



What are our roots?



We were born out of and anchored in Jo Altilia's commitment to social justice for young at risk women.

Recognizing the vast lack of resources in Toronto aimed at young at risk mothers Jo, a former teacher and life long advocate for social change, created Literature for Life. Her most compelling motivation was to help young women access life's opportunities readily available to others but not them.



Why do we do what do **we** do?



We do what we do to help marginalized women break the cycle of inter-generational poverty.

At our core, we believe no individual in our society should be left behind simply because of their social standing or poor early life decisions. We want to balance the scales of social justice. We want to give marginalized women a step up, one they can't receive from other resources.



What do **we** do?

5



We unleash intellectual potential.

Marginalized young moms are no less smart, no less deductive, no less intellectual than other young women. They simply have not had the opportunity or encouragement to fully exploit their intellect.

Literature for Life, through its reading circles, promotes the benefits of reading and literacy helping unleash young moms' intellectual potential. With this comes growing self-confidence and self-esteem along with an interest in reading. This new found interest is then passed down to their children.



Who are we **for**?

“

We are for marginalized at risk young moms.

Our young moms are single parents who struggle to survive the challenges of living in or near poverty. They are often victims of abuse, neglect and feelings of isolation. They sometimes suffer from low self-confidence and see no way to improve their situation. Their life state masks the intellectual potential residing within.

”

What makes us different?



Our non-judgmental, empathetic program makes us different.

We treat our women as people, not problems. We treat our women with respect. We listen as much as we talk. We do not hold prejudices. We do not prejudge. Rather we strive to create reading circles that encourage open and honest dialogue about stories and life. We are like their favourite aunt accepting them for who they are and who they will become.



What are we **like**?



We are empathetic, non-judgmental, compassionate and passionate about what we do.



What do we **fight** for?



We fight for the right of marginalized young women to unleash their intellectual potential.



What do we value?



We value the strength of the human spirit.





Literature for Life unleashes
intellectual potential.



Literature for Life

Centre for Social Innovation

215 Spadina Avenue, Suite 162

Toronto, ON M5T 2C7

tel: 416 203 9830 fax: 416 979 3936

Charitable # 89431 8617RR0001

VISIT US ONLINE:

literatureforlife.org

womenswordz.wordpress.com



facebook.com/pages/Literature-for-Life.../152094668182870



[@literature4life](https://twitter.com/literature4life)