

# Ina Verma

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Ina Verma is originally from India. After receiving her BA in Arts she worked in administration for a playschool. Ina enjoys cooking, listening to music, and keeping up on current world affairs. She and her husband have visited 10 countries and they hope to travel the world more in the future. For several years Ina and her family lived in both Vietnam and Dubai before moving to Calgary.

Ina has been volunteering at CIWA since September as a receptionist and with the Employment Skills Program. She helps staff and clients on weekends by letting students into the building and up the elevator, photocopying, material preparation and classroom support to both clients and instructors.

Ina says that volunteering at CIWA has helped her improve her confidence. When she first came to Canada she was shy and didn't know how to talk to people, now she talks to anyone with ease. She also appreciates that she is now able to help people and is honored that even a seemingly small task can 'make someone's day'. Ina also indicated that through volunteering she has now gained valuable Canadian work experience and has developed her skills that help her work with people of various cultures. Most especially she likes CIWA because it is 'home' to her.

Her commitment has greatly impacted CIWA and its students as Ina is available to support clients' needs in any way possible. Her presence has eliminated safety and security issues during Saturday workshops. She is willing to come in last minute to help, even on days when she is not scheduled to volunteer. CIWA Staff appreciate her and say that her smiling face brightens up this winter weather!

Congratulations Ina for being Volunteer of the Month for December!



**CIWA**  
Calgary Immigrant Women's Association