

# Denise Theunissen

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Denise Theunissen moved to Canada from Holland over 40 years ago. She has an extensive career in the educational field teaching and coaching students of all ages; from elementary to high school. Her zest for life and the next adventure often takes her to various countries where she has teaching opportunities to equip and encourage people to strive to reach their full potential. She is passionate about lifelong learning and travelling. She also participates in various sports such as swimming, cycling and yoga to name a few.

She heard about CIWA through a referral from a CIWA staff member. She has dedicated many hours in order to coach, mentor and teach CIWA's Childcare Workers. Her goal in teaching is not just to impart information; but it is to equip and empower students to flourish and have their self-confidence grow.

Denise thoroughly enjoys volunteering at CIWA while being in an atmosphere where she sees students making connections between the learning material and life application.

Volunteering at CIWA has demonstrated the importance of giving back to society and the community making it real to her. She says if we all do just a little bit it all adds up to a lot in the end.

Many CIWA staff jumped at the opportunity to nominate Denise for Volunteer of the Month. Her outstanding communication and teaching skills were noted by all of her students and various CIWA staff. The students feel she is patient, kind and courteous to everyone in the classroom. Every one of her students noted her enthusiasm and devotion to teaching. They appreciate how they are better able to communicate with each other, engage children, work with parents and their English has improved. To quote one student: 'She is like an artist when she is teaching'.

Congratulations Denise Theunissen for being Volunteer of the Month for January!



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Calgary Immigrant Women's Association