Making Dreams Come True

Learning English is the key to making dreams come true for the immigrants and refugees who study at The Immigrant Learning Center. As we kick off a new year, I want to share with you two stories of students who achieved major life milestones in 2012 that would not have been possible without improved English skills.

Your support makes this possible. Thank you for the difference you make in the lives of newcomers in this country.

Diane Portnoy
President and CEO, The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.

P.S. A dream I've had for the last few years has finally come true. My book Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts, which tells the story of struggle and assimilation of 11 immigrant groups in the U.S., is finally published and available on Amazon.com.

Casting her first vote

Mai participated in one of the most American activities last year: she voted in the 2012 presidential election. "I love America. I wanted to vote," she said.

She was so proud she brought her eight-year-old daughter and six-year-old son with her. Although she and her husband are from Vietnam, their children were born here and are U.S. citizens. Someday they will cast their first vote.

This accomplishment was possible because, after six years of studying English and taking the citizenship class at The ILC, Mai became a U.S. citizen on October 17. She came to school in the morning and spent afternoons caring for her children. When they are older, she wants to pursue a college degree so she can have a career helping people.
Realizing her dream

Hilda came from El Salvador with her husband in 2005. For seven years she dreamed of becoming a U.S. Citizen. She came to The ILC in 2011 to improve her English and study for the citizenship exam.

Her dream came true in October 2012. She passed the citizenship exam. Hilda continues to come to class every morning and works for a cleaning company every afternoon. Her next dream is to improve her English enough to get a better job.

About Us

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA, is a not-for-profit organization that helps immigrants and refugees become successful workers, parents and community members through direct service programs and public education. Our direct service program provides free year-round English classes to immigrant and refugee adults in Greater Boston. The ILC further supports immigrants through the Public Education Institute, which informs Americans about the economic and social contributions of immigrants in our society. For more information visit http://www.ilctr.org.