

Incorporated in November 2010, ELPW is a new tax-exempt nonprofit organization with a well-established program model. The expertise gained over the past eight years will take ELPW to its next stage of growth as it develops new models for maturing immigrant neighborhoods.

#### **MISSION**

Through small-group English classes, Americans and immigrants develop relationships of mutual respect that result in immigrants' integration in the U.S. society and a warm welcome into communities of support.

#### **VISION**

A cohesive community where

- Immigrants see Americans as their language coaches and guides in the American culture.
- Americans cherish immigrants as future citizens, innovators, and leaders, and support legislation that will facilitate their integration as equal members into U.S. society.

#### **THE NEED**

##### **Under-served populations' educational needs not met by the curriculum of existing ESL programs**

- Uneducated adults are intimidated both by testing procedures and curricula that require learners to have certain levels of first language schooling in order to participate.<sup>i</sup>
- In print-oriented ESL classes, they do not acquire English speaking proficiencies. They drop out or avoid ESL classes altogether.

##### **Immigrants' lack of opportunities to interact with fluent English speakers**

- Immigrants in low-paying jobs often have few English-speaking co-workers and continue to speak their first language.

#### **THE PROGRAMS**

**ENGLISH CONVERSATION OUTREACH (ECO)** provides opportunities for Americans to become acquainted with immigrants as their conversation partners

The lead teacher presents the English conversation lesson to tutors, who then work with their adult immigrant students in small groups or one-on-one tutoring. Classes are held three evenings a week.

Through this volunteer-based structure, over 1,200 fluent English speakers have tutored 900 immigrant adults, specifically those who are left out of publicly-funded programs -- adults with low first language literacy and schooling -- as well as immigrants who are well-educated but need language training that is a bridge between ESL and community college or university.

**CHILDREN'S LEARNING PROGRAM** makes language learning a family affair for students' and tutors' children ages 4 to 12. Staff members with elementary education backgrounds plan activities that strengthen reading and math skills. Volunteers serve as tutors and mentors. Use of Spanish is encouraged so that Latino children view their language as important and the non-Hispanic children have fun learning a language.

**SPANISH FOR TUTORS** uses the same approach and materials as ECO, reversing the roles. ESL tutors learn how hard it is to learn a language; ESL students appreciate their tutors' efforts to teach them English.

#### **ELPW'S LONG TERM STRATEGY**

- **DAYTIME ECO CLASSES** for students and volunteers whose schedules prevent them from attending evening classes.
- **SPANISH LITERACY FOR SPANISH GED:** ELPW once offered Spanish literacy for Latino adults and looks forward to resuming this program. We will coordinate with Milwaukee agencies that offer Spanish GED classes so that ELPW's literacy students have a path to GED instruction. We will offer training to other institutions that wish to start literacy programs. Our approach can be adapted to teach non-literate adults with first languages other than Spanish.
- In maturing immigrant neighborhoods, **ACADEMIC ENGLISH OUTREACH** will close the gap between our Adult ECO and Children's Program. Tutors will instruct teenagers and young adults in academic English so that they succeed in higher education.

- **PARTNERS IN CITIZENSHIP:** Tutors will help immigrants with English while both learn the civics material.
- **FAMILY LITERACY THROUGH CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:** Parents will interact with fluent English speakers as they learn how to give their babies a literacy foundation.
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING** to other churches and other community-based organizations to start or improve outreach programs in their neighborhoods. ELPW's volunteer management method and teaching approach work for immigrants from any language background across a variety of program models. <sup>ii</sup>

## WHO BENEFITS

Adult Immigrant Students lose their fear of speaking English through relationships of trust and friendship with their tutors; are equal with their tutors, who are also learning; become empowered to change their lives; become integrated in the U.S. society.

Volunteer Tutors learn to communicate in English with adults who are not native-speakers; broaden their cross-cultural experiences; gain understanding about immigrants' lives and respect the progress they make under difficult circumstances; acquire compassion for the plight of immigrants.

Students' and Tutors' Children Ages Four to Twelve are enthusiastic about their own learning activities because their parents are improving their knowledge of English or tutoring English.

Institutions of Higher Education that send students to ELPW for service learning and volunteer opportunities: UW/Milwaukee Institute for Service Learning, Marquette University, Alverno College, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Mount Mary College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

## HOW TO HELP

VOLUNTEER as an English Conversation Tutor!

Lori Stankiewicz  
Program Director  
e-mail: [programdirector@elpw.org](mailto:programdirector@elpw.org)

Contact:

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
2827 W. Harrison Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215  
414.645.0492

DONATE

For one student it costs

- \$ 15 for a class
- \$ 45 for a week of classes
- \$ 450 for a module
- \$ 1,400 for a year

Contributions are tax deductible under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

To give online through PayPal, go to <http://www.facebook.com/English.Language.Partners.Wisconsin>

<sup>i</sup> According to the U.S Census Bureau, in the City of Milwaukee, of the 71,381 people between ages 18 and 64 who speak a language other than English, 18,449 report that they speak English "not well" and 5,252 report they do not speak English at all. [SOURCE: AGE BY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME BY ABILITY TO SPEAK IN ENGLISH. American Fact Finder, 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates. Accessed: 2012-05-09.]

Yet, in Wisconsin, only 5,579 adults were enrolled in publicly-funded ESL classes in 2009-2010. [SOURCE: Office of Vocational and Adult Education National Reporting System. n.d. <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OVAE/NRS/tables/view.cfm?tableID=3>. Accessed: 2012-05-09.]

<sup>ii</sup> Success Story: EMPOWERING LATINO PARENTS, currently operating out of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin, began with Celeste Baldassare from Mount Mary College, a Vista Volunteer charged with starting a volunteer-based ESL program for parents of pupils at Notre Dame Middle School and recruiting Mount Mary students as tutors.

In Fall 2009, while visiting ESL programs in Milwaukee, Celeste saw two classes that epitomized the instruction and structure she wanted to emulate: 1) Gethsemane, where Lori Stankiewicz was teaching, and 2) a class at the Council for the Spanish Speaking, conducted by Elizabeth Pizano, former co-director at Gethsemane, who was doing practice teaching for her MATESL degree. Celeste asked Beth Thompson for help. She received background information and sample lesson plans and structured her program according to the Gethsemane model. In September 2010, Erica Steele took over from Celeste. In September 2011, the program relocated to HCCW.