

CCLC Volunteer Newsletter

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September Greetings

Dear Volunteers,

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the Summer already! This fall will likely be a bitter-sweet one for many of our clients with the benefits of new services and resources opening up while still a threat of second wave of COVID-19 looms. I have included some community updates on page 2 of this newsletter to share with clients.

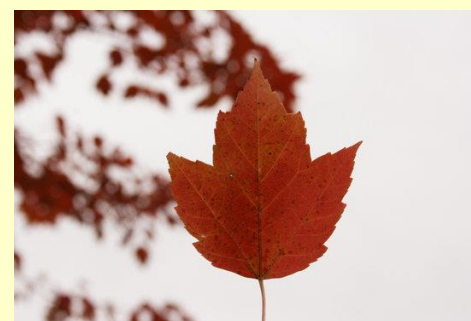
The Community Connections team is excited to start to offer some limited in person groups – specifically some new outdoor activities for Youth and our Family Mentorship group. As we start to expand our calendar, we will need more volunteers for our **Small Groups programs**. If you have an interest in volunteering in a skill or interest based group, please reach out to me! Do you enjoy sewing, knitting, playing music, creating art, cooking, or fitness? Why not enjoy these activities while sharing your knowledge with our clients! Do you have an idea for a new activity of group? Reach out!

In this month's newsletter, we have included a spotlight on one of our volunteers who is most passionate about cultural exchanges. Check out page 3 for an interview with **Azadeh Odlin!**

I have really been enjoying the feedback on the "spotlight" feature of the newsletter, and I would love to include a different volunteer every month. If you are willing to **share your story** with us, please let me know.

As always, thank you all for all the time and compassion you share with our community. I hope you have a wonderful and safe September!

-Holly Weaver, Volunteer & Match Facilitator



Inside This Issue

Monthly Greetings	1
COVID-19 Update	2
Quotes from Clients	2
Volunteer Spotlight	3

COVID-19 London Updates

As of July 1st, 2020

September will see some lifting of restrictions and expansion of available services at CCLC and with our community partners. Here are some updates you can share with clients:

Community Connections:

- New virtual conversation circle on Tuesday Mornings 10:30am – 12:00pm.
- New youth programs starting: Art, Music, Youth Taking Action

London Public Libraries:

We're excited to begin to offer limited services inside our library locations, with additional health and safety measures in place. Your visit may look a little different but as always we are here to help! Library branches will re-open in stages, starting with 4 branch locations on August 10 and 11. See below for hours and guidelines for service. The following services will be available and quick visits are encouraged:

- Picking up holds
- Finding and borrowing items
- Using a public computer (1 session of up to 45 minutes per day)
- Using WiFi inside (45 minutes per day)
- LSP Service by appointment at Beacock, Bostwick and Jalna.
- Public computers and WiFi are available for 45 minutes per person per day (1 session of up to 45 minutes per day), on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Limited staff assistance is available
- Free printing is available
- Headphones and USBs are not available.

There is a limit to the number of people that are allowed in each branch location at one time. Please continue to return items outside using outdoor return chutes. No inside returns.

Thames Valley District School Board:

Due to the large number of students participating in Full Remote Learning, Thames Valley is making important updates to its Return to Learn plan – including opening of schools to students one week later on Monday, September 14. For more information, [click here](#).

Days	Times
Sundays	10:00 - 11:30am
Tuesdays	10:30 - 12:00pm
Wednesdays	10:30 - 12:00pm
Thursdays	6:30 - 8:00pm
Fridays	10:30 - 12:00pm
Saturdays	10:00 - 11:30am

Quotes from our clients :

"I would like to thank you for your support and all advice that really has been helping me, my family as well. For us who come to a country with a totally different culture than we are used to, your help is really welcoming."

–G.M. May 2020

Volunteer Spotlight: Azadeh Odlin

Azadeh has been active with Community Connections for a couple of years now. She is passionate about using her experiences as a newcomer to help smooth the transition for others.

How are you involved with the CCLC?

I volunteer with Canada Connect program. I work one on one with newcomers. Often I assist newcomers to improve their English while providing them with resources and information based on their settlement needs.

How did you first become involved with CCLC?

I moved to the London area three years ago, and I wanted to get involved in my new community. A friend recommended that I look into CCLC's volunteer opportunities. I submitted my volunteer application to CCLC, and I became part of the Canada Connect program.

Why is it important to volunteer?

I know that one of the benefits of volunteering is a positive impact on the community. Most importantly, volunteering allows me to connect to my community and make it a better place. Even the smallest amount of time to help others can make a real difference in the lives of people. I think volunteering is a two-way street: It benefits my family and me as much as the people I am helping. Dedicating my time as a volunteer helped me make new friends, expand my network, and boost my skills.

"It brings me a lot of joy to see a family making Canada their home."

What has the transition to virtual volunteering been like for you?

In my day job, I teach English through Skype, so I am used to meeting my students online. Virtual volunteering provides me with flexibility. It allows me to visit with my match more times in a week which is beneficial for improving conversation skills.

Can you describe a memorable moment volunteering?

I can recall many memorable moments, but the one that I will never forget happened recently. My match told me about her weekend of fresh produce shopping and canning them with her family afterwards, this is something that we do in my families too. Although we are from a different background, I found out that there are fun and healthy traditions that we share. So we talked about it and exchanged recipes.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

I enjoy lots of things about volunteering. It brings me a lot of joy when I see a family making Canada their home.

Thank you, Azadeh!