

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Every issue we plan to profile some of our dedicated and inspiring volunteers to explore their stories. How did they come to Frontier College? What motivates them to stay? This issue our subject is Catherine Lee, a University of Alberta student who volunteers her services in Edmonton as a tutor for Reading Circles. Catherine knows she is making a difference and that is what motivates her. She has been a volunteer for 5 years and during that time has been able to see some of “her” children developing their literacy skills. As she says, “The most rewarding thing for me is seeing the children growing up, watching them learn how to read and write, and knowing that I am a part of that.”

Catherine has been highly successful at recruiting tutors based on her own experience. Her “sell” consists of reinforcing to volunteers that they will be contributing to something that makes a genuine difference with a time commitment of only 1-2 hours a week. To make her point, she uses the story of a newcomer family whose child attended reading circles regularly. During one of their sessions, the mother approached Catherine to thank her for all the work she had done and proudly announced that her little boy had made so much progress he would not have to be placed in a special ESL program. He would, in fact, be attending regular classroom instruction. That, says Catherine, is what ‘making a difference’ is all about.

Volunteers needed! Check your local link for more information

<http://www.frontiercollege.ca/english/literacy/programscanada.html>