

Each Volunteer Makes a Huge Impact



IRWP volunteers are a bridge to identify the needs and challenges of their students. Though the core of the program is focused on English, there are many ways that lessons go beyond spelling and grammar in impacting their everyday lives. We work with teachers to provide students the connections to community groups and other resources where they are needed for each individual. Volunteers are given these tools to use in their class time, teaching students to independently handle the things that come their way.

The areas in which lessons address life needs are diverse. One common goal of students is to get a new or better job for supporting their families. Teachers like Martha and Cindy help their students navigate job searches online and learn how to fill out job applications. Cindy's student, Reykhana, would like to work at a job involving cooking or cleaning, so they have spent time in class learning vocabulary for menu, food, kitchen and other household items.



Minura and Liliya

Students also often deal with their children's schooling and changes that might come from year to year. Susan and Binti learned the process of requesting a transfer to a new school district, and Heather and her student, Mu Klu, worked on understanding dress codes after her children started the year at a new school. Liliya talked with staff to determine what school district her student's children would attend when starting Kindergarten in the future, and received information about enrolling them into the Parents as Teachers program for school preparation. Alicia and Amalia do extra practice on verb tenses to help Amalia increase her speaking and listening comprehension so she can participate more fully in her daughter's weekly physical therapy sessions.



Alicia and Amalia in class

Teachers need not be technical experts to be a powerful source of empowerment for their students; being there to help identify their needs and be the link to the solution brings big results. Mary helped her student with questions on finding dental clinics and filing tax returns to get the help that she needed. Lucy taught her student who to contact to get internet in her home and how to join social networking to talk with her family abroad. From writing letters to landlords to fix household problems to studying for the written portion of the driver's test, the many ways that our volunteers extend themselves to help their students become independent are indeed innovative and often go way beyond the lesson plan.

Volunteer to Empower Through Education!

- Teach one hour, twice a week
- No prior teaching experience necessary – Lesson plans, materials & training provided
- Knowledge of second language not required – Classes are taught in English
- Classes are scheduled around volunteer's location and availability
- Enjoy the benefits of a friendship, learning about a different culture, and having fun while making a direct and meaningful impact in another's life



Impact of Learning

Students have many goals for their education. These include practical pathways to independence such as learning to shop, understanding bills, obtaining employment, and becoming involved in their children's schooling.

In 2013

- 157 students from 36 areas including Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Somalia received English education from 149 volunteer teachers.
- 13 students earned their U.S. citizenship.
- 104 students had children 5th grade or younger.

Our mission is

to increase the independence and reduce the isolation of immigrant and refugee women by teaching them basic English and practical living skills in the security of their own homes.

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From the Director

At our annual teacher appreciation dinner in May, we had the opportunity to recognize the work of our volunteers, as well as to give special thanks to our incredible teachers who have been in the program for 5 years and more. IRWP is privileged to have 19 volunteers who fit this description, with our longest-serving having been involved for 17 years! Knowing these dedicated individuals has been a great pleasure, and the contributions they have made for our students throughout the years cannot be measured. We are indebted to all who work to make the program a success, including the 22 teachers who have started with us so far in 2014. We always enjoy this dinner as a chance to get volunteers both new and seasoned coming together to meet, share experiences, and have a good time.

IRWP has also welcomed a number of new members to our Board of Directors this year, and we are thrilled for the energy and direction they bring to the program. Joining with our existing board, they are planning some exciting new ways to represent IRWP. They will also be present at other community events and third-party fundraisers in the coming year, such as our Community Table Night at Bailey's Range on June 30th and a PechaKucha 20x20 presentation on September 25th. We are looking forward to their contributions to the growth of IRWP!

It is with thanks to the efforts of all of our volunteers that IRWP has continued to thrive in the past year, and we have been honored to receive grant funding, including recent grants from the Lutheran Foundation, the Norman J. Stupp Foundation, Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Tabitha Fund, and the Daughters of Charity Foundation. Beyond funding the program, these grants are a great opportunity for others in the community to learn about IRWP and the incredible things that our volunteers accomplish in our city. I am so grateful to you all! Pat Joshu - Executive Director

Follow our student journeys on www.facebook.com/IRWP.STL and on Twitter @IRWP_STL



Visit our website at www.irwp.net



Long-time volunteers Sister Rosel, Mary Ann, Carol, and Sister Jean Ann with cakes given at our annual dinner to show IRWP's appreciation of their many years of teaching.

Thank You!

- Daughters of Charity Foundation of St. Louis
- Dollar General Literacy Foundation
- Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis
- Incarnate Word Foundation
- Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee Foundation
- Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis
- Norman J. Stupp Foundation-Commerce Bank, Trustee
- School Sisters of Notre Dame Alms Committee
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- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Provincial Council Subsidy Committee
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet Tabitha Fund
- St. Louis Philanthropic Org., Inc.
- The TJX Foundation
- The Trio Foundation of St. Louis
- United Way of Greater St. Louis One Time Grants
- The Will Flores Fund
- Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis



- Amy Abramson
- Altrusa International of St. Louis
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- Kathleen and Larry Baden
- Anita Barker
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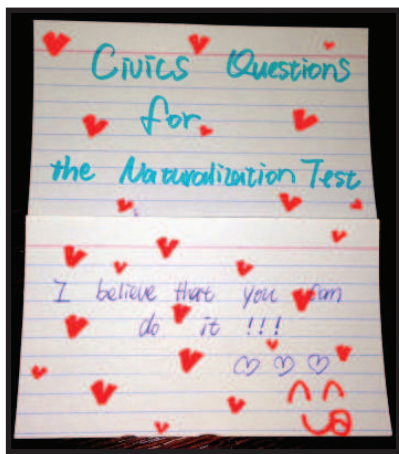
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- Trish Lazaroff
- Sr. Mary Carol Lehmkuhl, OP
- Marilyn Lorenz-Weinkauff
- Ann and Gary Maassen
- Maggie O'Brien's Restaurant & Irish Pub

Mehlville Students Lend a Hand



Encouraging words for a lucky student

IRWP would like to give a big thank you to the six ELL seniors from Mehlville High School who provided community service hours on several projects this April. Especially useful were the flash cards that the seniors made for our volunteers and students to use while studying the 100 civics questions for the U.S. citizenship exam. All of the seniors are themselves immigrants or refugees, and we had the opportunity to speak with them on their experiences. Some shared the challenges faced by their families in learning to speak English since coming to the United States, and the problems that arise from having to serve as interpreters for their parents. One student, born in a refugee camp, was himself studying to take the citizenship test this spring. IRWP receives referrals for mothers of children in the Mehlville School District, and it was very educational for us to meet these special students. Thank you for your hard work!



Mehlville seniors helping out at IRWP

Volunteer Quote

"After our lesson, Fregenet and I were chatting. She said that she works two jobs, is paid money and then the money is gone. She said she wanted to work to learn because when you acquire knowledge, unlike money, it is yours forever."

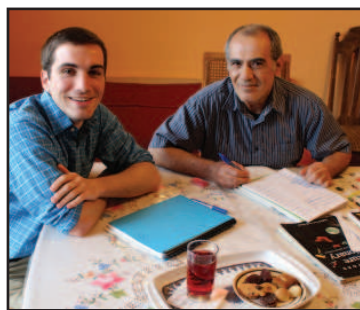
Male Teachers & Students at IRWP

Did you know that IRWP also has male students and volunteers? For volunteer teacher Adam Brok, the opportunity to work with student Gulam has resulted not only in a chance to teach English, but also a newfound friendship. Meeting since September 2013, the pair often go beyond studying grammar and spend time talking about family, current events, and life in St. Louis. Adam has seen Gulam grow more confident in his ability to speak English with others, and is continually impressed by Gulam's questions about language usage. Adam and Gulam are an example of a number of male volunteers and students at IRWP who are drawn to the program for the same reasons as their female counterparts. Male volunteers want to work one-on-one with an immigrant or refugee and help increase their independence; male students have a desire to learn English and life skills, but have hectic work schedules, health or transportation issues, or face other barriers to learning. IRWP has been able to connect these men to work together as teacher and student in the program, just as we have with women.



Adam Brok

Volunteer Andy Eggleston has worked with his student Hussein since April 2013. During this time he has seen Hussein become more comfortable using English, as evidenced by his ability to go shopping independently and his enthusiasm to engage in conversation during class. Says Andy of his experience with Hussein, "It is really a relationship of equals, of friends. I have enjoyed learning about his life and values. Hussein is a very interesting man with a fascinating background." Hussein continually sets new goals and hopes to study for his driver's permit and become able to 'graduate' to group classes with his wife, who is also an IRWP student.



Andy and Hussein

When asked if male students face any particular struggles, both Andy and Adam acknowledged the expectations in any society for men to be successful. Says Adam of his student's challenges, "Instead of being a barrier, these are a huge motivating factor. But this is just how he feels as a human." Like our female students, each individual works hard toward their goals. We are very proud of our diverse group of amazing students and teachers!

Peg and Jack McCarthy
Natalie and Ben McIntosh
Midwest Bank Centre
Phyllis Mithen
Amy Morros
Catherine and Birch Mullins
Anna and Michael Mullins
Sr. Miriam Nolan, RSM
Sr. Josephine Oldani, DC
Norma Ottman
Sarah Paradoski
Sue and Jim Paradoski
Rosemarie Parsons
Sr. Eugenio Pastorik, RSM

Frances Reidy
Sr. Mary Frances Reis, BVM
Jennifer Roberts
Mike Rogger
Christine Rohloff
Wendy Ross
Mariana Salinas
Sapaugh Motors
Andrea and Eric Schaefer
Margaret and Marty Schmidt
School Sisters of Notre Dame
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Ann Seabaugh
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Session Fixture Company
Kathy Sicard
Sarah and Dan Sise
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
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Dr. Christopher Smejkal
Carol and Jerry Smith
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Julie Nilsson Smith and Craig Smith
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Ann Velasco and Robert Wagner
Sr. Joanne Whalen, DC
Aimee Wilkinson
Sarah Wion
Virginia Worley

Barb Zielinski
Monaca and Joe Zlatic
Mary and Tom Zlatic
Kathy Zorica

Thank you to all of our wonderful donors in the past year! We appreciate everyone that attended events, purchased raffle tickets, and donated to our silent auctions.



**3672B Arsenal Street
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314-771-1104
www.irwp.net**

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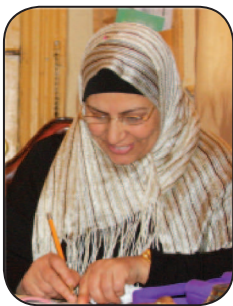
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

If you would like to learn more about volunteering or our services, request that your donation remain anonymous, receive news via email, or remove your name from the mailing list, please contact us at 314-771-1104, email director@irwp.net, or write us at 3672B Arsenal St., St. Louis, MO 63116.



You can help in their Journey!

Your donation provides life-changing skills to help a student to reach personal goals. How does your support help?



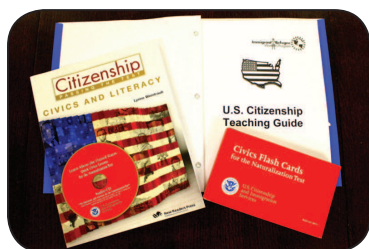
\$900 will Sponsor One Student for One Year of English and Life Skills education.

\$150 can provide all the books, supplies, and materials for a new volunteer and student to start in the program.

\$60 helps prepare a student for their United States citizenship exam with materials and participation in a mock interview.

\$25 helps a volunteer drive to their student's home or take her on a field trip into the community.

These are just a few examples of how powerful each gift is in advancing the education of students. Become a partner in increasing the independence of a student today!



Save the Dates

Bailey's Range Community Table Night
Monday, June 30, 2014, 5:00 - 8:00pm
920 Olive St. - 25% of proceeds donated to IRWP

Festival of Nations, August 23 & 24, 2014
Visit us in Tower Grove Park

IRWP Potluck in the Park, Saturday, September 13, 2014
Tower Grove Park, Humboldt North Pavillion

PechaKucha 20x20, Thursday, September 25, 2014
Contemporary Art Museum, 3750 Washington Blvd.

Trivia Night, Saturday, October 18, 2014
St. Catherine Laboure, 9740 Sappington Road

Hoolie, Sunday, March 8, 2015
Maggie O'Brien's Restaurant, 2000 Market St.

Shop with AmazonSmile to benefit IRWP!

Did you know that Amazon now has a donation program called AmazonSmile where shoppers can easily choose IRWP to automatically receive .5% of purchases at no extra cost? You can benefit IRWP by following 3 simple steps:

- 1 - Visit **smile.amazon.com** each time you shop
- 2 - Select Immigrant & Refugee Women's Program as your Charity (if you do not see our name, type in 42-1696954)
- 3 - Shop as usual - that's it! Thank you for your support!