

English Language Partners of Wisconsin, Inc.

VALUES

- ELPW follows God's command to love immigrants as native-born citizens.ⁱ We must show compassion to all who ask for help.
- There are not enough children of native-born, middle-class American citizens to support our economy as tax-payers. For the future of our country, we provide English language classes that will help immigrants in their efforts to improve their lives, maintain stable family units, and raise and educate their children to become productive tax-payers.
- The program follows an approach that cannot in any way be considered as coercive or deceptive regarding religious issues. During class time, content for lessons is not Bible-related. Rather, content is geared towards students' immediate needs and desires for improving their lives.
- Learning takes place in small groups of people who are equal and have something to teach each other.
- Volunteers experience the joys of diversity. They learn how to understand accents and communicate with people from other cultures, forge friendships with people outside their culture bubble, and work together with their new friends to build bridges across cultures.
- The students want to integrate into American society. They see the volunteers as language coaches, guides to the American culture, and learners of Spanish (or other first languages).
- The volunteer is an equal constituent and beneficiary. Any willing person who speaks Standard English and wants to learn to follow directions is deemed trainable and is to be nurtured.
- Qualitative research is on-going through our reflective teaching process. Data is collected from daily evaluations and used to develop the curriculum and improve the program for students and tutors.
- We do not seek government funding for ESL and Adult Basic Education because
 - We do not compete with publicly-funded ESL programs that serve the immigrant community; rather, we complement their services. English students in our volunteer-based program prepare themselves to become successful students at traditional ESL and ABE programs.
 - The acceptance of such funds would entail restrictions and policies that, if followed, would undermine the major outreach and integration goals of the program model.
- Compensation levels and benefits will reflect that we aim to hire the most qualified employees possible who will passionately uphold our principles and values in creating an environment where immigrants and native-born American citizens are equal learning partners.

ENDNOTES:

- i Following are a few of the many Bible verses that address how immigrants are to be treated by God's people and the consequences for failing to follow His commands:

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the immigrant, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are immigrants, for you yourselves were immigrants in Egypt (Deuteronomy 10:17-19).

"You are to distribute this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. You are to allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the aliens who have settled among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. In whatever tribe the alien settles, there you are to give him his inheritance," declares the Sovereign LORD (Ezekiel 47:21-23).

Cursed is the man who withholds justice from the alien, the fatherless or the widow (Deuteronomy 27:19).

Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees (Isaiah 10:1).

"So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty (Malachi 3:4).