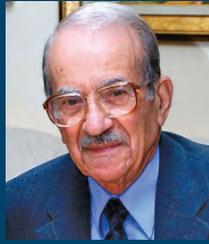


The Gift of Literacy

The Giuseppe Budaci Literacy Bursary, in the amount of CAD\$300, was established in the memory of Giuseppe (Joe) Budaci, father to Isabella Giuseppe, a teacher and volunteer host for many years at the *Reading for the Love of It* annual conference.



Giuseppe (Joe) Budaci

“A proud and honourable man, Giuseppe immigrated to Canada like so many others with the hope and the dream of providing a better future for his young family. Because of Giuseppe’s endearing and charismatic qualities, anyone who met Giuseppe was instantly drawn to him. A loving, dedicated, and generous man, Giuseppe was the happiest when he was able to share a glass of wine or food with his cherished family and close friends.

“Like so many others from his generation, Giuseppe was not afforded the opportunity of an education. At the tender age of seven he was withdrawn from school to work on a farm to help support a family of ten, which was not uncommon for that time. The GREATEST regret in his life was the inability to read, due to no fault of his own.

“No challenge proved insurmountable for Giuseppe. He was a prisoner in World War II and was fortunate to survive and rebuild his life. And later, when he was injured in a construction accident and left partially disabled, he was left with no choice but to learn a new trade to support his family. Time and time again, the company went bankrupt yet, undeterred, he would start all over again.

“The loss of his beloved wife, Constance, proved to be heartbreaking, but he continued to strive to overcome and deal

with this great loss. Through his tenacious endeavours and hard work, he was overjoyed when he was able to acknowledge with pride and humility, his children’s achievements afforded to them through education. “The hope with this bursary was to recognize, honour, and pay tribute to a man who loved life and recognized the importance of an education and the precious gift of reading.” *

Isabella’s wish was to aid someone in achieving their lifelong dreams and hopes through the gift of literacy.

This wish was recently granted as the bursary was awarded to Iqbal Ahmad. Iqbal is a Yazidi refugee from Iraq. She is an intelligent, lovely, motivated, 14-year-old



Iqbal Ahmad



Faheema Qaaydi

who was nominated by Faheema Qaaydi, her settlement worker at JIAS Toronto.

With this bursary, Iqbal was able to purchase resources such as books, workbooks, apps, and other resources that will improve her skills in reading and writing.

It is an incredible comfort to Isabella that Giuseppe Budaci’s legacy will help to build Iqbal’s literacy dreams!

Written by Erica Townson, EYSRA

* **Isabella Budaci, Teacher, Volunteer Host at Reading for the Love of It**

OUTREACH 2020-2021



Outreach Initiatives: Sharing the Love

Outreach is the EYS Reading Association’s effort to reach out to charitable organizations involved in worthy literacy endeavours. With your donations via our 2020/2021 webinar series, you can help us provide for local, national, and international literacy-based programs

LOCAL



The Children’s Book Bank provides free books and literacy support to children and families in high need neighbourhoods across the GTA. The Book Bank also provides books and literacy materials through community centres, schools, health clinics and social agencies throughout the city. Our donation supports these efforts. Book donations are also welcome!

NATIONAL



Founded by Inuit singer/songwriter Susan Aglukark, The Arctic Rose Foundation instills hope for Northern Inuit, First Nations and Metis children, youth and their families through the creation of physically, emotionally, mentally, culturally safe places and the provision of holistic, adaptable programming that engages, nurtures and supports them in healthy and meaningful ways. Our donation supports the Messy Book Program, the Youth Leadership & Mentor Program, and the ᑭᓄᓴᓴᓴ (Kamajit) Program.

INTERNATIONAL



The Free Reading Program provides free online Foundations to Level 6 Reading, Language & Grammar programs that kids love. This year we will be supporting literacy programs in Athens, Greece. Our donation supports the purchase of dual-language books for displaced children and their families.

Thank you for sharing our commitment to making a difference for the charitable organizations we are supporting in 2020-2021!

