New American Stories
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With your help, these students are back to school

Education is clearly important to all the students at The Immigrant Learning Center. Many come here having had little or no educational opportunities in their home countries. Even those who had previous educational achievements usually must start over in the U.S.

Regardless of their history, the first step toward success in their new country is learning English at The ILC. Your support makes that possible. This month, I'm sharing with you two stories of students who are pursuing a better life through education.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

Bedvoy was enrolled in college in Haiti in 2009 when his father asked him to drop out and come to the U.S. to work and support the family. Bedvoy has nine siblings and a daughter. He did as his father asked.

His first job was at Food Master grocery store. Bedvoy wanted more from life. As he said, "If you want to be somebody, you have to go to school. If you want to stop being mistreated, that is the only way." His first step was to enroll at The Immigrant Learning Center in 2010. He credits the extra attention he received from his teacher with quickly improving his English speaking skills.

Since then, Bedvoy has become a phlebotomist and is enrolled in the LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) program at the Salter School. He explained his motivation saying, "If you want to share your kindness, go to the medical field. That's how you are going to help patients and share your love."

Alice

Alice has a degree in nutrition from her home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo. She was working as a nutritionist before coming to the U.S. in 2008 to join her husband here. She studied at The Immigrant Learning Center in 2009 until she started her first job in America in housekeeping at a hotel.

While working at the hotel, she obtained a home health aide certificate and found work in a health-related field. She tried to find work in nutrition, but American employers won't accept her degree from a Congo University.

Alice returned to The ILC this summer in the Theater Class. Now she comes to school in the morning, cares for her children ages three and one-and-a-half in the afternoon, and works at an assisted living center on weekends.

When asked why she came back to The ILC Alice said, "I come to learn more because I need to go to college. I need to build my vocabulary. I want to help my children with homework. I want to be the best for myself and my children." Her goal is to get a nutrition degree from a U.S. university and continue in her chosen career.

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.