The ILC Launches First “House Party” Fundraiser

The ILC launched a new fundraising strategy on May 6, 2010, with its inaugural House Party hosted by ILC Trustee Joel Beckman, Founding Partner of Nystrom, Beckman & Paris LLP, and his wife, Christine. Approximately 20 guests attended the event at their home in Boston’s South End. This event provides an informal, intimate setting in which to introduce The ILC’s mission to prospective donors. Rich Davey, General Manager of the MBTA and ILC Trustee, provided welcoming remarks. Diane Portnoy shared the school’s mission, history and accomplishments. Two ILC students, Lydia Hsieh from Taiwan and Thien Van Nguyen from Vietnam, gave stirring accounts of how their lives have changed since coming to America and learning English at The ILC. The event raised over $7,500 for the school. If you would like to host an ILC House or Office Party, please call or e-mail Kathy Smith, ILC Director of Development, at 781-322-9777 or ksmith@ilctr.org.

Without your support, none of this would be possible:

Nine hundred and four students representing sixty-six countries and speaking thirty-seven languages have studied English at The ILC this past year. Of these, two hundred and sixty-six are already employed; twenty-six have their own businesses; seventy-six have gotten new jobs; eighteen have received pay raises and sixty-four have opened bank accounts. Forty-one have received driver’s licenses, and many volunteer at hospitals, churches, schools and community centers.

Fifty-five ILC students have gone on to college and advanced training programs. Their children receive Student of the Month Awards, make the Honor Roll and win international contests. Most importantly, twenty-eight ILC students have passed the INS Interview and have been sworn in as U.S. Citizens.

Seventy-seven percent of ILC students report achieving their goals.
Ann and William Sheehan

Ann and Bill Sheehan are proud of their son-in-law who became a U.S. citizen three years ago. Ann, a former teacher, and Bill, a compliance auditor, have a long-time relationship with The ILC and are inspired by the passion and commitment of Diane Portnoy and the staff. “It’s inspirational to know Diane and to see the school serve as a guide for immigrant adults,” said Ann. “I have visited the school and can clearly see the miraculous work of the teachers and how our donations are efficiently used and make a difference in students’ lives.” The Sheehans consider themselves “education people.” They are proud of their grown children and have high hopes for their grandchildren. One outcome they would like to see is programs like The ILC springing up in other immigrant-rich communities.

Jefferies & Company, Inc., New York City

Looking for ways to invest company capital philanthropically in health care and human services is a dedicated undertaking by Sage Kelly, Global Head of Healthcare Investment Banking. Mr. Kelly, whose father has been a foreign language teacher for more than 40 years, understands the important role education plays in helping immigrants successfully integrate into American society and become productive, fulfilled citizens. “Jefferies is proud to support non-profit organizations that better the plight of people and have a track record of success,” says Kelly. “The ILC is a well-run, well-organized organization that allocates most of its resources to direct student services. This and The ILC’s passion and dedication are why Jefferies is a proud corporate sponsor.”

IBM, Cambridge, MA

Cathleen Finn, New England Program Manager for IBM, interacts with students during her visit to the computer lab in February. The ILC received 27 new flat-screen computers as part of IBM’s efforts to upgrade the school’s technology infrastructure. The ILC is grateful to IBM for its continued partnership in helping immigrant adults learn English and improve their computer literacy skills.

THE ILC IN THE NEWS

The ILC is honored to be featured in the Yawkey Foundation’s Annual Grants Report. The Foundation is a long-time ILC funder and recognized the school for opening doors of economic and educational opportunity to immigrant and refugee adults by providing free, intensive English-language classes to more than 900 students a year.

The Ellis Island Medals of Honor 2010 catalog included a double-page story on The ILC. Diane Portnoy, the Co-Founder and CEO, was a 2001 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient. The ILC was acknowledged for the success rate students have had in achieving their goals of finding jobs, going to college, entering training programs, starting businesses and becoming U.S. citizens.

Authors Richard T. Herman and Robert L. Smith in their newly published book, Immigrant, Inc.: Why Immigrant Entrepreneurs Are Driving the New Economy, cited The ILC for commissioning studies that explore the immigrant experience and the positive impact they have on the American economy.
12th Annual ILC Golf Classic A Sun-Filled Success

One hundred and twenty-four golfers and many volunteers donned sunglasses and beaming smiles at The ILC’s 12th Annual Golf Classic held on Monday, June 7, 2010, at the Kernwood Country Club in Salem, MA. The picture-perfect day and sparkling golf course were welcomed backdrops to the day’s important mission—raising funds for the school. Net revenues exceeded $315,000—the second highest tally since the tournament’s launch in 1999. The ILC is deeply grateful to the law firm of Sullivan & Worcester LLP and Reit Management & Research LLC, the Event Sponsors, and all sponsors and friends of The ILC for making this signature event shine!

Best Ball Division Winners

Scramble Division Winners

The Low Net winners in the Best Ball Division were David Basile, Tom Bond, Larry Hogan and Dave Dufour with a 57. The second place winners in the Scramble Division were John Mannix, Randy Williamson, David Lepore and Jim Collins with a 63.

Congratulations to all of the above and to the following who won the on-course contests: Kevin Delbridge, closest to the pin; Lou Monti, longest drive for men; Linda O’Keefe, longest drive for women; Sean Kelly, longest drive for seniors; and Jeff Lynch, putting contest.

SAVE THE DATE

October 14, 2010

The ILC is thrilled to announce that this year’s Autumn Celebration will be held at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, The Fenway, Boston. The evening will feature cocktails and supper along with tours of the museum. The courtyard will be decorated for fall with a chrysanthemum display showcasing heirloom Japanese style single-stem chrysanthemums. The Gardner Museum is adding a new wing to its campus; as of January 2011, special events will no longer be held in the mansion.

The highlight of the evening will be a concert in the Tapestry Room by The Los Angeles Collaboration featuring Alex Russell on violin and Duane Funderburk on piano. Their music spans a wide spectrum of styles including classical, sacred, jazz, Broadway and other American music repertoire. Most distinctive about their performances is the presentation of their original arrangements and orchestrations in various genres. You can preview the concert by going to www.lacollaboration.com.

The ILC looks forward to seeing all our friends and supporters on Thursday, October 14th.
The ILC’s Literacy Class, our One-Room School House, provides a safe and supportive learning environment for adult students illiterate in their native languages or who have learning challenges. The class is large and the students, whose ages range generally from 30 to 50, need and thrive in small group instruction.

Clearly, this method of instruction would not be possible without volunteers. Pam DeGroot, Deb Cicero and Norma Staples pictured from the left, agree that spending time in this warm and friendly “school house” benefits them as much or more than it helps their students. Pam, Deb and Norma have been volunteering at The ILC for more than a year while Deb has spent three years in the large, airy second floor classroom. Each has her own group of students and each works with English grammar, reading, writing and pronunciation under the guidance of teacher Kathleen Klose. The students feel very comfortable with their volunteer/friends and know they can make mistakes without judgment.

The Literacy Class needs volunteers. No formal training is required and retirees are particularly welcome. This is an opportunity to help hardworking, dedicated students succeed in their adopted country. Pam, Deb and Norma agree that the rewards in the One-Room School House run both ways.

Marcia Spector’s Reader’s Theater

As an innovative way to implement her Level 5 students’ English comprehension and fluency, Marcia Spector has introduced Reader’s Theater. The idea came from a teacher at City College in New York and involves cooperative learning through peer interaction rather than teacher-based instruction. The students read a short story, study the content, vocabulary and literary terms and then turn the story into a script. Repetition through rehearsals develops fluency and the activity as a whole addresses the four basic skills. The 10-minute performance requires no memorization, staging or costumes and only minimal props. As Marcia says, “It’s fun,” and she’s looking forward to performances during the last two weeks of August.

The ILC congratulates the following former students on their recent accomplishments:

Iman Vasquez from Algeria (pictured at left) studied English at The ILC and went on to earn a GED certificate. This fall she has been accepted into the Year Up program where she will study accounting for 6 months followed by an internship.

Najwan Ismail from Iraq is studying Liberal Arts at Colby Sawyer College in New Hampshire.

Carolina Correa from Columbia is studying accounting at Northeastern University.

Antonio D’Aiello, a native of Italy with a Masters Degree in Biology, got a job as a lab technician at MIT.

Best of luck to these students and all ILC alumni as they work at creating better lives for themselves and their families.

As of July 1st Alison D’Amario joined the staff of The ILC’s Development Department. She is job sharing with Peggy Louden, an Associate Director of Development. Alison is a resident of Topsfield. Her career has included teaching, newspaper reporting and public relations. Since 1986 she has been the Director of Education at the Salem Witch Museum. Alison recalls a defining moment in her working life three years ago when she attended an ILC fundraiser. Diane Portnoy’s description of the origin and mission of The ILC and a call for volunteers brought Alison to the school where she has been assisting with the Literacy Class ever since. The staff warmly welcomes Alison.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

During the past few months there has been a dramatic increase of anti-immigrant rhetoric and sentiment. In some ways it is worse than after 9/11. Arizona passed a law requiring police to ask anyone they suspect of being in the state undocumented for proof that they are here legally or go to jail. My parents, who spoke with accents, probably would have been required to produce documentation. The Massachusetts Senate passed amendments to the state budget that were anti-immigrant. Fortunately, these amendments were deleted from the final budget bill. However, if passed, these amendments would have turned Massachusetts from a state that welcomes immigrants to one that would have created a hostile environment for them.

State after state is considering anti-immigrant laws. An overwhelming majority of the people believe that immigrants, especially undocumented ones, only come here to collect welfare and fill our jails. Yet, research consistently shows that immigrants, including the undocumented, pay more in taxes than the public services they use; they are entrepreneurs that revitalize depressed communities, lead innovation and create jobs; they are less likely to commit crimes than the native born; they are hard workers and consumers.

Someone recently asked me if all this discourages me. The answer is no. I walk through the school every day. I hear the individual stories and see our students, who have overcome tragic backgrounds, learn English and become successful. Their children win international mathematics contests, are students of the month and valedictorians and go to some of the best universities.

The ILC is dedicated to not only helping individual immigrants but to disseminating accurate information about the invaluable contributions they have always made and continue to make to this country.

Thank you for your support.

Diane

PUBLIC EDUCATION

ILC Releases 7th Study

The ILC recently published its seventh research study, “Impact of Immigrant Entrepreneurs and Workers in Leisure and Hospitality Businesses: Massachusetts and New England.” Key findings include: this business sector is the fourth largest in the state; one-third of the businesses are owned by immigrants; 26% of all workers are immigrants. This study reinforces the findings of other ILC-commissioned studies that show that immigrant entrepreneurs and workers are a vital part of our economy. All ILC research studies can be viewed on our website at www.ilctr.org.

ILC to Sponsor Symposium on Immigrant Entrepreneurship

On November 17, 2010, The ILC will sponsor Massachusetts’ first symposium on immigrant entrepreneurship at Babson College. Over 100 participants are expected to attend the day-long event targeting participation by mayors, policy makers, elected officials and community and economic development leaders. The agenda is planned to show the depth and breadth of immigrant entrepreneurship and how it is an engine of economic growth for the Commonwealth. Researchers, policy makers and immigrant entrepreneurs will speak and dialogue throughout the day. The results will provide the basis for crafting a policy and action agenda after the conference.

“Super Website” for Immigration Research

This fall The ILC is debuting a “Super Website” focusing on immigration research and information. Developed in collaboration with UMass Boston, the website will feature a comprehensive collection of research about immigrants in the United States as well as basic facts, news, events and discussion forums.

For further information about any of the above, contact Marcia Hohn (mohn@ilctr.org).
DONORS

It is with our deepest thanks that we recognize the following individuals, community groups, corporations and foundations that made financial and in-kind contributions to The ILC between January 12 and July 25, 2010.

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