The gift that keeps on giving

Thanks to the gifts provided by supporters like you, The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. is able to help thousands of immigrants and refugees overcome the biggest obstacle they face in sharing their unique talents with this country, learning English.

Usually, this is a gift given on faith. We don’t know what happens to many students after they leave us. That’s why it is such a treat when former students return to let us know what they have accomplished after studying at The ILC. Below, I’ve shared one of their stories with you.

I also want to share with you some of the exciting activities we have planned this fall. The ILC will teach English to more than 400 immigrant and refugees, host its fourth Swearing-In Ceremony for new citizens, educate the public on the contributions of immigrants at the Cambridge Forum and raise much-needed funds to make this all possible at the Autumn Benefit.

There will be number of firsts as well. In October, The ILC will host its first sharing circle for educators of low-literacy students. This group will offer advice and support to educators across Greater Boston who work with these often forgotten students. Later that month, I will be speaking in Washington, D.C. at an event sponsored by the National Women’s History Museum. Finally, stay tuned for some very exciting news about plans for this year’s GivingTuesday on December 2.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Diane Portnoy
Founder and CEO
The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.
**Tarik**

Tarik came to the U.S. by himself at age 21 looking for better educational and employment opportunities. In Morocco, he spoke Arabic and French, and he studied English in high school. Although his education gave him a head start, he still struggled. He recalls that speaking English was the hardest because, "You have to think fast. English is my third language. Sometimes I was trying to translate from Arabic to French to English in my head." Even when he found the right words, his accent could get in the way of being understood.

Tarik found a job at Dunkin' Donuts to support himself and enrolled in classes at The Immigrant Learning Center to put himself on the road to the education and job opportunities he left home to find. After nearly a year at The ILC, he went on to Bunker Hill Community College where he earned an associates degree. This spring, the University of Massachusetts Boston awarded Tarik with a B.S. in Biology. He is currently looking for an internship with a biomedical firm.

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**About Us**

The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) of Malden, MA, is a not-for-profit organization that gives immigrants a voice in three ways. The English Language Program provides free, year-round English classes to immigrant and refugee adults in Greater Boston to help them become successful workers, parents and community members. The Public Education Institute informs Americans about the economic and social contributions of immigrants in our society, and the Institute for Immigration Research, a joint venture with George Mason University, conducts research on the economic contributions of immigrants. For more information, visit the website at www.ilctr.org or Facebook page ImmigrantLearningCenter.