



Lois Hole Memorial Literacy Awards 2019

Adult Learner Award Winners



Sarah Re collet came to the Centre in the fall of 2017, a young, single mom of two little boys with a part-time job.

Sarah had a tough time in high school. Bullied and disengaged, she gave up on school long before graduation. Despite this negative experience with education,

she came to the Centre with some very clear educational and life goals.

Sarah wanted to improve her reading, writing, and math skills so she could finish her high school education, and be on her way to finding a solid career. Sarah is a patient, dedicated mom who puts her kids before herself. She enjoys motherhood, and likes to read bedtime stories to her kids. But Sarah was worried that as her kids got older, she would not be able to help them.

Sarah has noticed that since working with her tutor, she has slowly been gaining confidence. After just two weeks, she accessed her public library for the first time, and has been going with her kids ever since. She has also started to like reading again, and even says she “loves doing school work now” – an impressive turnaround for someone with such a negative high school experience.



Ali Tourey is a reserved young man who has lived in Canada for almost 3 years with his two daughters. Before that, he was in a refugee camp in the Ivory Coast. And much earlier than that, his native home was the then war-ravaged Liberia. So, although endowed with a sharp intellect, he was forced to

drop out of school in Grade 6.

When Ali first came to the Centre, he had very minimal sight word recognition except for a few familiar words, and learned phrases related to daily needs. He read at a slow pace and stumbled on long, multi-syllable words. Expressing himself

in writing was a struggle, and speaking was an even bigger challenge.

Despite these challenges, Ali was determined to learn. In addition to working one-on-one with his tutor, he also joined our weekly reading and conversation classes, which involved taking three buses to get to class. All of this hard work has paid off as improving his skills has led to getting a job, and later a promotion. Ali says that life is getting better for him now, as he is able to fill out forms on his own and communicate with his daughters' teachers.

Family Learner Award Winner



Victoria Harrington attends our Rhymes that Bind program at the Bissell Centre which, is an introduction and welcoming into their Parent Education Program. She came with her tiny, tiny, newly-born, premature granddaughter. Victoria is grandmother (or Kokum) and kinship caregiver to Raevyn, whose

mother struggled with addiction during pregnancy and was unable to care for her daughter.

Raevyn has multiple special needs which require constant care, a hefty task for a grandmother who is not only taking on parenting all over again, but parenting a baby with her own set of challenges.

Victoria's history has not been an easy journey. She was born in Inuvik, but ended up in foster care at an early age until being adopted by the Harringtons. Although removed from her family culture and heritage, she was fortunate to be supported and cared for by her new family. In her adult life, she has suffered great loss, lack of support, homelessness and the environment that comes with it.

She has overcome these challenges to now rise above them and raise her granddaughter the best way she knows how. She has learned how to access supports and services for parenting, personal development, and life skills. Victoria has been active and passionate about learning new skills and information on how to best provide and support Raevyn's growth. She has brought Raevyn to Rhymes that Bind and to parenting classes, rain or shine. She read to Raevyn every night and is being encouraged to sing and listen to music at home.

Victoria is a caring, loving, and positive role model for everyone she meets. She is respectful and is respected by the parents, and is admired by the staff at the Bissell Centre and the Centre for Family Literacy.