

# Vilma Segura

Vilma Segura, originally from Colombia, has been in Canada for 17 years. Her background is in Sociology. She worked as a Sociologist for many years in a non profit organization in her home country. She has work independently in Calgary as a Spanish tutor and for a cleaning business. In addition she has a certificate in Accounting and Financial Management from Bow Valley College. In her free time Vilma enjoys growing plants, dancing and painting.

Vilma currently volunteers with the Youth, Retail Training, Civic Engagement, Youth Mentorship, Family Conflict, LINC, Grandma's Kitchen, Pebbles in the Sand, Volunteer, Breast Health and the Cross Cultural Parenting Programs. She also helps with administrative tasks, computer classes, interpretation, conversation, translation and teacher support.

Vilma loves volunteering since she loves the opportunity to meet new people and have the ability to connect with each and every person that comes through the door. Her volunteer work is very rewarding and she feels blessed when she has the chance to make a difference in someone's life. She never likes to have pre-conceived notions about people but instead she likes to discover who they really are and "break the ice" with them. She loves CIWA and CIWA's 'angels' and she feels like she will always be here. She strongly believes that volunteering is better than getting any paycheck since it touches her inside and 'inspires' her.

Living her life with a disability, Vilma makes the point to always try new things and challenge herself. She strongly believes that a label does not define who you are or what you are meant to do. Sometimes the things she has been able to accomplish have been more than what an able-bodied person was able to achieve. Through her volunteering, she wants to share her spirit, hopes and dreams with all clients and staff, and she feels deep in her heart that everyone can achieve what they set out to do.

She is a dedicated and loyal volunteer. Her enthusiasm and spirit bring life to CIWA and she is always able to get a smile out of someone no matter how their mood is. She dedicates most of her days to volunteering and engages with others who are struggling to fit in. She goes above and beyond what is asked of her and always makes all of her clients feel important and included. She truly believes in the idea of 'paying it forward' and selflessly shows kindness and empathy to others without expecting anything in return. If she could find a job as an 'angel' and get paid for it- it would be perfect for her.

With extreme gratitude, we are pleased to announce Vilma as the Volunteer of the Month for September 2013.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



**CIWA**  
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association