



YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE

IN THIS ISSUE

# Welcome

by Deborah Schwientek, Manager of Employment & Training Services

Welcome to the 'NEW' Employment and Training Services Newsletter!

In an effort to provide an update on all of our programs we have decided to condense this information into one document. We want to share our upcoming events, new and existing programs in one easy to read document to be shared with your colleagues and clients if applicable.

Instead of sending multiple emails we are hopeful that this format will provide all the information that you need including staff names and contact information which should make it easier for each of you.

We invite any comments or suggestions to this format and look forward to providing a newsletter monthly.

We hope your April is full of opportunity,

Deborah Schwientek  
dschwientek@ywcahamilton.org

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

- After almost 6 years, Jupiter Deveau is leaving her position to pursue a new opportunity
- Jean Visca has returned to the YWCA Bridging Programming
- Ilana Allice started with us as program coordinator for the STEM Girls program
- Our SISTER program has been refunded and will continue until 2019, serving over 200 young women. Erzsebet Gatfalvi has moved roles and is now an Employment Counsellor of this project
- 1<sup>st</sup>Biz has finished recruiting for group 2 of it's pilot program
- Women's Entrepreneurship finished another group in March, and is recruiting for May



## STEM Girls Club

Check out our newest program funded by ABACUS that encourages young women to pursue a post-secondary education in the STEM field

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## Resource Centre Calendar

See what events and resources we have available to those looking for employment. We can help clients with job searching and interview prep!

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## Women Helping Women

by Victoria Bularda, Business Coach



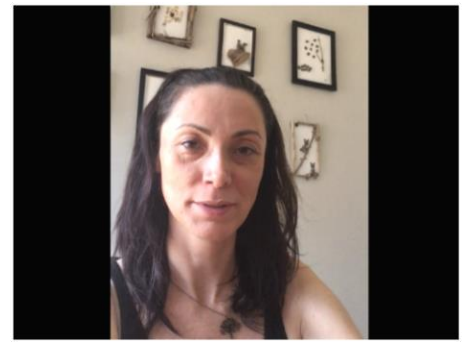
Funded by the Allen and Milli Gould Foundation, the free **Women's Entrepreneurship (W.E.)** program annually helps 21 women with low income by providing a combination of mentorship, individualized business coaching and training. The result is a comprehensive business plan with financial forecasts for the first year of business. *Photo: W.E. Graduates 2016*

The W.E. Group #4 participants finished the 20 business training classes on March 15th and each participant was paired with a mentor, beginning the implementation of their business plan.

We are now accepting applications for W.E. Group #5, for which the business training classes will start on May 9th.

Alternatively, if you are interested in a flexible programming schedule, you might consider the **Micro-lending (ML)** program, funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate since 2013. The free ML program will continue to operate in 2017 by helping women with limited incomes start a small business with a much needed loan and business plan.

Applications are provided at weekly Business Program Info Sessions held Wednesday, April 5, 12 & 26 at the YWCA Hamilton.



**Tugba Camli - Pebbles Ontario Lake**  
Click and watch this promotional video on YouTube from Tugba on how being a participant in the Micro lending program has helped develop her business.

### INFORMATION SESSIONS

#### Business Programs Info Session

Once a week at 9:30AM  
(check calendar for dates)

YWCA Hamilton – Resource Centre  
75 MacNab St S  
Hamilton, ON L8P 3C1

#### CONTACT

Victoria Bularda  
[vbularda@ywcHamilton.org](mailto:vbularda@ywcHamilton.org)  
(905)522-9922 x 313

## S.T.E.M. Girls Club for Grade 6

by Ilana Allice, S.T.E.M. Girls Program Coordinator

### Calling all grade 6 girls interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (or STEM)!

The YWCA Hamilton has a new afterschool program for grade 6 girls, called STEM Girls Club, and there are still a few spots left! The afterschool club has just started and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 155 Queen St. N. from 3:30pm until 5:30pm, throughout the school year, until the end of the girls' grade 8 year.

As part of the Hamilton Community Foundation's ABACUS project, the STEM Girls Club aims to support academic engagement and inspire girls to pursue future post-secondary educations and careers in S.T.E.M. The STEM Girls Club will include activities, discussions, and games

that build on topics in school and will foster the confidence needed to excel in these currently male dominated fields.

If you are as excited about this program as we are, there are three ways to get involved:

1. Do you know a grade 6 girl you think would like this program? Refer them!
2. Are you a woman studying or working in a S.T.E.M. related area? We would love to have you share your expertise with the club! Please get in touch.
3. Are you available to be a classroom volunteer and help out once or twice a week? Please get in touch.



### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Participants:

- currently in grade 6
- low-income and/or low post-secondary participation rate in the family
- able to get to and from 155 Queen St. North afterschool on Tuesdays and Thursdays

### MORE INFORMATION

#### CONTACT

Ilana Allice  
[iallice@ywcHamilton.org](mailto:iallice@ywcHamilton.org)  
(905)522-9922 x 176



by Mirela Marceta, Business Coach



1st Biz is a program that helps anyone regardless of age, gender or credit status get their business idea up and running within one year with a start-up loan from FirstOntario Credit Union.

The program is a pilot running two groups in Hamilton, and one in the Niagara Region in the summertime. Group 1 completed their program on March 10, and Group 2 is currently in session and will complete the program in May.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Save the date** for Thursday, October 19—1stBiz will hold their first official graduation and community trade show. At 6:00PM all businesses that completed the 1stBiz program will have their own booth to promote their products and services. All are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring their friends.

If you would like more information on the Niagara group, or to sign up for the mailing list to find out if 1stBiz will return to Hamilton, please contact us.

### LEARN MORE

Mirela Marceta  
[mmarceta@ywcahamilton.org](mailto:mmarceta@ywcahamilton.org)  
 (905)522-9922 x 152

## Women in 'IT'

by Samsun Nadia, Career Development Specialist

### WIT Information Sessions

Held every Monday at 10AM

Women in IT (WIT) is an excellent **free** program for women with multiple barriers to upgrade their skills, get industry certification and access to employment opportunities. We are now accepting applications for the upcoming program starting in June 2017. To become eligible for this program one must be unemployed, eligible to work in Canada (Citizen, PR and Conventional Refugee), have low income (below \$25,665 per year), have CLB 7 (if education is outside of Canada) or completion of High School (in Canada), and have experience/education in IT (preferred). After completing this program, participants will receive a Web Design and Development certificate from Mohawk College, placement as a Web Developer and training on various techniques for personal development skills, leadership and job search. We provide bus tickets and childcare for participants in the program.

On March 27, we had 18 participants graduate from the Women in IT (WIT) program. 8 of these participants have already secured a job as a freelancer or Web Developer in the IT industry.

### WIT REGISTRATION

Samsun Nadia  
[snadia@ywcahamilton.org](mailto:snadia@ywcahamilton.org)  
 (905)522-9922 x 142

## Bridging Programs

by Jupiter Deveau, Career Development Specialist

The Bridging Programs with YWCA Hamilton assists professionals with international education and experience in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Environmental sectors to obtain the requirements needed to access employment in their field. Participants in the bridging programs will learn about employer expectations,

workplace and occupational requirements, labor market trends in ICT and environmental sectors, effective self-marketing strategies and business etiquette.

Participants will also receive occupation-specific skills upgrading, Mohawk College completion certificate (upon completion of 180 hours), job search and career development support, soft skills training and coaching and workplace exposure: placement, internship and mentoring.

The following courses (at Mohawk College) will be offered in Spring 2017: GIS for Bridging, Renewable Energy, Server Administration and Business Fundamentals for IT.

### BRIDGING REGISTRATION

[bridging@ywcahamilton.org](mailto:bridging@ywcahamilton.org)  
 (905)522-9922 x 150

## Resource Centre

by Carol-Anne Ritchie, Employment Counsellor

**The YWCA Hamilton's Employment Resource Centre, open to both men and women, offers FREE employment services including:**

- Computer and internet access
- Phone, photocopying and faxing services
- One-on-one resume, cover letter, and portfolio building
- Assistance with labour market research, job search and post-secondary resources
- Mock interview and follow-up techniques
- Access to our career resource literature, Career Cruising interactive resource and Scott's Business Directories

**Tax clinics for low income individuals starting March 1 until mid-May**

### BOOK AN APPOINTMENT

Carol-Anne Ritchie  
[critchier@ywcahamilton.org](mailto:critchier@ywcahamilton.org)  
 (905)522-9922 x 335

# Calling all youth seeking employment and Hamilton employers

by Sabrina Douglas, Employment Counsellor/Job Developer

YWCA Hamilton is recruiting participants and employers for our SISTER (Success in Service Training and Employment Retention) Program! The SISTER Program is a youth employment program involving four weeks of paid training and 12 weeks of paid placement in the service sector.

## To be eligible for the program, you must be:

- A woman between the ages of 15 and 30 at the time of intake
- Not in receipt of Employment Insurance (EI) benefits
- Legally entitled to work in Canada and Ontario
- A Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or person who has been granted refugee status in Canada under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- In need of assistance in order to overcome employment barriers

NEW GROUPS ARE STARTING EVERY SEVEN WEEKS UNTIL 2019!



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Eligible youth and/or employers interested in hosting a placement participant with a wage subsidy offer from YWCA Hamilton are invited to contact:

CONTACT  
 Sabrina Douglas  
[sdouglas@ywcahamilton.org](mailto:sdouglas@ywcahamilton.org)  
 (905)522-9922 x 175  
 Erzsebet Gatfalvi  
[egatfalvi@ywcahamilton.org](mailto:egatfalvi@ywcahamilton.org)  
 (905)522-9922 x 147



## Employment Services Calendar Monday - Friday from 8:30am - 4:30pm 75 MacNab Street South | Phone: 905-522-9922 ext. 335

### April 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Women in IT Info Session 10:00 am – 11:30 am Visit us @ Central Library 4:00 – 6:00	4 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	5 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Business Info session 9:30 am – 11:00 am	6 RC OPEN 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM CLOSED for 1 <sup>st</sup> Biz 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	7 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
10 Women in IT Info Session 10:00 am – 11:30 am Visit us @ Central Library 4:00 – 6:00	11 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 am - 1:30 pm CLOSED for SISTER program 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM	12 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Business Info session 9:30 am – 11:00 am	13 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	14 YWCA Resource Centre CLOSED For Easter Holiday
17 Women in IT Info Session 10:00 am – 11:30 am Visit us @ Central Library 4:00 – 6:00	18 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30-3:00 S.T.E.M Girls Club 3:00 – 5:30 PM	19 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	20 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	21 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM
24 Women in IT Info Session 10:00 am – 11:30 am SISTER Program 12:30 – 3:30 pm	25 RC OPEN 8:30 am – 12:30pm SISTER Program 12:30 – 3:30 PM Learn and Network Event 5:30 pm - 7:30 PM	26 SISTER Program 8:30 am – 3:30 pm Business Info session 9:30 am – 11:00 am	27 RC OPEN 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM CLOSED for 1 <sup>st</sup> Biz 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	28 Resource Centre OPEN 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

To book an appointment please contact Carol Anne at 905-522-9922 ext. 335 or email [critchie@ywcahamilton.org](mailto:critchie@ywcahamilton.org)



ADD our google calendar and have the most up to date information about our Resource Centre and programming at your fingertips: [Click Here](#) to sign up with your Gmail account



@BusinessProgramsYwcaHamilton



+MicroLendingHamilton



@women\_s\_entrepr