



The iSisters Mobile Lab is Rolling!

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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With the launch of the Mobile Lab last summer, iSisters has been able to take its award-winning program on the road. Operation Come Home, which is one of the original partners, is an organization dedicated to supporting street youth. One of their initiatives is education and what better way to provide technology skills to these young women than with the support of iSisters. Led by trainer Tim Birch-Jones, teenage girls go through a series of training modules geared to develop their technology skills.

In the winter session, students were relatively savvy with basic Internet skills so their focus was on developing three project-based tools, and they created a webpage, a video and a graphic design image. The program, which is all

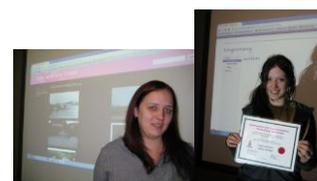
accomplished on Dell laptops, runs approximately three hours each week for four weeks. The girls diligently work through their assignments, learning to manage through frustrations to develop a new skill. Once they have successfully completed the program, they are awarded a certificate exemplifying their accomplishment and the pride of success with learning.

Two recent graduates, Lauren Rothnel and Becky Nutt, were happy to be accepting their certificates at the graduation ceremony in March. The girls said that prior to taking the course, they were not very comfortable with technology. Asked what they gained from the course, they both described the enjoyment of learning new skills while they developed increased confidence with

computers, the Internet and software applications.

Since the inauguration of the program in August 2011, 25 young women have gained new technology skills using the iSisters Mobile Lab. Over the next year, the goal is to continue to provide training to more youth as part of their overall development into empowered young women.

Colleen Kelley



Rebecca and Lauren present the websites they built during the course.

Mobile Learning Lab Wins TELUS® Innovation Award!



In 2011, iSisters was the recipient of the TELUS® Ottawa Community Board's Innovation Award. The Innovation Award is given to an organization that has exemplified the use of innovation (social and/or technological) in addressing an existing or emerging issue of importance in the Ottawa community.

This surprise honour was offered at a breakfast ceremony, along with a \$1000 cash prize and an invitation to reapply to TELUS

community funding for the Mobile Learning Lab project. We recently had the pleasure of speaking with Shannon Gorman, the National Director of Community Affairs with TELUS®.

How does the iSisters Mobile Learning Lab Project compliment the TELUS® philosophy of "Give Where We Live?"

"I was very pleased that the Community Board selected the Mobile Learning Lab Project because of the impact for at-risk youth in Ottawa. The Mobile Lab directly addresses the existing issue of young women who do not have the opportunity to attend a traditional or formal style of education. Their lives are exponentially improved by learning how to develop a website on an open source platform, for example. The laptops promote flexibility of a critical learning service; if you can bring the classroom to those most at-risk, iSisters can

maximize the potential for the biggest impact on your students."

What was your reaction to seeing the iSisters Mobile Learning Project come to life?
 "When classes began in August, I would describe the event as momentous; it gave me 'goose bumps.' Thanks to the tremendous feedback provided by iSisters, I am able to demonstrate the real impact of the Innovation Award. Digital literacy is critical to the day-to-day activities of youth. And after all, TELUS® is a technology company."

iSisters did succeed in receiving additional funds from TELUS in 2011 and have recently confirmed funding for the Mobile Lab from Alcatel-Lucent for 2012. We look forward to continuing to offer technology classes to young at-risk women using our Mobile Lab in the coming year.

Carissa Buckley



CTV reporter and former iSisters board member, Karen Soloman hosted the evening.

10 Years Already?

That was the comment most often heard at the iSisters 10th Anniversary celebration. Founders, students, board members, staff, partners, donors, volunteers and honoured guests gathered at the C3 Centre in Ottawa on November 15, 2011. Together we celebrated all that has been accomplished to improve the quality of life for women in need in Ottawa these past 10 years.



Sophal Peang presents the website she built while attending the iSisters Mobile Lab course at Tewegan House for Aboriginal Women in September 2011



Catherine Pope from Cornerstone Women's Centre thanks iSisters for five years of technology support and service to homeless women in Ottawa's downtown core.

Join us on Saturday July 28th at Britannia Beach for our annual volleyball fundraiser hosted by Begin 2 Believe!
www.begin2believe.com

For more info, to sign up a team, or to volunteer contact Jolynn at jsommervill@isisters.org



Pat den Boer, Chair of the board thanks iSisters founder Cathy Lewis. Pat also received an award for her many years of service as a board member



Executive Director, Jolynn Sommervill presents Anita James, Director of Grants and Community Initiatives, Community Foundation of Ottawa with an award of appreciation for the Foundation's support throughout the years.

How Can You Help?

Please share this newsletter. Tell others about iSisters.

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

Have a fundraising or grant development idea? Contact Jolynn Sommervill at jsommervill@isisters.org.

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.

Book a "Yoga at Work" session at your place of work. Contact Paula at paula.pyne@gmail.com

Contact Us

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