



*Sharing Language--Building Community*

## Fall Thoughts

Many people from other countries and their families felt nervous as the presidential election results were released. As an organization, it caused us to renew our commitment to say, "We choose welcome." Each individual is created and loved by God and is a valuable part of our community. We are grateful for the students, volunteers, teachers, board members, donors, and community members who demonstrate this in large and small ways in their daily lives.

We hope you enjoy the pictures and descriptions of some of the ways Thrive has been privileged to welcome and empower others in recent months.



The Monday before Thanksgiving, we had a potluck dinner with the students in ESL (English as a Second Language) class. It was a feast of dishes from other countries. It was also a precious time to relax and enjoy friends. During the evening, students and volunteers filled bowls

with cards expressing what they are thankful for. One said, "I'm thankful for the beautiful family and friends who I share with these days." Moving to a new place, especially a new country, is a challenge. It is a blessing to help provide community.



The Saturday after Thanksgiving, international students from Penn College and Lycoming College gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving with Thrive. We are thankful for those who helped prepare delicious traditional holiday dishes to share and those who spent the evening eating, conversing, playing games, and laughing. It was a wonderful evening to share with students who are far from home.



ESL classes at Thrive have also been continuing. Gabriel, Grace, Yousef, Nicki, and Erin have continued on our teaching team. Donna blessed

us by joining as our childcare director. Angelique also joined as a tutor for the semester as part of her course at Lycoming College. Additionally, it has been fun to have a former student re-join class as well as to add new students from different countries. The fall was exciting as students progressed in learning English and took steps like registering for the GED, preparing resumes, and writing cover letters.



Beginning Spanish classes have also been moving forward. Laura is doing an amazing job taking over teaching responsibilities. She is from Mexico and has blessed Thrive with her teaching background and talents.

Broadening the focus, page 2 details how Thrive has been engaging in raising community awareness through Comfort Food from Around the World takeout meals.

Continuing Thrive's mission is an exciting privilege and adventure. Please feel free to join us through praying, volunteering, or donating!

*~ Jody Lantz, Executive Director*

## ESL Classes

- ❖ Mondays & Thursdays
- ❖ 7:30-9:00pm
- ❖ Beginning & intermediate level classes
- ❖ Open enrollment--call or stop by to register

## High School/Adult Beginning Spanish Classes

- ❖ Thursdays
- ❖ 7:30-9:30 pm
- ❖ Session 3a is planned to start on January 12.
- ❖ Register by January 5 at [www.thriveip.org](http://www.thriveip.org).
- ❖ This session is a continuation of session 2 and would be appropriate for current students or those who already know some basics of Spanish.

## Immigration Legal Services Provider

To help meet the need for immigration legal services in the area, Thrive is continuing to make progress towards applying for BIA accreditation/ recognition. We are excited that Grace has offered to join us in helping to start the immigration program.

Our goal is to help qualified low-income and vulnerable people with basic immigration applications for processes like green cards, citizenship, DACA, VAWA, and family-based immigration. We're also hoping to be a point of connection to refer people with more complicated needs to reputable lawyers or more advanced non-profit legal offices.

Keep watching as we steadily work on this new outreach! We are hoping to submit our application for BIA accreditation/recognition by early 2017. The largest needs at this point are funding and volunteers. If you're interested in helping, please contact us.

## Comfort Food from Around the World



The last Tuesdays of August, September, and October, brought a flurry of activity as Thrive offered takeout food from Burma, West Africa, and India. Our students engaged in planning, cooking, and serving as ways to use English, learn skills, and benefit the community. The events also raised funds to pay for childcare during ESL classes and awareness of multiculturalism in the community. The response was far beyond what we hoped for!

Chef Hosch is continuing to serve multicultural food on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:30pm outside City Alliance Church, and he's donating 10% of the profits to Thrive. It is a great opportunity to get yummy food and help others!

Special thanks to our partners during these past months.



Follow us on Facebook or watch your email to find out more about Thrive's monthly takeout meals resuming in January 2017.

## Our Mission Statement

1. To welcome international people living in our community with an attitude of mutual respect and inclusion
2. To share God's love through educational, social, and spiritual opportunities that encourage connection with others, realization of goals, and the ability to thrive in new contexts
3. To equip teachers, volunteers, and community members with skills to help them serve in similar ways locally or around the world