

Maricela Salazar

Maricela Salazar, originally from Peru, came to Canada 3 years ago. She has a Bachelor's degree in Science and a Masters in Biochemistry. In Peru she worked in Nutritional Research related to malnutrition. In Canada, following her passion for health, wellness and prevention, she became a certified Nutritionist. In her free time she enjoys reading, watching movies, hiking, dancing, and concerts.

Maricela started volunteering at CIWA a month after she arrived in Canada. She has now contributed over 500 hours to CIWA. She has volunteered as a translator, doing Volunteer Program administrative tasks, teaching nutrition and healthy lifestyle to the senior's groups and Women's Group, assisting with special events, Good Food Box, helping with craft sales and as a Breast Health Program facilitator. She is currently a facilitator for the Youth Collaborative. Outside of CIWA she had been a volunteer at the Alberta Children's Hospital, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Kerby Centre, and The Arthritis Society of Alberta.

Maricela likes volunteering as it gives her the chance to meet new people from a variety of cultures and backgrounds and learn from them. She also has the chance to learn more about Canada which helps her integrate faster. Through volunteering she has made many new friends and has had good times. She says that "when you volunteer you feel good doing something for your community and it enriches you mentally and emotionally."

Maricela is a friendly, enthusiastic and understanding volunteer. She is committed to CIWA and without failure has been here every Tuesday evening for the past 2 years. She has the unique quality to connect with people and make those around her feel secure, included and at ease. She is reliable and responsible. Because she goes about all of her tasks in a very professional manner, many times she represents the "face of CIWA" at large events, outreach or presentations. There is no job too big or too small for her and she is always willing to take charge. She always keeps in mind that the well-being of the clients is the reason for our work and commits fully to helping others.

We are very pleased to announce Maricela Salazar as the Volunteer of the Month for February 2014.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



CIWA
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association