



# Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women “Creating Opportunities”

FALL / WINTER 2005 / 06

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## Director's Message

Welcome to our Fall/Winter newsletter. This edition of the “Out Reach” is captioned on “Creating Opportunities”. WWWWIW is continuously advocating on behalf of the immigrants/newcomers to Canada to pursue better opportunities as well as to give a stable life for their families.

The community of Windsor Essex County is growing in diversity and we have the honour of being the fourth diverse city in Canada. With this in perspective, we hope the employment market will



create opportunities for this rapidly growing productive population to fulfill their

dream of attaining economic independence in Canada.

## Daphne Clark Reminds Us

“Thank you for our presence in this room – We thank you for our Lives, Families and children. For giving the people in New Orleans the opportunity to be evacuating people in Texas and Louisiana – keep them safe from the hurricanes coming tonight. We are here under a dry roof, having our meals we have light, food, shelter, water. We ask that you have compassion

for the ones out there.”

Clark continues: “As women, we must continue to work together for common goals. The goals of equality and recognized as a person. As you have heard most of us have spent many years volunteering with immigrant women in the areas of settlement programs, ESL and Job Creation which WS has done a lot of this. To facilitate

women who are really in need of help even basic life skills. Together we can help them achieve success in their lives.”

*Daphne Clark  
(Moment of Reflection)*



## Congratulations John Omstead of Family Tradition Foods

Family Tradition's Human Resource person, Art Williams accepted the Employer of the Year 2005 Award on behalf of John Olmstead. "It would have been a great opportunity to hear some words from a very dynamic and passionate individual, John Olmstead, who regrets he could not be here today"

This award means the world to us-



said Williams. As a human resources person my observation of people, who are new to Canada are looking for employers who will help them have some quality of life and contribute to the economy and to society. At the same time employers are looking a workforce that will help the quality of their companies to help contribute to the economy and society. Government is looking for employers and a workforce who are both trying to contribute to economy and society.



Art Williams, Family Tradition's Human Resource person

**What has been missing is something that has linked them all because there is a gap. We are fortunate to have organizations such as W5 out there to facilitate that connection between them.**

## EAS: Making A Difference & Growing

Only two years old, we are very proud to announce that the EAS program (Employment Assistance Services) has been very successful. In September 2005, HRSDC who is very satisfied with the progress and the results of the program so far extended our contract for another year. **The project was developed out of the need to provide more in-depth employment counseling and training.**

Our existing in-house services would focus mostly on pre-employment skills which were not enough for our clients to become successful. Some key highlights of the program are:

- One on one counseling with em-

- employment/placement counselors.
- Group sessions- 1 week employment training program that arms job seekers with pertinent information on Labour Market, Career Strategies, Interview Techniques Potential Employers and Effective Job Search Strategies.
- Job Specific Information sessions with employers.
- Resource Centre where client can access computers, internet and a daily updated job board.
- Job leads and personal recommendations to employers.

**Up-to-date we have over a thousand clients on our database the majority of who have been able to obtain employment after accessing our services.** Personally, I feel privileged to

be part of the EAS staff and I believe that my colleagues who work for this project feel the same way.

When I first came to Canada, other people gave me guidance and made a difference in my life. Through this program, I have an opportunity to return the favor and share my experience and expertise and hopefully make a difference in other people's lives.

Through the services offered by the EAS program, we are trying to open new doors for individuals who are struggling to find a job by giving them guidance, support and connecting them with employers.

By Lindita Beshiri  
Employment Assistance Program Coordinator

## Thought Provoking Speech by our guest speaker Amanda Gellman

At the W5's 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Banquet at the Cabota Club, our guest speaker, Amanda Gellman wanted to be thought provoking and insightful. She talked about how Canadian's forget that they were immigrants at one time too. "Appreciate our personal history that makes us who we are today." said Gellman. She spoke about culture shock and language barriers of her grandfather. Immigrants feel powerless about their situation due to culture shock. She spoke about women and immigrants need role models, like W5 and John



Amanda Gellman and family with President of W5

Olmstead of Family Tradition Foods. She discussed how opportunities for a future for immigrants can be detrimental and they become victims of cruelty

and discrimination and she called for us to be activists. **What can we do as individuals and collectively? Call W5 and see what Opportunities exist.** Now she volunteers her time as much as she can. Education creates opportunities for women and businesses started. We need support in all levels of government to support foreign trained professional instead of over qualified and under paid. **"Women need to work together to share information and knowledge, learn from each other, and form collective actions among ourselves"**.

Article written by Cynthia Hanne-Luciani

## WWWWIW Community Service Award Winner's

"In recognition of outstanding community service and contribution to the advancement and empowerment of Immigrant Women and their families". Presented yearly to grass-roots groups in Windsor and Essex County who have given tireless of their time to empower and

improve the status of immigrant women and their families. We are pleased to announce, for this year's award, the following well-deserved recipients: Catholic Women's League St. Martin de Porres & Christ the King, Sister Elanor Gleeson, General Superior, Ursuline Sis-

ters, Mr. Jamie Bumbhacco, Principal, Notre Dame School Catholic Women's League, St. Simon & Ste Jude, Rebecca Mc Carrell, Regional Representative, Catholic Women's League, Past Presidents, Daphne Clark, Alice Griffin, Sungee John.

**"In recognition of outstanding community service and contribution to the advancement and empowerment of Immigrant Women and their families".**



# 22nd Annual Banquet Party at the Cabota Club 2005



# FUN, FUN, FUN AND MORE FUN!



## LINC Teachers Help Students “learn how to learn”

In the LINC program, our goal as teachers is to help our students to not only learn English but also to help them integrate into Canadian society. The best way to help our students is to teach them to “learn how to learn.”

While LINC has many themes and topics to use as a framework for what and how we teach, in many ways the students don't want to necessarily hear about a topic unless it becomes an issue for them. They have indicated a strong desire to develop their skills in reading and writing in English, and to participate in authentic dialogues. As teachers we have begun with different ways to satisfy both the LINC and the student identified needs. One of our initiatives has been to start a listening/reading lab. We have purchased three CD/cassette players, and low literacy children's books with accompanying CDs. The students enjoy this activity, with one book in particular, because the level is low enough and the English narrator reads slowly and clearly.

One of the difficulties that ESL students have is learning how to write fluently – not the construction of the language, just the actual physical skill

of creating the letters so it doesn't become such a laborious task. Almost all of our students come from countries that don't use the Roman alphabet, and do write from right to left. These are difficult habits to overcome, and even harder to do by reflex. The students now copy into notebooks the text from their chosen stories so that they may study the story later as well as get the writing practice. From these various activities we have seen a dramatic improvement in the physical writing skills and therefore during the structured classes that run during the week, they are able to pay more attention to what is being taught or learned, and our need for photocopies has lessened slightly.

The students themselves have indicated how much they enjoy having a level of self determination in what they learn as it is done at their own level and not a level presumed by the LINC program. In particular the literacy students are very focused on their self-prescribed tasks and it is evident that they are using some of the learning strategies from the other classes. They are very proud of their efforts and it is evident that they feel the activities are worthwhile as evidenced by their 100+ % attendance in the literacy classes.

LINC TEACHERS

## Life Skills: “Developing Women’s Social and Economic Independence”

*“I wish to extend my sincere gratitude. I did enjoy your computer class and I appreciate what you taught me. Because if it wasn't your advise I would not know what I knew today. More over thank you for your patience that you apply to us and congratulations for your hard successful work. God bless you for your computer knowledge that him give you. I so glad and graceful to the almighty God who direct me to you and empowered me with your knowledge. I'm coming to enroll in your advance computer class by the grace of Jehovah God.*

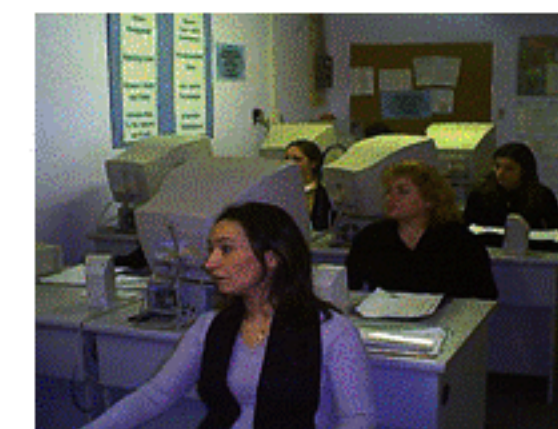
*The patience that Job has in the bible kindly maintain it because if it wasn't your patience I'll not coming to learn any thing in the computer class. Thank God and thank you a whole lots. From now on no computer to practice*

*at home. But nevertheless, I'll not stop. By the grace of God those who promise me computer let God touch the heart and make a way for them to fulfill their promise. Please before you sleep mention my name in your prayer for those who promise me a computer so that God should touch them to buy me a computer.*

Sincere yours,

It is for reasons like this that we are pleased to offer the Life Skills Program. The Life Skills Program gives new immigrants/newcomers the opportunity to enhance and improve their soft skills and hard skills so as to give them a better opportunity at settling down in a new environment and getting a job. Topics covered include:

- Introduction to Computers
- MS Word
- Introduction to the Internet



We would like to thank the Government of Ontario who have supported us through the Ontario Women's Directorate and given us the opportunity to conduct this program for new immigrants and all women in need.

Philippine Ishak  
Life Skills Coordinator

“enhance and improve their soft skills and hard skills so as to give them a better opportunity”

## W5 Childcare Center: “A loving and safe environment”

The childcare has been full of energy and new experiences for our children. We are always incorporating arts and activities that reinforce language development, socialization, and the use of creativity with learning materials to explore and play. The past summer brought us the freedom outdoors; we had a number of field trips to interesting places and of course to course to the park, where the children enjoyed playing different game and released all that energy.

We are always introducing themes that can lead to meaningful experiences for the children, like the fall season and



everything that comes into. We are always looking to accommodate the needs for learning and adjustment of all our newcomer children and their parents, accomplishing the best for their transitions to newcomer children and their parents, accomplishing the best for their transitions to school, their new community and surround-

ings. The children at Windsor Women Working With immigrant Women is always working to keep providing quality care where the children can feel in a loving and safe environment.

Childcare workers were taking the opportunity to go to professional development in order to improve the quality of our childcare as well as to learn the most update information for childcare workers. We are eager to help these immigrant children according to their individual needs and parent's expectations. Besides we are helping children one on one. We offered parenting skills and sometimes include referring them to other agencies

## Feed Back From Life Skills Students

The Director of Windsor Women recently asked me to randomly pick out graduating students from the Life Skills Program to get some feed back from students. Philippine Ishak, the instructor of the program welcomed the idea because she also felt that her students are the best people to tell us how effective this Life Skills program is.

I randomly picked and interviewed Suad Jamaly from Iraq. She started coming to the Windsor Women since Sept 2004. She said she found Windsor Women Center to be a better school than the other school she had attended. She had some computer experience back home and she found that Life Skills Program

helped her upgrade her skills in typing and internet, and she was able to pick up some other new things during the course. Her goal like all immigrants is to learn to speak English better and prepare herself for the competitive workforce out there.

One unique student in the class that I interviewed was Mangit Mann, from North India, Punjab, who has been in Canada for over 15 years now. She made me realize that every one can benefit from the Life Skills Program that is being offered here at the Windsor Women Center. She is a trained teacher from India, and a real estate agent here in Canada. By taking Life Skills course she said she learned basic computer skills

like sending and receiving email attachments, and many other new computer skills especially in Microsoft Word Basic. She is hoping to get a re-certification with the new teaching program.

I learned that most of these student gain a lot from the Life Skills Course and will be coming back to take the next course being offered. Without asking them, the students complimented the W 5 Center as being a “friendly” and “welcoming” place. “It's easy to be here. We feel comfortable. It's like home” said one of the students the Life Skills Class.

Written by Sophia Bittar

## Mission Statement

Assisting first generation  
Canadian women and their  
families to be full and  
productive members of  
Canadian Society

Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women  
BREAKING BARRIERS & "Creating Opportunities"



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## DR. JOHN J. LYANGA - REMEMBERING A TREASURED FRIEND

The Board, Staff, Volunteers and Clients of Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women were deeply saddened by the death of Dr. John Jacob Lyanga on August 9, 2005. A devoted family man, community leader, activist in anti-racism and access to justice, and indefatigable advocate for the marginalized, Dr. Lyanga refused to look the other way when someone reached out for help. If the centre needed advice about issues facing the African-Canadian community, he was never too far away to ask for assistance. Needless to say that his number was usually the first dialed, if there were questions about the health care system.

While many who know of him through WWWWIW may associate him with his spouse, President of the Board, Scholastica Lyanga, it is important to know that Dr. Lyanga was actively involved in several community initiatives organized by this centre. Particularly on the issue of equal

access to health care, Dr. Lyanga's insight and advice was critical to the success of the event. When asked, he willingly and patiently gave of his time, often entire days, to sit on panels or advisory committees - always providing clearly thought-out strategies and remedies. But one of the

*In Loving Memory*



*Dr. John Jacob Lyanga*  
*July 1st, 1939 - August 9th, 2005*

most memorable legacies he left us is the establishment of a unified voice for international medical graduates, or more commonly referred to as foreign-trained physicians. With the Windsor-Essex International Medical Graduates, Dr. Lyanga was able to combine his love of medicine with his passionate advocacy for equity and accessibility.

To build upon his hopes and dreams, the Lyanga Family has established the "Dr. John Jacob Lyanga Medical Scholarship Fund". We at WWWWIW were fortunate to have called Dr. John Lyanga our friend and we are grateful to his family - his soul-mate Scholastica, his children Jacqueline, Stephanie, Noel and Elliott - for their generosity in sharing him with the community at large.

*Windsor Women Working  
With Immigrant Women*