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*Diane Portnoy*  
*Founder and CEO*

## **Local residents honored for helping new community members succeed**

MALDEN, Mass, May 22, 2017 / A group of 58 dedicated volunteers were honored by The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) on May 19, 2017. These local residents take time out of their busy schedules each week to help hundreds of immigrant and refugee adults who study English at The ILC. By learning to communicate in English, the students can fully contribute to the economic, civic and cultural life in their communities.

Diane Portnoy, The ILC founder and CEO, thanked the volunteers saying, “You may never know how great an impact you have our students’ and their families’ lives as they take those first steps in integrating and becoming Americans. By learning English, they can become successful workers, entrepreneurs, parents and community members, and, as a result, positively impact the country, the economy and our communities.”

Under the direction of The ILC teachers, these volunteers spend three hours a day, one to four days a week helping foreign-born adults learn English reading, writing, grammar and conversation skills and increase their understanding of American culture.

The Immigrant Learning Center currently serves about 900 students each year who come from dozens of communities across Eastern Massachusetts to learn English. Learning the language and culture of their adopted home is critical for new Americans to achieve their goals and become successful workers, parents and community members.

New volunteers are always welcome. For more information about the volunteer program, contact Holly Jones at (781) 322-9777.

### **Photo Caption:**

Seated L to R: Sally Cavanaugh, Alexandra Demidova, Linda Husar, Yasmine Sabri, Meredith Berg, Rebecca Taplin

Standing, front row L to R: Margaræt Drees, Judy Eskin, Nirilise Michel, Kathy Kratz, Marsha Alter, Jillian Knowles, Karen Mandeville, Jennifer King, Susan Dosick, Shikha Viyas

Standing, back row L to R: Robert Smith, David Gordon, Michael Marciello, Paul Fast, Gene Moulton, Mary Jane Orme, Andy Koppel, Susan Wilner, Patricia DiFranco

### **About The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc.**

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 <http://www.ilctr.org>. The ILC can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr.

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