



Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Awards 2014

Adult Learner Award Winner



Jian Mei Zhu and her tutor have been working together for the past 18 months. In that time Jian Mei has achieved many milestones. She has learned that English unlike Mandarin needs a subject and a verb that agree in person and time.

Her vocabulary has increased and she conscientiously researches and uses new vocabulary every week. Her long-term goal is to go to NAIT to take banking and business.

In order to enhance her English skills, she works at a Dollar Store and also supervises grade 5 students on their lunch breaks. Jian Mei often endures harassment from customers in the store when she cannot understand quickly enough. Yet her determination to reach her goal is undiminished and she shows up at every shift ready to work.

Her determination to learn, her high intelligence and her unflagging optimism make Jian Mei a worthy recipient of this award.

Family Learner Award Winner



The winner of this year's award is **Jennifer Strid**. When Jennifer first came to the C.O.W. Bus, she was exceedingly shy and lacking in self-confidence.

Week by week, as she and her younger daughter joined in our program she blossomed into a chatty and delightful

young woman – in fact surprising the staff when she showed up in a full vampire costume with awesome makeup for Halloween.

The C.O.W Bus gave Jennifer a safe place to interact with other parents, learn new skills and take a more active parenting role. She continues to delight our staff

with her progress and brings her girls to the bus when their schedules allow.

Jennifer has faced many challenges in her life. She is a single mom with limited family support, is raising 2 children on an AISH income and she doesn't drive. But she is determined to give her children a better life than she had by being involved in their activities, finding low cost programs for them to attend. She took them to BC last summer and is saving for a dream trip to Disney World.

Jennifer has a personal goal to attain her GED. She never stops trying and we are confident she will make things better for herself and her children.

Community Leadership Award



The winner of the Lois Hole Award for Community Leadership is **Jim Hutton**. When asked why he became involved with the Centre for Family Literacy, Jim said, "We can choose to ignore the literacy problem and just say we'll live with the consequences. Or we can take

vigorous action and put a great deal of effort towards it and end up with excellent results in the future that build a healthier workforce and healthier citizenry."

Jim is definitely true to his words of "taking vigorous action". He has contributed immensely to the work of the Centre as a Board Member from 2003 to 2008 and continues to serve on the Centre's Development committee.

Jim has provided passion, vision and a network of helpful contacts to the Centre. His passion is evident to anyone who has met him whether in a social setting, business environment or a community gathering. His network is vast and he doesn't hesitate to use it. His curling buddies, golf buddies and engineering co-workers have all been recruited to attend CFL fundraising events, join committees and become Board members.

He is a staunch supporter of the local C.O.W. Bus program and was a key funder when we had to purchase and refurbish a new bus. His support for family literacy and early intervention programs extends beyond his involvement with the Centre.

In fact it was at a Leading with Literacy breakfast that he introduced himself to Corine Gannon from the Edmonton Catholic Schools. That initial conversation resulted in Jim supporting eight of their schools in high needs communities. His support has enabled many children to attend pre-Kindergarten (100 Voices) programs that work closely with the family and offers rich literacy experiences.

