



January 2017 Newsletter
Welcome to the WISE 25th Anniversary Year!

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WISE 25th Anniversary Year and Logo Contest

1992 – 2017. We're turning 25 this year. We'd like you to take part in our celebrations. We've got a logo contest ongoing on Facebook. Design a logo for us that we can use all year. Win \$50. Check out the contest here:

<https://www.facebook.com/WomensInitiativesForSaferEnvironments/photos/a.580499188750423.1073741825.109453455855001/1135457799921223/?type=3&theater>

We're going to host numerous events where you will be invited to come and meet us, learn more about us, have a chance to support our programming, and have an opportunity to volunteer with us out in the community. Look for news on other initiatives as they progress throughout the year.

Building Women Up Workshops

Our free home renovation workshops on safety and basic skills are started up again. The South Keys series began on January 12th and runs four consecutive weeks. Due to scheduling conflicts, the Orleans Workshop Series that was originally scheduled to start on January 25th has been rescheduled. We will be announcing the new dates for that location on our social media sites soon. The Kanata location will be starting on February 9th. Check out the following link for more details and the link to register:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/101981756963904/>



Here is some feedback from one of our first workshop participants:

"Thank you so much for the program. Would it be possible that some of the women who attended workshop are invited back to participate maybe in building some garden boxes? I was looking at the need in the community of growing our own food not just as a hobby but also as cheap food for the family. We can learn how to build garden boxes and help around the city as there are many gardens coming here and there. I have seen some groups in my community where women were helpless and had to depend on waiting for some of the husbands to complete their box building and then assist the single mothers. I would be one happy woman to spear head that. This will make our workshop even more well spent. I was about to forget I won a Christmas present for myself a small tool box with 135 tools inside. I am very excited and want to see how I can put my talent to use in the community. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you and your families."

Revisiting Soup Ottawa

In September of 2016, WISE was fortunate to be the recipient of over \$1300 from the Soup Ottawa fund raiser. On Jan. 23rd, WISE revisited soup Ottawa to report to the supporters the impact their contributions have made. We are very proud to report that we are providing empowering workshop training to women across the city. Without the support of generous people who came out to the Soup Ottawa event, we would not be able to offer this support. Thank you, Ottawa.

Unlock Fear Campaign

During the 16 Days of Activism between November 25th and December 10th, 2016, WISE conducted the Unlock Fear campaign. Many generous donors contributed to the campaign which will allow us to provide locks and security features for women who live in some unsafe

situations. We are most grateful for your support. We raised just under \$400! The women of Ottawa thank you as well.

Women's Solidarity March in Ottawa

Following the inauguration of the new President in the United States, a Women's March on Washington was organized and cities around the world organized marches in support of women's rights. Ottawa was no exception. Approximately 6,000 – 8,000 were estimated to march in solidarity for the women in Washington in support of causes such as women's rights, health care, support for Muslims, resistance to discriminatory policies against minorities, and against misogyny, etc. We're in uncertain times with the election of President Trump and a Conservative Republican lead congress and Senate. Marchers are worried that setbacks in policies can be felt in Canada if legislation and programs are rolled back in the U.S.

"The march is about raising women's voices" says one of the organizers appearing on CBC radio. "We want to make sure that we are in the minds of the decision-makers in power. We can see elements of ultra-conservatism arising among the leadership of the PC's, we don't want that brand of politics here. We need to stay active and proactive. That's what feminism is all about; speaking up in support of others to make everyone's lives better."



Volunteer Opportunities with WISE

Check out the Charity village link to sign up for volunteer positions with WISE and apply to be a board member. Do you have skills you can share with us? We're particularly searching for website maintenance support. Apply to give us a hand. Please share among your friends and have them sign up for the WISE newsletter! Click on the Mailchimp button at www.wiseottawa.ca to stay up to date with what's going on at WISE.

Focus on a WISE Volunteer



Nasreen Rajani is the volunteer for this month's focus. She has been one of those valuable jewels that nonprofit organizations find every once in a while. She volunteers in the office, is a part of the Communications Committee at WISE, is currently coordinating workshop support at a program in the community and was a lead actor in a video production hosted by WISE highlighting relationships. Thank you, Nasreen. WISE salutes you.