



Sharing Language--Building Community

Summer Thoughts

This can be a rough political and social climate to be caught up in or even to be a spectator in. I was thinking the other day what it would be like if I were traveling or living in another country and so much dialogue there focused on how people like me should leave or are considered a detriment. It really made me pause. What messages would I risk internalizing about myself as a person or need to fight off to have the courage to go about my daily life?

Even though I work with people from other countries almost every day, it gave me a different appreciation for some of the struggles they face as well as the strength and resilience they have. It also gave me an increased appreciation for the students, teachers, and volunteers at Thrive as well as our board members and donors behind the scenes who allow our services to exist and who send a different message.



Even in such a difficult climate, it is our hope and prayer that Thrive's presence, services, and interactions communicate to people from various backgrounds:

"You have value. You are important to God, to us, to your own circle, and to the community. You already have amazing skills, and you have potential for even more. You positively contribute to the community and make a difference to those around you."



We've had some exciting things happening lately to help us do that, and even more are expected in the fall. This summer, to allow more people to access class, we moved our ESL (English as a Second Language) classes to the mornings. We now have classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30-10:00am. In the fall, we're expanding our opportunities to help others communicate in different languages. Starting Sept. 7th on Thursday evenings, we'll be offering both beginning and

intermediate Spanish classes and starting a Language Café for the community to practice casual conversation and build relationships.



We have also submitted our application to the Department of Justice for recognition to be allowed to provide basic immigration legal services. We are eagerly awaiting news on that application and hoping to begin services this fall.

Thank you if you're already a part of what we're doing. If you're not, we invite you to study, practice, or volunteer with us. We also invite you to pray for us or financially support our services through our fundraising events or donations. Wherever you are in the community, we also encourage you to notice the different people around you. Reaching out to someone else may end up being a huge blessing to both of you.

~ Jody Lantz, Executive Director

ESL Classes

- ❖ Mondays & Wednesdays from 8:30-10:00am
- ❖ Beginning & intermediate level classes
- ❖ \$15 per month, scholarships available
- ❖ Open enrollment--call or stop by to register

High School/Adult Spanish Classes

- ❖ Thursdays from 7:30-9:00 pm
- ❖ 2 levels available: beginning & intermediate
- ❖ Session 1 is Sept. 7th - Nov. 2nd (9 weeks)
- ❖ Cost is \$80; limited scholarships available
- ❖ Register by August 31st at www.thriveip.org.

Language Cafe

- ❖ Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm
- ❖ Join us for casual conversation in English or Spanish. French and Mandarin are also on our list of possibilities. We'll help match participants with a partner or small group and provide conversation ideas; however, participants are also welcome to discuss other topics.
- ❖ It is a welcoming, encouraging time for people to learn and spend time together. Stretching our language abilities, making mistakes, using dictionaries, and appreciating different dialects are encouraged.
- ❖ Each evening will feature a refreshing drink from another culture as part of the event.
- ❖ \$2 suggested donation
- ❖ For adults or college students; high school students are welcome with their own supervising adult present
- ❖ Just show up--no registration required.

Meet Some of our Students

Minesh is from India. He has been here for three years. His background is in computers. He likes to spend time with his kids and watch TV. He likes living in Williamsport because it is a quiet city. He takes ESL classes at Thrive. He feels classes can be a lot of help for him to improve his English skills, and that is a good way to find a job and communicate with others. He is happy to be here.

~by Sammi



Sammi comes from China. She is one of the students in our ESL class. She came to class to improve her English to communicate and to socialize with other people. She is punctual and hardworking. In addition to class, she works at a local restaurant. She likes to watch Chinese dramas. To improve English, she also watches English dramas. She thinks ESL class is a good, family kind of place. She likes class.

~by Minesh



Benefit Dinner at the Herdic House-Aug. 25th

The Herdic House is preparing a fine dining experience to benefit Thrive. It will feature a delicious multi-course meal of Indian food. A cocktail hour will begin at 6pm and dinner at 7pm. Thanks to Liz and her staff who will prepare it as well as Sema and Minesh for sharing ideas.

Reservations can be made by calling the Herdic House at 570-322-0165 or Thrive at 570-337-2898. Tickets are \$40 each.