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Diane Portnoy
Founder and CEO

Local volunteers honored for their dedication to creating a welcoming community

MALDEN, Mass, June 3, 2019 / A group of 58 dedicated volunteers were honored by The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc. (ILC) on May 31. These volunteers take time out of their busy schedules every week to help hundreds of immigrant and refugee adults who study English at The ILC. Under the direction of The ILC teachers, volunteers spend three hours a day, one to four days a week, helping foreign-born adults learn reading, writing, grammar and conversation skills in English, prepare to become U.S. citizens, and increase their understanding of American culture. By learning to communicate in English, these newcomers can fully contribute to the economic, civic and cultural life in Malden and the 88 surrounding communities in which they reside.

In thanking the volunteers, The ILC Founder and CEO Diane Portnoy told them about her own immigrant background. While she learned English in nursery school, her parents struggled on their own until a local volunteer helped them. She said, "Just like that volunteer did for my parents, you are making a huge difference in our students' lives, but not just them, their families also and, in turn, making this a better country."

The Immigrant Learning Center currently serves about 850 students each year with 800 or more on the wait list at any given time. 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 Patricia Micheli at pmicheli@ilctr.org or (781) 322-9777.

Photo Caption:

Front Row (left to right): Cheryl Lynch, Shikha Vyas, Maggie Yau, Sue Dosick, Sally Cavanaugh
Second Row (left to right): Adriana Zubieta-Sauala, Yuting Fang, Kathy Kratz, Nerilise Michel, Rebecca Taplin, Raheema Shameem Basheer, Riddhi Shah, Tamara Major, Ramanjeet Kaur
Third Row (left to right): Marsha Alter, Andrew Koppel, Stephanie Depauw, Mary Jane Orme, Deb Andersen, Robert Smith, Cathy Murnane
Back Row (left to right): Susan Nugent, Anita Brewer-Siljeholm, Emiliano Calvo, Gene Moulton, Jerry O'Connell, Paul Fast

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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