

# Barbara Talaga

Barbara Talaga is originally from Poland. She has a strong passion for living in a multi-cultural environment and loves to travel and gain new experiences and has spent several years living in many different countries. She has a background in Cultural Anthropology, film and photography.

When she came to Canada she initiated her own research into organizations where she could receive support and guidance. Barbara was attracted to CIWA because of the diverse settlement services offered to women. She was encouraged to volunteer by CIWA staff and jumped at the opportunity as soon as she was able. She has supported CIWA in many special events such as: United Way Parade, card making with Pebbles in the Sand Classes, Youth Forum, interpretation, special presentations, mock interviews for Employment Services etc. She also volunteers on a regular basis in the Volunteer Program providing vital administrative support where she performs tasks such as workshop preparation, meet with potential and current volunteers, data entry, phone calls etc.

She enjoys volunteering at CIWA and has found her experience here to be very enriching. She says that she feels connected and volunteering has helped find her way in society. Volunteering has given her a sense of purpose and she finds it deeply rewarding knowing that what happens at CIWA truly makes a difference in the lives of women.

Barbara was chosen as Volunteer of the Month because CIWA staff members see her as a 'superwoman'. She made an incredible first impression and staff members wanted her to be on their team from the moment they met her. She takes all tasks with humility and follows through on all her responsibilities. Barbara has a gift to see the potential in others and to see excellent volunteer placements for them. She has a heart to empower women and it really shows in all that she does. Her positivity and attitude to learn and grow has enhanced the Volunteer Program.

Congratulations Barbara on being Volunteer of the Month for June!

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

