

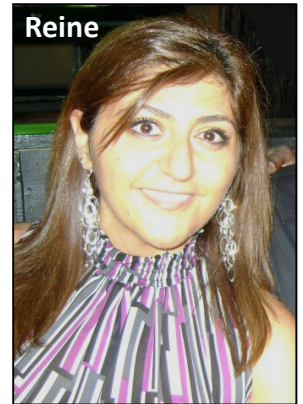
# A Stitch In Time, A Friendship That's Fine!

The third in a series of stories from LiveWorkPlay about citizenship, friendship, and inclusion in the Ottawa community

Written by Reine Ghafari with editing by Keenan Wellar and Linda Gray

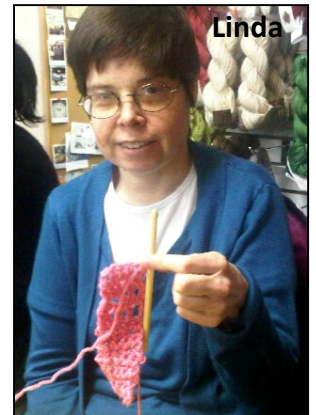
Have you ever thought to yourself: "I can do more in my community?" I thought maybe I could learn something new, meet new people, and have fun all at the same time!

That's where I was a few months ago when I started browsing listings on [Volunteer Ottawa](#) and I came across a variety of opportunities at [LiveWorkPlay](#), a local charity that supports people with intellectual disabilities. It turns out a big part of what they do is help their members to get connected with other people in the community.



As luck would have it, one of their members was looking to match up with someone for a course in crochet, which was on my own list of hobbies that I'd been wanting to try! Soon I was in touch with Community Connector [Fran Childs](#) at LiveWorkPlay. After a bit of paperwork everything was in motion in a matter of days!

I attended a volunteer [orientation session](#) with other LiveWorkPlay rookies, and then I met with Linda (pictured right) to see if we wanted to go forward with taking a crochet class together. It seemed like a good match, so Fran helped us choose a class in a mutually agreeable location. We ended up at [Yarn Forward](#) in Kanata, a quaint shop that offers lessons in all sorts of crafts including "Beginner Crochet."



Linda and I met each other a few days before our first scheduled class to iron out some of the details. We were both very much looking forward to starting the class and learning how to crochet. Our first class was a blast: we laughed, we crocheted, we unravelled our projects, crocheted again, and the instructor Anja laughed along with us! At first Linda and I weren't sure that we'd ever get the slip stitch, single crochet, and double crochet sorted out!

Each and every week Linda and I would show up eager and ready to learn a new stitch or a new technique and work towards our final class project: the elusive pot holder! We shared frustrations: missed stitches, split stitches, twisted stitches, and other yarn related drama! We had lots of laughs and shared news of our adventures on Twitter and Facebook. We let the world know that we would soon be stitching with the best of them, as you can see from [our creations](#).



Looking back at this experience, what I have enjoyed more than learning how to crochet was going through it all with Linda. She is one funny lady, and I don't think she fully appreciates her own great sense of humour! We have both agreed to continue meeting up regularly to share some laughs and maybe even some more crochet adventures!

Thank you LiveWorkPlay for introducing me to Linda. And Linda, thank you for sharing your time with me. I look forward to developing our friendship and learning more from you in the future!

For more about volunteer opportunities at [LiveWorkPlay.ca](#) see our section of the Volunteer Ottawa website at <http://tiny.cc/volopps>. Follow us on Twitter [@GetBuzzed](#), find us on Facebook at <http://fb.me/liveworkplayfans> or watch us on video at <http://youtube.com/liveworkplayvideo>!