Volunteers recognized for improving the lives of students and their community

MALDEN, Mass, May 20, 2013 / A group of 59 dedicated volunteers were honored by The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) on May 17, 2013, for helping immigrants and refugee adults learn English and thereby fully contribute to economic, civic and cultural life in their communities. Diane Portnoy, The ILC president and CEO, said, “Volunteers are critical to The ILC’s work. We could never touch as many lives as effectively as we do without the help of dedicated volunteers. You may never fully appreciate the impact you have on an individual who comes to this country to start a new life or the ripple effects into our community when that person gets a job, has a child enroll in college, or becomes a citizen, but be assured your contribution is huge.”

Students at The ILC speak 30 different native languages from Arabic to Mandarin to Spanish. Learning English is a critical step in achieving their goals. Under the direction of ILC teachers, volunteers spend three or more hours every week, some for a decade or more, helping foreign-born adults learn English reading, writing, grammar and conversation skills and increase their understanding of American culture. They assist in the classroom with currently-enrolled students and work one-on-one with some of those waiting to be enrolled who would not otherwise receive assistance.

New volunteers are always welcome. For more information about the volunteer program, contact Holly Jones at (781) 332-9777.

About The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, Mass, 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.

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