WHY IS ENGLISH SO IMPORTANT?

We asked our students why learning English is so important to them. The answers they gave ranged from important life goals, like getting a job or going to college, to mundane, every day tasks. This snapshot of answers gives a compelling portrait of life in the United States without English.

For all these reasons and more, thank you for giving them a voice:

“To survive in the USA”

Health
To make a doctor’s appointment, talk to the doctor by myself, understand what the doctor says to me.

Eating
To go shopping, read food labels, read a menu, order a coffee, order food the way I like it.

Getting Around
To read street signs, read a map, ask directions, take public transportation, get a driver’s license.

Getting by day-to-day
To find housing, open a bank account, understand the utility bill, get a haircut, answer the phone, use the internet, write an email.

“When I don’t speak English, everything is difficult.”

Social
To make friends, introduce myself, have a conversation, help other people, understand Americans, share ideas.

Family
To help my children with their homework, attend parent-teacher conferences, support family members who don’t speak English very well.

“All my life I’ve always dreamed to live the American dream, go to school, have a better job, be able to speak, write and listen easier.”

Community and Culture
To read the newspaper, listen to the radio, watch movies without subtitles, understand the laws, become a U.S. citizen.

Confidence
To prove myself, get rid of interpreters, not be too afraid or frustrated to speak, make a better life.
You may remember Yenny from the last Impact Update. She came to the United States from Venezuela with her two adult children in 2015 seeking asylum. She knew no English and started in Level One in April 2016. In December 2016, she was granted a temporary work permit. With her work permit in hand and ever-improving English skills, Yenny was hired by Macy’s to work in the merchandise department in April 2017. There she has been responsible for things like receiving merchandise and inventory control.

Yenny started Level Four this year, and in January she was given an offer she couldn’t refuse. Macy’s promoted her to manager of merchandise in one of its Miami stores. She will be supervising 20 people and, while she will miss Massachusetts, she will be closer to her son who also lives in Miami. Yenny says she is happy about the promotion but sad to leave The ILC. “All I learned was here. I love my school,” she says.

She and her son and daughter are still waiting to hear if their applications for asylum will be granted. Putting it mildly, Yenny said, “It’s uncomfortable not knowing yes or no about asylum.” She and her children applied for visas through the Diversity Lottery. While it’s anyone’s guess when they will hear about their asylum case, they will find out in May if they won the lottery or not. They have roughly a one percent chance. Until then, we are keeping our fingers crossed for them.

Educatung the next generation

Last fall, tenth-grade students at Weston High School were studying U.S. immigration and enhanced their curriculum with the help of The Immigrant Learning Center. First, two classes of Weston students exchanged letters with adult students in The ILC Next Steps classes. Next, a field trip to The ILC brought their lessons to life. The Weston High students learned about the positive impact of immigrants from The ILC Public Education Institute staff, and they met face-to-face with their ILC pen pals.

In February, Denzil Mohammed and Rosie Busiakiewicz from The ILC Public Education Institute went to Brookline and presented Immigrants as Assets to fifth-graders at The Park School. The students were enthusiastic learners and full of questions that revealed even younger students can be affected by misleading rhetoric around immigration.

Through these learning opportunities, The ILC is helping the next generation of Americans understand that immigration is not just anonymous waves of people they read about in history books, it’s about individuals in our community today and our shared prosperity in the future.
Just in time

These are turbulent times for immigrants and those who support them. The ILC Public Education Institute is responding to today’s challenges with tools and resources direct from top experts.

1. When changes in public policy resulted in increased stress for millions of immigrant families, we responded with the webinar Immigrant Trauma and How to Deal with It. Social workers, educators and advocates from across the country gained best practices and tools to help.

2. When false narratives about security threats were used to justify harmful policy decisions, we responded with the truth that immigrants help to create safer communities in the webinar Immigration, Safety and Security.

3. As public discourse became increasingly toxic, we responded with the webinar Making Facts Matter: Immigrants, the Economy and Words that Work to provide the most effective tools against anti-immigrant rhetoric.

Your support gives hundreds of people across the country access to these live, online presentations. Countless more benefit every day from the wealth of recordings and resources available on our recently re-designed website. To learn more, visit http://www.ilctr.org/promoting-immigrants.

A kindred spirit

After 33 years in higher education, Dr. Elena Macias knows a thing or two about immigrant students. She recently found an ally in The Immigrant Learning Center. Although she missed the latest webinar from The ILC Public Education Institute entitled “Making Facts Matter: Immigrants, the Economy and Words that Work,” she was thrilled to discover that recordings and resources from the webinar (and all prior webinars) are freely available on The ILC website.

A retiree from California State University, Long Beach, Elena has made it her life’s mission to help educators on campuses throughout California understand how to help their immigrant students succeed. Each month, she delivers her own customized training and curriculum to a new campus, and she plans to use The ILC resources to keep her material current. “Since I plan on using the material,” she explained, “I thought I better send a donation. This is excellent material I can integrate into my presentations on campuses. I’ve already shared it as vital training material with some of my contacts.”

Welcome to The ILC family, Elena.

SAVE THE DATES

The ILC is planning two very special events. Please update your calendars with the following dates:

Thursday, May 3, 2018 The ILC Immigrant Entrepreneur Awards Dinner at Royal Sonesta Boston
Monday, June 11, 2018 20th Annual Golf Classic at Pine Brook Country Club, Weston, MA

For more information, contact Mark Correia at mcorreia@ilctr.org or (781) 322-9777.
The Immigrant Learning Center has been using computers as part of the curriculum since 2000. Students can learn listening, reading and writing in English through self-paced software programs. They also improve their digital literacy including skills like finding information on the internet, writing a resume and applying for jobs. Upper-level students all create Gmail accounts for communicating with their teachers and each other.

Last fall, the Technology Program got a much-needed upgrade with a generous grant from The Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation. With the Foundation’s support, 30 brand new computers were installed in the computer lab and three projectors were purchased for in-class presentations. Using current equipment ensures that The ILC students are learning the skills essential for today’s economy.

The computer lab gets a much-needed upgrade.

Thank You Donors

It is with our deepest thanks that we recognize the following community groups, corporations, foundations and individuals that made financial and in-kind contributions to The ILC between July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017.

Community, Corporations and Foundations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABP Trust</th>
<th>Eastdil Secured LLC/Wells Fargo Securities</th>
<th>Metro Credit Union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation</td>
<td>Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation</td>
<td>Mizuho Americas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amazon Smile Foundation</td>
<td>Eldredge &amp; Lumpkin Ins. Agency</td>
<td>Mystic Valley Elder Services, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchor Capital Advisors LLC</td>
<td>Feingold Family Fund</td>
<td>Mystic View Design, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Copy Associates, Inc.</td>
<td>Give with Liberty</td>
<td>Perry and Madeline Garver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C M Medeiros, Inc. dba Dunkin’ Donuts</td>
<td>Goulston &amp; Storrs</td>
<td>Family Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carroll Family Fund (USAA Giving Fund)</td>
<td>Hugh O’Neill’s</td>
<td>PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataldo Ambulance Service, Inc.</td>
<td>James G. Martin Memorial Trust</td>
<td>RBC Capital Markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citigroup Global Markets</td>
<td>Katherine A. Straub Living Trust</td>
<td>Rodman, Rodman &amp; Sandman PC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Malden</td>
<td>MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education</td>
<td>Ropes and Gray LLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Medford</td>
<td>Mass Literacy Foundation</td>
<td>RSM US LLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cypress Capital Management, LLC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &amp; Flom LLP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donations made in honor or in memory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Honor - h</th>
<th>Memoriam - m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlene Beck - Ida and Leon Beck (m)</td>
<td>David Gordon - George Norton (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Canning - Gene Canning (m)</td>
<td>Bettina Hein - Immigrants everywhere (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Cavanaugh - Terry Dempsey (m)</td>
<td>Holly Jones - Mark Correa (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Correa - Mark Correa (h)</td>
<td>Micho Kurata - The Immigrant Community (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balamurugan Cumaresan</td>
<td>Greg Lieberknecht - Karen Mandeville (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Vaihefi Muttulingam - Sangita and Nick Thakore (h)</td>
<td>Shari and Michael Linsky - Isabel Linsky (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Devine - Andrea Pizzotti (h)</td>
<td>Karen and Louis Monti - Lucy Santoro (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Dosick - Steven Goldberg (m)</td>
<td>Ingrid Nowak - Scott Guttaar (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moncef Eladhari - Sani Eladhari (m)</td>
<td>Dianne and Robert Payne - Scott Guttaar (m)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feingold Family Fund - Sandy Barnstein (h)</td>
<td>Rita A. Pelosi - Andrea Pizzotti (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Giunta - Philip Giunta (h)</td>
<td>Marianne Pesce - Mark Correa (h)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Marianne Pesce - Charles H. Griffith (m) | Steverson and Ciccone Associates, PC. |
| Stevens & Ciccone Associates, PC. | Stifel |
| Sullivan & Worcester LLP | Tania & Sania Corporation |
| The Boston Foundation | The John H. and H. Naomi |
| Tomfohrde Foundation | UBS Investment Bank |
| von Rickenbach Family Foundation | Willis Towers Watson |
| Windwalker Group | It is with our deepest thanks that we recognize the following community groups, corporations, foundations and individuals that made financial and in-kind contributions to The ILC between July 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. |
With a little help from your friends…

Jennifer never thought of herself as a fundraiser for The Immigrant Learning Center. Last November, she gave it a try when she created an online appeal for GivingTuesday. “I was very surprised how giving people were,” Jennifer said recalling how easy it was to raise $500 in just a few days.

Jennifer’s friends and family are very supportive of the work she does. She says, “This is a time when people want to give to organizations like this. People want to be heard. Even if it’s heard by $10, it makes you feel a little bit better about your day. I tell my students all the time, people want to help. It’s just human.”

Now, anyone can quickly and easily create an online fundraiser using new tools available on The ILC website. Just go to www.ilctr.org/support-us and follow the instructions under “fundraise.” You don’t even have to wait for GivingTuesday. Your birthday, President’s Day, any day can be a good day to give immigrants a voice.

In loving memory of Barry Portnoy

Barry Portnoy, husband of ILC Founder and CEO Diane Portnoy, was a staunch supporter and board member of The Immigrant Learning Center since its inception 25 years ago. His support started even earlier when he encouraged Diane to fulfill her dream of starting her own school. He also co-edited the book published by The ILC in 2012, *Immigrant Struggles, Immigrant Gifts*.

Barry founded what is now known as The RMR Group LLC in 1986, and served as its chairman and a managing director of its parent company, The RMR Group Inc., since its inception.

Because of Barry’s generous and unwavering support, many lives have been forever changed for the better. While he is sorely missed, the foundation he helped to build at The Immigrant Learning Center will continue to give immigrants a voice for many years to come.

A passionate “second act” begins at The Immigrant Learning Center.

Last spring, I was looking forward to retirement thinking about how to make the best use of my free time. At the same time, I was increasingly frustrated with the political environment in which immigrants and refugees were being demonized. I retired in April, and by May I was volunteering at The Immigrant Learning Center.

I have worked in a variety of teaching/training/tutoring roles for more than 50 years. I have enjoyed them immensely, but this experience is far more satisfying. It is wonderful to use my abilities to help people who are so appreciative and hard-working. I’m zealous about this work. After a month, I knew that I wanted to expand my commitment beyond the classroom. I was sure I knew people who would support this mission if they were aware of it. So I created a list of potential donors (e.g. friends, former colleagues, family, etc.) who would likely support The ILC’s mission and who had the financial ability to help. I then approached each person individually by email or telephone and adapted my message to make it personal. The response was overwhelmingly positive, so much so that I will be asking each person for a donation on an annual basis.
Thank You Donors

Individuals

Norman Abbott
Robert Adelson
Marsha Alter
Linda Altwater
Julia Amaya
June E. Ambush
Arute Auguste
Victor and Penelope Baltera
Kristina and George Baer
Dr. Susan Cahill and Honorable Frank J. Bailey
Peter Baumgartner
Paulette Beaudoin
Judith Bennett
Cheryl and Evrett Benton
de Lun Bi
Abby and David Blackman
Amanda Blakeley and John Tyler
Patricia Boivert
Fiona Bolger
Timothy Bonang
Jamila and Stuart Bornstein
Maxine and Paul Bornstein
Sandra and Ethan Bornstein
Mildene Bradley
Nicholas H. Bradley
Daniel F. Bridges
Paul Brissette
Tamsen and Michael Brown
Mary Anne Buckman
Rosa Bullis
Dale P. Cabot
Karen Cangiano
Mary Scott Carey
Michele Carney
Cynthia Carr-Gardner
Kirk A. Carter
Jane and Jack Censer
Christopher Charles
Pravin Chaturvedi
Phoebe Li Chen
Mark Chester
Fatima Z. Chibane
Mayor Gary Christenson
Lucia D. Cifuentes
Jennifer and William Clark
Mary Clark and Bernard Wideman
Beth and Adam Conway
Joan Corb
Mark Correia
Robert Correia
Jayne Burke Crowell
Jose Cruz-Campa
Diane and David DeBono Schafer
Andrea Delekam Thomajan
Judith and Edmund Dente
Monu and Luckner Desir
Mina DiBiase Gizzi
Patricia DiFranco
Susan Schwartz and Patrick Dinardo
State Rep. Paul Donato
Lynne and Rick Doyle
Elita Dumoar
Allison Duvall
Harry Ebblom
Peter Eliot
Judy Eskin
Heidi Farber Estrada
Samuel Fevier
Norma and Aaron Fink
Janet S. Fisher
Abbey and Carlos Flores
Nancy and Richard Forbes
Barbara and Richard Fourtner
Donna and Dr. John Fraiche
Nancy E. Free
Linda and Dr. Bruce Gans
Nereyda Garcia and Philip Sutherland
Jeantilis Gedeus
Barbara and William Gilmore
Wendy Giunta
Christina Gизzi
Karen Glover
Saleema Głowik
Phebe and Louis Goodman
Anna and Martin Gordon
Alison Gracek
Lawrence and Beth Greenberg
Jeffrey Gregory
Jennifer Grehan
Ashley and Casey Guittarr
Susan and Michael Hale
Maureen and John Harrington
Robert F. Hatch for Ernst & Young
Lynn and David Heggarty
Joan and Warren Heilbronner
Frank Hertz
Joan and Lawrence Herz
Donna and Dr. John Hindelang
Marcia Hohn
Holmdel High School, NJ
Abby Hornillier
Suzanne and Perry Hooker
Miriam and David Horton
Picilla and Frank Hundleby
Mahmund Jafari
Lenora and James Jennings
Holly Jones
Matthew Jordan
Rebecca and Dr. Jordan Scott
Silja Kallenbach
Esther N. Kaling
Elisa and Henry Katz
Patricia Kerwick
Eileen Kiley
Lisa King
Elena and Mark Kleifges
Kathleen Klose
Adam Koppel
Andrew Koppel
Robbin Kotajarvi
Ann and Ted Kurland
Sergiy Kurylo
Janet and William Lampkin
Ellen and Vern Larkin
Sandra Lehr Goodman
Dan Levinson
Margie and Eric Levin
Diane Lind
Suzanne and David Lissy
Peggy Lo Conte
Ann and Greg Logan
Anthony LoPresti
Margaret and Dr. Charles Louden
Joanie and Bruce Mackey
Andrew and Joe Mackey
Krista Magnuson
Sadia Malawak
Karen Mandeville
Al May
Jamie and Steven Mayer
Rebecca Mayne
Antonia McCabe
Thea McKeon Sorrentino
Nancy McLauhlin
Jeanne and Arthur Mechan
Mary and Robert Miller
Denzil Mohamed
Deb and Joe Moore
Rev. John F. Mullay
Cathy Nandhavan
Dai Ng
Yen Nguyen
Meghan Nichols
Robert A. Nicholson
Carmen and Marrian Nistor
Alexander Notopoulos, Jr.
Susan Nugent
Ana Nuncio
Amie and Torn O'Brien
Melanie O'Brien
James O'Connor
Kelly Ogilvie McLean
Robert Oppenheim
Deborah and David O'Rourke
Mary S. Peabody
Richard Perras
Richard Persche
Mary and Nicholas Philopoulos
Vera Pincuk
Andrea and Eric Pizzioti
Michele and John Popso
Ambassador Elena Poptodorova
Diane and Barry Portnay
Elika and Adam Portnoy
Norma Portnoy
Diana Rajoo
Cheryl Raner
Ira Rapaport
Guillaume Raso
Karen and Andrew Rebholz
Elaine and William Reidy
Judith B. and John F. Remondi
Margaret Smith and James Rehe
Kristina and Vincent Rivers
Deborah and Steven Ross
Mark Rossi
Lauren Rubin
Jo Salas
Adrienne Salva
Warren Sathapornheasit
John Saylor
Diane Schwalbe
Mary and Richard Scott
Nanda Scott
Jessica Senat
Claudine Shaby
Andrew Shapiro
Barbara and Ed Shapiro
Marian and John Sidman
Mary and Jeff Somers
Marcia Specter
Janet and Peter Stankiewicz
Volha and Genady Stasevich
Karen Stern
Galyna Syensko
Nick and Sangita Thakoor
Niranjan Thiruvur
Elizabeth Thissell
Jennifer Thompson
Rose and George Thompson
Ha To Tran
Molly Uline
Ann and Dr. Amnon Wachman
Anne and Neil Walsh
Norma and Robert Wassall
Min Xiyan Y. West
Carol and James A. White
Cho Salma Win and Dr. Andrew Porecky
Sean Winters
Beth Witte
James Witte
Mark Young and Gary Sullivan
Feng Lian Yu
Michelle Zabla
Jay Zagorsky
Rachad and Stephen Zubricki, III
Rita and Stephen Zubricki, Jr.

The ILC is a not-for-profit corporation supported by tax-deductible charitable contributions and, in part, by funding from The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Mystic Valley Elder Services, Inc., the Massachusetts Executive Offices of Elder Affairs and the Federal Administration on Aging; and the cities of Malden and Medford, Massachusetts.