

# iSisters 2015 Annual Report

## MENTORING WOMEN IN NEED



iSisters Technology Mentoring

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## A Word from the Executive Director

What an amazing year it has been at iSisters. The support we have received from this community has allowed us to develop new programs, expand our services, and dream big for the future. Your faithfulness to our mission has allowed us to deliver a record number of simultaneous programs this past year, and because of this, since inception we have impacted the lives of over 2,500 women!

Looking ahead to 2016, you have put this organization in a stable financial position and set us up for further growth and expansion. With your continued support, we anticipate exciting things to come like our new partnership with the Lanark County Interval House supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and rejoining forces with the Youville Centre to introduce a new tablet-based 'iPad' program supported by TELUS and The Johansen-Larsen Foundation.

I invite you to review the 2014-2015 Highlights and Accomplishments outlining the many initiatives and milestones that marked this past year.

Thank you to the people we support and their families, our Board of Directors, volunteers, partners and funders. It has been my pleasure to serve you and help ensure that women in our community are empowered. With your continued involvement and support, I look forward to another rewarding year.

Linda Milton Perreault  
Executive Director

### Board of Directors:

Claire Toplis, Chair

Patricia den Boer, Past Chair

Cathy Lewis, Director, Founder

Colleen Kelley, Director, Treasurer

Beth Nightingale, Director, Communications

Judy Puritt, Director, Volunteer Management

Kathryn Bean, Director, Secretary

Melynda Layton, Director

Sarah D'Angelo, Director, Human Resources

## A Word from the Chair

With a year in the Chair's role now under my belt, I have learned that the work iSisters does serves a very particular need in our community. Despite numerous agencies offering assistance, it is surprising how many women in the region must turn to our programs in order to have a chance to better their lives and those of their families. At iSisters, we are pleased to provide more program sessions than ever this past year, and to have reached more learners. I'm proud to see the impact we had across the city.

### Making an Impact

This year we have much to be proud of in terms of reaching women who might otherwise have been left behind. Our innovative Career Connections program, delivered in collaboration with the City of Ottawa and several other important contributors was offered a record dozen times throughout the year, hosted at three different partner centres. Beyond the basic computer and job-seeking skills developed, learners were quick to acknowledge the fellowship they gained meeting weekly with their classmates; it was clear supportive long-term friendships were built as an added bonus to the career mentoring.

### Looking Ahead

The Strategic Plan for our upcoming year at iSisters has a strong back-to-basics focus; we want to ensure we continue to offer topnotch technology training to those women who wouldn't ordinarily have access to it in facilities that make it easy for them to attend. With a recipe for fundraising that appears to be repeatable, we are now focussed on execution ...putting in place the right resources, people, programs and equipment, to ensure we deliver on our promises. To that end, this fiscal year we have one of the most ambitious set of programs planned in recent memory. We are relying on a strong network of experts in the community to help us develop and deliver the courses; with this support, we know we're on track for success with a new cohort of learners.

Claire Toplis  
Chair



# About iSisters

## Mission

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

## Vision

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

## Our Values

We are passionate and committed to: being Learner-Focused, being Community Oriented, Excellence, being Respectful, being Accountable.



# Highlights and Accomplishments

## We're proud of the following achievements in the past year:

- Since introducing the program, we saw 40 young mothers participate and 21 graduate from our Technology Mentoring for Young Mothers program at the Bethany Hope Centre.
- Together with our donors and corporate partners, Accenture, Cowan Insurance Group, Cowan Foundation, Alterna Savings, City of Ottawa, and Invest Ottawa, we delivered 6 Career Connections Program sessions at 3 partner centres serving women in need. We graduated 43 women, had 28 additional participants, and 10 women have found employment since graduating from the program.
- Awarded for the third time with a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This will allow for expansion to our online, e-Learning technology site, iTeachnology, in partnership with the Lanark County Interval House.
- Partner sustainability: this year our partners graduated 193 women while running the iSisters program on their own.
- We exceeded our fundraising target by 40 percent.
- Successfully completed our second Financial Review Engagement in compliance with the Imagine Canada Standards Program.
- Grateful to the Leacross Foundation for their generous support of our new digital infographic.
- Since its inception, iSisters has graduated over 2,500 women from its technology programs!

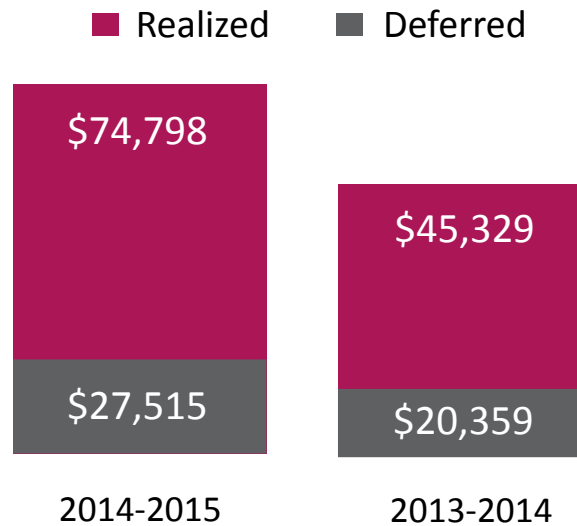
**64**# of graduates  
this year**92**# of women enrolled  
and empowered  
this year**193**# of graduates  
from our  
sustainable partners**12**# of partners  
to date**5**# of new programs  
in development

# Financials

## Financial Summary

We were gratified that response to grant applications this past year was up over 30 percent compared to the previous year, with a number of repeat donors making contributions again in FY 2014-15. Of particular note was a single grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which continues into early next year.

### Fundraising



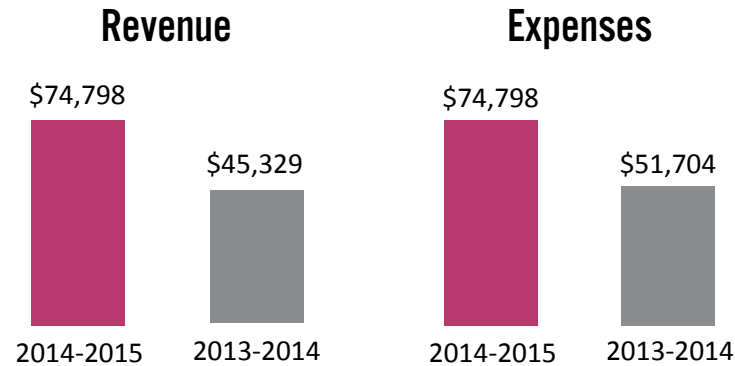
# Financials

Income from Grants and other Fundraising					
	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013		
<b>Grants and Donations</b>	\$115,024	\$72,844	\$64,111	-0.1362	0.1198
<b>Deferred</b>	\$40,226	\$27,515	\$20,359		
<b>Realized</b>	\$74,798	\$45,329	\$43,752		
	98%		96%		85%

In fiscal year (FY) 2014-15, revenues recognized were \$74,798 and additional restricted funds of \$40,226 were deferred. These restricted funds are allocated to the FY2014-15 Career Connections, Bethany Hope programs as well as our new Lanark County Interval House “iTeachology” program; all programs are currently underway. Revenues this year also increased approximately 30 per cent over FY2013-14, as a result of additional program investments and delivery throughout the year. Expenses kept pace with the additional program delivery.



# Financials



With a sizeable deferred revenue position and an aggressive plan for execution this year, iSisters is well-positioned for FY2015-16.

Fiscal Year	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013
Revenue	\$74,798	\$45,329	\$43,752
Grant	\$73,492	\$43,495	\$37,380
Expenses	\$74,798	\$51,704	\$87,717
Net Assets		\$1,239	\$7,614
	98%	96%	85%

# Financials

## Financial Statements

Fiscal year (FY) 2014-2015 financials figures as compared to the prior year are presented here as prepared by Welch LLP, iSisters accountants of record.

### Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets Year ended April 30, 2015

Revenue	2015	2014
Grants	\$ 73,492	\$ 43,495
Donations	1,306	1,834
	74,798	45,329
Expenses		
Contract services	30,210	35,556
Programs	20,820	1,855
Administration	18,396	3,649
Professional fees	2,287	2,000
Insurance	1,259	2,004
Scholarships	1,000	1,000
Salaries and benefits	826	3,797
Telecommunications	--	1,843
	74,798	51,704
Excess of expenses over revenue	--	(6,375)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,239	7,614
Net assets, end of year	\$ 1,239	\$ 1,239

# Thank you

## 2014 - 2015 Donors!

### Individuals

Kathryn Bean | Roslyn Bern | Sarah D'Angelo | Kathleen Gemmill | Fran & John Harding  
Colleen Kelley | Mike Tierney | Claire Toplis | Denyse Toplis

### Corporate

Accenture | Alcatel-Lucent Foundation | Alterna Savings | Concierge Home Services  
Crabtree Foundation | Leacross Foundation | Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Rideau Kiwanis Club | Rideau Valley Roller Girls | The Ottawa Browncoats  
Wesley Clover Foundation

# General Information

## iSisters Technology Mentoring

3781 Strandherd Road  
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[www.isisters.org](http://www.isisters.org)  
Registered Charity Number: 874302714RR0001

## Staff

Linda Milton Perreault, Executive Director

## Mentors

Tim Birch-Jones, Mobile Lab Teacher and eLearning  
iTeachnology  
Sybil Thuns, Career Connections Coordinator  
Fran Harding, Community Liaison, Asset Mapping  
Eric Calvert, Technology Instructor  
Bernarda Jurela, Technology Instructor

## iSisters is iSocial



visit our website at

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

## A special thank-you to all our volunteers!

And to our volunteers without whom none of this would be possible, thank you!

DONATE

VOLUNTEER