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*Diane Portnoy*  
*Founder and CEO*

## Local residents honored for helping newcomers

MALDEN, Mass, June 4, 2018 / A group of 61 dedicated volunteers were honored by The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) on June 1, 2018. 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. The volunteers range in tenure from three months to 15 years. The longest serving volunteer, Gene Moulton, a retired teacher, was singled out for special recognition for his dedication to helping The ILC students starting in 2003.

In thanking the volunteers, The ILC founder and CEO Diane Portnoy explained her motivation to found the school started with a volunteer who helped her parents learn English when she was a child. She went on to say, “You know, it’s not just an individual you are helping, it’s the whole family and the community.”

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 left to right: Diane Stern, Nidal Naji, Nancy Free, Susan Dosick, Wai Lan Yau, Kathy Kratz and Deb Andersen

Standing left to right: Shikha Vyas, Judy Eskin, Adriana Zubieta-Sauala, Robert Smith, Jane Austin, Paul Fast, Ahmed Adem, Betsey Cogswell, Kathleen Simone, Nerilise Michel, Michael Marciello, Andrew Koppel, Gene Moulton, Priscilla He, Nora Doherty, Marsha Alter, Mary Jane Orme, Lillian Little, Arielle Ticho and Meha Sah

### 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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