

Grace Akpan

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Grace Akpan and her family moved to Calgary nearly two years ago from Nigeria. While in Nigeria, she received her Master's Degree in Law and as a lawyer. She and her husband lived in Singapore for over ten years where he received his PhD and she worked as a Litigation Executive at a local law firm. Recently, she successfully passed her qualifying exams and is currently seeking an articling position.

Grace was referred to CIWA through another organization who encouraged her to find a suitable volunteer position. Initially, Grace thought she could volunteer with the Childcare team. After meeting a Settlement Counsellor she was encouraged to volunteer for the Legal Clinic which she was delighted to learn about. She has since received services from CIWA and has been a dedicated volunteer for one year.

In the past Grace has represented CIWA at CLERC Calgary and assisted with special events. She currently volunteers for the Legal Clinic, offering administrative support. She is very grateful for the opportunity to be able to support newcomers to Canada. She is glad to be a personal example to others of the importance of volunteering and says that volunteering has opened doors for potential employment that may not have been opened otherwise. She says CIWA has helped her to know more about other people and the experiences they are facing. She continues to learn more and more about other people and their cultures. She is extremely thankful for the encouragement and support she receives from CIWA staff when she volunteers. She says they make the work interesting and is inspired to give her very best.

CIWA staff appreciate that Grace is flexible, dedicated, punctual and accurate. She has a strong sense of team work, is able to work independently and accepts all tasks with professionalism and respect. Grace is a quick learner and can run the legal clinic alone as she is familiar with all the details of the clinic. She communicates well with clients and lawyers alike.

Congratulations Grace on being Volunteer of the Month for April!

