

Never Too Late to Learn at EYLE

"East York Learning Experience has consistently helped adults gain the literacy skills they need to become independent, educated and employed," said Greg Thomson, Research Director at Charity Intelligence Canada. "This is an incredible small charity that is cost-effectively changing lives."

Serving adults in East York, east Toronto and west Scarborough, East York Learning Experience (EYLE) has helped more than 1,200 adults improve their reading, writing, basic math and digital literacy skills since 1987.

"I feel I have someone to help me address obstacles," said EYLE student Jamileh Salek, who shared her story at the latest EYLE Annual Meeting.

Salek became a student at EYLE to help improve her reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. She is an accomplished artist from Iran whose work has been exhibited there and in her new home in Canada.

From her tutor and EYLE

staff, Salek also received practical help with her internet and computer needs and support for critical milestones such as interview preparation and the approach to freelance projects.

EYLE student and Scarborough resident Mohamed Abosnena picks up the Bluffs Monitor regularly for its coverage of local news and views. Abosnena, a maintenance employee at a Toronto community centre, shares his reading with his tutor Ian Kinross. "It's a full circle of learning," said Kinross. "After our discussion of the news, there's a follow-up quiz and writing assignment based on the original articles." Last fall, Charity Intelligence Canada again named EYLE a Top 5 Impact Charity in Toronto and Top 10 Canadian Impact Charity for its literacy work helping adults pursue employment, education and independence.

"With over 40 volunteer literacy tutors we are able to provide personalized services including one-on-one tutoring sessions, using

an individualized training plan at a low cost," said EYLE Managing Director Gail McCullough. EYLE's major funding is provided by the Province of Ontario. EYLE also relies on city and federal government funding as well as charitable support from the community.

"We're preparing our students for those critical transitions to high school, college, apprenticeships, finding employment and greater personal independence in their everyday lives," said McCullough. "Our charitable donors help us advance literacy through additional special initiatives such as our student workshop series and extended hours."

The workshops focus on key topics including test-taking and internet safety. The program has also added a workshop series focusing on basic computer skills.

Salek said EYLE helped her feel at home and less isolated in her new country: "I'm thankful for the support, encouragement and family environment at EYLE."



Mohamed Abosnena reads the April edition of the Bluffs Monitor.

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