Let’s celebrate together

As we enter the last quarter of 2014, The ILC has a lot to celebrate. At the start of the fall session, we expanded our class offerings bringing the number of immigrants who are currently able to make a better life for themselves through learning English up to 450. So far in October, we hosted the fourth swearing-in ceremony in Malden for new citizens, launched a new initiative to support teachers of low-literacy immigrants throughout Massachusetts and conducted an expert panel discussion about immigration at the Cambridge Forum. Stories of two ILC students who were sworn-in at The ILC-sponsored ceremony are below.

The fall also represents a time of many celebrations including Sukkot, Diwali, All Saints Day, Ashura, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas. I am particularly excited about GivingTuesday. This is a national movement to celebrate a day of giving on December 2 following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Again this year, a very generous donor has offered to match all GivingTuesday donations by two to one! That means your donation will be tripled! To make it even more fun, some lucky donors will win some or all of their money back with donated American Express gift cards. Please mark your calendar and help us give immigrants a voice by donating to The ILC on December 2.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

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

Mona fulfilled her dream of becoming a U.S. citizen on October 2 after having lived in the United States for five years. She was the last in her family to become a citizen. Her husband who came to the U.S. in 2000 to find work and her daughter who was born here were both there to witness her achievement.

Her next goal is to learn enough English to study for and pass the high school equivalency test. Mona was unable to complete high school in Morocco. She had to leave school and start work when her father died. Now, she wants a high school diploma so she can advance beyond her current job at Dunkin Donuts.

Hemlata

Hemlata came from India with her husband and son in 2005. They moved far away from family and friends to ensure a good education for their son. The sacrifice paid off. Her son now has an MS in computer science from Harvard and works for Beacon Health.

With her son as the priority, Hemlata’s education was put on hold until she came to The ILC in 2012. She knew a little English before leaving India, but had no chance to practice speaking. Pronunciation was very hard, and simple every day tasks like going to the store or the doctor was challenging. After studying at The ILC, she says life is much easier.

Hemlata became a citizen on Oct. 2. Aside from helping in her sister's convenience store, she has never worked outside the home. Hemlata hopes that becoming a citizen will make it easier to find a job. Her husband recently retired from his career as a bank manager. Hemlata says, "He has always worked, and now it is my turn."

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.