunning new business attire."

## Testimonial

*"Before I came to Canada in May 2009, I was working as an administrative assistant for over 14 years. Since September 2010, I am a volunteer and paid supply receptionist at Ottawa Community Immigrant Services (OCISO). I found the iSisters free computer classes very beneficial for me in two ways. It helped me to upgrade my computer skills which will help me getting a job easier. I also got the financial benefit, because I couldn't afford if the course was not free. The iSisters free computer classes help new immigrant women not only to upgrade their skills but also a great way to make new friends and learn about their new life in the community. Thank you iSisters"*

**Liuwork W.Woldeyes, iSisters Career Connections Graduate at OCISO**

## Mobile Lab Project has a great Year!

**By Tim Birch-Jones**

The Mobile Labs were designed by iSisters to teach at-risk youth and disadvantaged women digital media literacy skills. The "mobile" part means that iSisters goes to the students' location and provides the laptops and other required equipment for the labs.

The first Mobile Labs were run in the summer of 2011, and since that time iSisters has delivered 10 full mobile labs to over 40 women. Our partners included Operation Come Home (OCH), Tewegan Transition House and the Nepean Rideau Osgoode Community Resource Centre (NROCRC).

## Learner Reaction

*"I never knew of these tools, and now I'm really excited to be designing graphics and building web sites that look really professional."*  
Tewegan House participant.

"Creating videos was not something I thought I could do, but now I'm totally psyched about making more on my own." Operation Come Home participant.



## In the Community

### Youville Centre AGM

Tuesday Sept. 24 at 6PM.

For more information, please visit

<http://www.youvillecentre.org/>

### OCH Time Warp

Operation Come Home will be hosting an Open House on October 10 from 3-7PM. For more information, please visit <http://operationcomehome.ca/>

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## Let's Not Forget

### New Website for iSisters

isisters.org received a 'makeover' this year when we launched our new website in the Spring.

The new website was made possible by funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We thank them for their generous gift.

Please visit us at [www.isisters.org](http://www.isisters.org) and let us know how we look!



### Attention ladies!!!

Our Student Blog is ready for your comments. For more information, please email [info@isisters.org](mailto:info@isisters.org) on how to get started.

### Good-bye and Thank you!

This year saw the departure of Jolynn Sommerville, Executive Director at iSisters from 2009 – 2013. We wish her well in her future endeavours and thank her for her hard work here at iSisters.

### Donors and Volunteers

Without the generous support of our donors and volunteers, we would not be able to continue the work that we do.

Your donations allow us to empower women in need to live better lives, create brighter futures and build stronger communities.

We sincerely thank you.

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