

# iSisters Newsletter

iSisters Technology Mentoring Inc. | Charitable # 87430 2714 RR0001



## Celebrating our Successes Past, Present and Future

**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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Happy Birthday iSisters!  
 We can hardly believe it! We are celebrating our 10th Anniversary this year!  
 Ten years of enhancing employability.  
 Ten years of creating independence.  
 Ten years of improving the quality of life for women in need.

In honour of our anniversary, we've been hard at work planning for a wonderful year of activities. Our theme for the year is *Past, Present and Future* and our goal is to recognize all those who have given so much to make the organization what it is today.

Our birthday celebrations started in April with the launch of our new 10th Anniversary logo at an iSisters graduation ceremony at Immigrant Women Services Ottawa. Thanks to BV02 for updating our logo!

The celebration continues on August 20<sup>th</sup> with a beach volleyball tournament sponsored by Begin 2 Believe. The tournament is open to all ages and all levels of play, recreational and competitive. To register click on this link: <http://www.begin2believe.com/Events/UpcomingEvents/Event31Volleyball.aspx>.

All the proceeds from this event will be donated to iSisters. It will be an exciting, fun-filled day at the beach for the whole family to enjoy. Mark August 20th on your calendars and start practicing your serves! We hope to see you there! Contact [cathy@isisters.org](mailto:cathy@isisters.org) to register a team, or [jsommervill@isisters.org](mailto:jsommervill@isisters.org) to volunteer at the event.

In the fall we will be hosting our 10th Anniversary Event and Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 15th at the C3 Centre. We will be honoring patrons, stakeholders and volunteers from the past and present, and look forward to sharing our vision with you for iSisters future.

Lastly, as part of our theme for this year, if you or anyone you know would like to contribute a story about your experience with iSisters, we want to hear from you! Please contact Linda Milton Perreault at [lperreault71@hotmail.com](mailto:lperreault71@hotmail.com) with your story.

We invite you all to join us in the celebration!

## National Volunteer Week-end May 18 2011



To celebrate National Volunteer Week, iSisters treated its volunteers to a "Yoga and Blender party" at Elation Center. iSisters volunteers found their inner peace during a core yoga class and then by sampling delicious and full of life smoothies!

Volunteers were honoured for the vital role they play with the organization by contributing their time and expertise as members of iSisters' Board of Directors, as teachers, and as helpers during special events.

Thank-you to our amazing volunteers!

To learn more about volunteering with iSisters please contact Jolynn Sommervill at [jsommervill@isisters.org](mailto:jsommervill@isisters.org).



## The Mobile Lab Comes to Life!

The iSisters Mobile Lab will officially begin on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Operation Come Home and Tewegan Transition House. During this first pilot session students will learn how to build their own website and gain some basic IT skills.

The Mobile Lab is a new project designed to take iSisters' award-winning technology training workshops to young women who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

It is a misconception that all young people by virtue of their age are technologically literate. Digital literacy, technology skill development, internet access and its use are strongly influenced by

economic factors and those living on the margins, even in a technology rich society, are being left behind.

Over the next year, the iSisters Mobile Lab project will offer over 60 young women 21st Century technology skills that will help them to move forward with their lives and lead them toward further training, education and employment.

We would like to acknowledge our funding partners for this project: TELUS, The Community Foundation of Ottawa, The City of Ottawa, Alcatel-Lucent and Accenture's Skills to Succeed Program. Our community partners include Operation Come Home, Tewegan Transition House and The Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa.

Special thanks go out to Accenture staff who volunteered many hours of their time to help us locate, purchase and prepare the necessary technology for this project.



Accenture volunteers and iSisters staff unpack and prepare the new laptops for the Mobile Lab project

## New Lands, New Technologies



Jolynn Sommervill, iSisters Executive Director

On International Women's Day, iSisters launched its new Technology and Learning Centre in partnership with the Ottawa Community Immigrant Services Organization (OCISO).

2011 is the Centenary of International Women's Day and the theme that the United Nations selected was, *Equal access to education, training, science and technology. A pathway to decent*

*work for women.* It is a theme that could well have been chosen with iSisters in mind!

Over forty community members, staff, volunteers, sponsors and stakeholders joined us to celebrate the opening of our new lab.

Bertha Mo, OCISO's Counselling Manager kicked off the celebrations with an inspirational speech about OCISO's enthusiasm for the partnership with iSisters. Jolynn Sommervill, iSisters' Executive Director spoke eloquently of the technological revolution of the past 10 years and of "The need in a technology rich society such as ours to offer all of our citizens, especially those living on the margins, the opportunity to become digitally literate". Bibi Patel, VP of the Community Foundation of Ottawa also shared a few words about the funds that helped launch this

project and to thank the donors who made it all possible.

Many thanks to our donors: IBM, Advanced Business Interiors, the Community Foundation of Ottawa and the Leacross Foundation.



Bertha Mo, OCISO; Jolynn Sommervill, iSisters; Bibi Patel, Community Foundation of Ottawa and Katherine Hobbs, Kitchissippi Councillor open the new Technology and Learning Centre at OCISO

Read about our partnership with OCISO in the CFO's Annual Report:

[iSisters and OCISO: A Partnership Story](#)

## C4C Donates Computers to Graduates of IWSO/iSisters' Program

*Computers 4 Communities (C4C) is a local non-profit organization that aims to provide families in need access to refurbished computer in exchange for community service.*

*C4C was introduced to Immigrant Women Services of Ottawa (IWSO) by iSisters. After hearing about the great work that iSisters and IWSO have been doing to train women in technology, C4C agreed to donate 10 computers to the graduates of the IWSO/iSisters program.*

*C4C was honoured to be invited to the graduation ceremony at IWSO. During the ceremony, certificates were handed out, snacks were shared and there were even some songs. At the conclusion of the ceremony, C4C drew names and the winners were announced. Ten families were in receipt of refurbished computers and one year of technical support!*

*You can learn more about Computers for Communities at <http://computersforcommunities.ca> or on Twitter @Comp4Comm.*



C4C Volunteers and the winners of the computer draw at the graduation ceremony at IWSO.

## How Can you Help?

Play or volunteer in our upcoming volleyball fundraiser on August 20<sup>th</sup>!  
<http://www.begin2believe.com/Events/UpcomingEvents/Event31Volleyball.aspx>

Share this newsletter, tell others about iSisters.

Book Yoga at Work session at your place of work. Contact Paula at [paula.pyne@gmail.com](mailto:paula.pyne@gmail.com)

Volunteer at iSisters. Email [info@isisters.org](mailto:info@isisters.org) or visit our website for information.

Have a fundraising or grant development idea? Contact Jolynn Sommerville at [jsommerville@isisters.org](mailto:jsommerville@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.

## Contact Us

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