

NEXT STEPS

THE NEWSLETTER OF **ALSO** | ADULT AND FAMILY LITERACY IN OTTAWA



Fall 2023

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Kim's Comments

We are very excited to be back at ALSO after our summer break. Our teachers continue to offer both in-person and online support for students. Many of our learners are happy to return to the classroom. This not only allows for a richer connection with their teacher, but provides an opportunity to connect socially with other ALSO students and staff while at Heartwood House. For others, having the option to continue to meet with their teacher weekly online, and attend ALSO virtually, means they have access to our program when they otherwise wouldn't. There are many reasons people are unable to attend in-person, including mental health challenges, caregiving responsibilities, work commitments, transportation barriers or physical limitations; all of which make it very difficult to leave home to attend school. This pivot has allowed us to offer a more inclusive program. While there are still some kinks to work out, we are happy to continue offering both in-person and online support.

Kim Oastler
Executive Director, ALSO



Success Story



ALSO has a partnership with the Continuing Education Department of the Ottawa District School Board that supports adults who need more support in order to achieve high school credits. Last June, out of the 102 graduates, 16 came from ALSO. And one ALSO student was awarded the Ontario Principals' Council Award. We are immensely proud of these students. Each of them has overcome significant barriers to achieve their goal of completing high school.

ALSO teachers work one-on-one, providing a high level of support to adults who need more. The adults we work with need more flexibility, more time, more care, more attention; they need more. As a small program ALSO is able to provide more.

We talk about ALSO having a high level of individual impact. This is the perfect example of what we mean by that. Although we are a relatively small program and have a relatively small community level impact, we have significant individual impact. This is noteworthy. This is worth supporting.

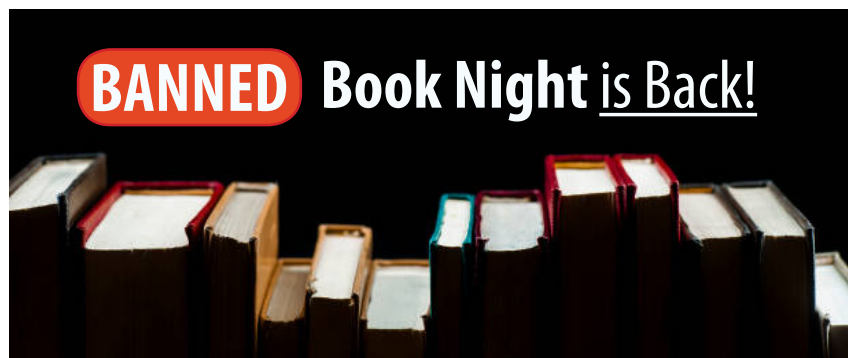
I am sending a huge shout out to our teachers, Mike, Mark (retired from ALSO now) and Eduardo. Thank you for your excellent work supporting our ALSO students. Well done!

ALSO Happenings



Last May we said **good-bye** to our long time teacher, **Kathy Holmes**. Kathy taught in the ALSO Deaf Adult Upgrading Program for 12 years. We are sad to see Kathy go, but excited for her to enjoy her retirement. We wish Kathy good health and happiness for the years to come.

The ALSO Board of Directors is in the process of planning a **fundraiser** to be held in January 2024. We are reviving the **Banned Book Night** event. We are looking for **local authors** interested in reading at the event. We are also looking for **local businesses** interested in supporting ALSO by donating a prize for the raffle or silent auction. Tickets will go on sale in November. Stay tuned for event details. If you are interested in supporting our Banned Book Night please **reach out to kim@also-ottawa.org**.



On Saturday Sept. 23, Simone and Ali represented **ALSO at the Ottawa Deaf Expo**. They were hoping to connect with members of the Deaf community who may need extra support upgrading their English language and computer skills. The event was well attended. It was a terrific opportunity for Ali and his family to meet people from Ottawa. Ali works remotely for ALSO and teaches online. The ALSO staff team went out for breakfast before the expo. It was a pleasure to meet Ali's wife and children.

Get Involved



With funding from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development through the Better Jobs Ontario - Skills for Success funding stream, ALSO received funding to offer 2 pilot sessions of our new Digital Literacy Program. Our last session starts Friday, October 13, 2023. We are reaching out to newcomers and older adults who would like to, or need to, secure employment. We would love to continue this program into the new year and we need your help to do so. This program is also open to members of the Deaf community with ASL as the language of instruction.

Many adults with lower literacy skills struggle to develop digital competencies and to critically evaluate and understand information on-line. Statistics Canada estimates that almost 84% of jobs in Canada currently require use of a computer and basic technical competencies, and that even low-skilled jobs increasingly require a basic level of digital literacy.

Your gift today, either as a single donation or by becoming one of our valued ALSO Champion Monthly Donors, is how we can reach our goal of raising \$3000. It's so true that the Fall tends to bring out the best in us. It is our sincere hope that you will join our efforts to make this goal possible. The start of a new school year fills us with possibilities. Please know how grateful we are for your generosity.

With much gratitude,
Kim Oastler, ALSO Executive Director
kim@also-ottawa.org

P.S. Becoming a Champion is only a click away and it will be one of the easiest and most cost-effective ways you can support our programs and services.

DONATE TODAY!



Another way to give.

If your organization is doing a **United Way Workplace Charitable Campaign** or a **Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign** – it is easy for you to become an ALSO CHAMPION! You can donate directly to ALSO through your workplace by specifying Alternative Learning Styles and Outlooks, Ottawa Inc. and providing our registered charity number 106704570RR0001 on your donation form. If you have questions, or are speaking of fundraising opportunities at your workplace, please reach out to Kim at kim@also-ottawa.org. Through ALSO, you are supporting your community.

ALSO ChangeMaker

Maureen Moloughney

Maureen Moloughney (Moe) is the Executive Director of Heartwood House. Moe works tirelessly for the Heartwood House community. She does her very best to support the member groups and the people we serve. Over the last 10 years, she has hired 6 ALSO students. They work at reception for Heartwood House and support the OC Transpo Lost & Found program. Moe is a great example of someone who 'lives the mission'.



Mirna, a former ALSO student, currently works at Heartwood House.

The front desk team, as Heartwooders affectionately refer to them, provide support for the entire house. People entering the building for the first time, people coming in for meetings or to access programs, any Heartwooder who needs help with almost anything can ask someone working at the front desk for help.

Heartwood House would literally not exist without Moe. Her drive, determination and passion for this community has led us to where we are today. Well done Moe and thank you. You are an ALSO ChangeMaker.

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DONATE TODAY!