

The Livingston Family – Sharon

Ethnicity : European

Children: Daryl (10)

Interview Date: Saturday 31st January 2009

Course Attended: E-Learning Porirua CiH Course 28 (July – September 2008)

At the end of every school term, Sharon's daughter Daryl always brought home a school newsletter advertising a computer course offering; word processing and internet/email training. It took 3 years for Sharon to pluck up the courage to attend the *Computers in Homes* programme run by *E-Learning Porirua*. On reflection, Sharon admits that she was **scared** of technology. Absolutely everything about computers was new to her. Since then, she has come a long way.

“I was never a big fan of television, DVD players or cell phones, the whole thought of using a computer was absolutely daunting!”

Sharon grins proudly and says she has learnt how to make desktop screensavers with her photos. Sharon says that she can now go and use the computers at the public library and council office without having to think twice or freak out. Having the internet also saves her money as there are times when she cannot afford to put petrol in the car or ring friends overseas, what she loves even more, is being able to access the internet at any time of the day, without stepping out the door!

“Computers open up a lot of doors you do not realise exist”



Sharon acknowledges that she thinks the internet helps her feel more on to it. “My mother had a stroke recently; it was so great being able to go on the internet to find out the effects of stroke and ways to manage.”

Sharon smiles and says that her daughter Daryl learnt a lot from attending the course with her. Daryl loves to draw pictures on the computer using *Microsoft Paint* and also likes to play games. Daryl has friends over regularly and really enjoys showing them how to do things on the computer. Sharon says that when Daryl

received her *Computers in Homes* attendance certificate it changed her life. “Daryl was so very proud, she showed everybody.” Sharon was amazed at how much Daryl picked up on the course in just 10 weeks.

Sharon is passionate about writing and wants to be a writer. “Before the course I wrote two and a half books using pen and paper. Now that I have computer skills, I really want to type my stories out and have them published, and of course continue to write more and more.”