

The Lamplighter too

A newsletter by and for the students of the
Literacy Council of Bonita Springs
July, August, September 2007
Published quarterly

Maria Franco Becomes U.S. Citizen

Hello, my favorite family in Bonita Springs. I'm very, very happy because last Wednesday, September 5, I passed the Citizenship Test, everything was very good. The Officer asked me seven questions, he dictated me two sentences to write, on the last part of my interview I had to read a short paragraph. Then the Officer said: "Congratulations, Miss Maria Franco, you passed the test. Now you'll be notified by mail after two weeks to go to the Oath Ceremony". So I want to say thanks a lot to the Literacy Council and my tutors Maureen Lorenz and Amilcar Santos for helping me to improve my English. I will never forget all that I learned from you. About my job, I'm working as a Home Health Aide. I have two cases, a lady in the morning 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and a man in the afternoon, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Both are American citizens and good patients. I do this job Monday to Friday. Every week I am working as babysitter to Teddy, 19 months, and his brother Charlie, 4 years old; really they are very sweet boys. I love them so much, their parents are very good persons. So I'm working hard to get other dream, go to work at any hospital. There I'll get good benefits and have one or two days off. I really need it.

I am happy too, because I'm going to the College to improve my English and I'm waiting for my schedule to start to study Phlebotomy.

Okay my friends a big hug and kiss to all you, I love too much and thanks for every thing that you gave me.

God bless you forever,
Your friend, Maria Franco



Students Tell Their Personal Stories

I'm Griselda, I was born in Teposcolula Oaxaca, Mexico. I have four sisters and one brother who live in New York. My parents live in Mexico. I have a son named Gary, he is 4 years old, he started to go to the school this year. We had been in this English class for 3 years. I live in Bonita Springs since 2001.

My name is Jesuleima Gómez, I'm from Caracas, Venezuela. Almost all my family lives in Venezuela. I have a sister that she is living in Weston, Florida and my husband's family live in Guadalajara, México. I have four sisters. I left my country 8 years ago. I went to live in Puerto Rico with my sister, because we were looking for more opportunities and two years later I knew my husband and then we decided to move to California. There we lived four years and 6 months. I have living in America for 5 years. I have been married for 5 years. My husband's name is José, he was born in México, he had been living in United States from 1986. I have one child, his name is Brandon, he is 3 years old. We had living in Estero, Florida from 5 months ago. My husband is working in Costco 15 years ago. We had living in different places because my husband got transfer in his work and my son doesn't go to the school yet.

I miss very much to live with my parents, sisters, nephew and my niece, but I visit my family each year.

OFFICE STAFF & SCHEDULE

Susan Acuña, Executive Director
Diego Grisales, Program Director
Kerty Reiterer-Crespo, Office Manager
Monday to Friday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Jeanne Sachs, Student/Tutor Coordinator
Nora Martinez, Assistant Coordinator
Monday to Friday: 5:00 to 9:00 pm

STUDENT COMPUTER LAB

Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: 27308 Old 41 Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
website: www.bonitaliteracy.org
email: bonitaliteracy@comcast.net
phone: (239) 495-0999
fax: (239) 495-0071

Tutor Workshops

- Oct. 30 and Nov. 1 from 8:30 am-12 noon at Audubon Country Club.
- Nov. 3 and Nov. 10 from 2-5 pm at Palmira Golf Club.
- Dec. 5 and 14 from 9-12 at Stonebridge Country Club.
- Jan. 2 and 4 from 9-12 at Stonebridge.

My Family and My Dream

My name is Francisco Cordova. I was born on May 15, 1987 in the Village of Santa Avelina in Guatemala.

Santa Avelina is important for the cataratas, because it is a tourist place. Guatemala has a lot of mountains, rivers and volcanoes. My father name is Juan Cordova and my mother's name is María Mendoza. I have six brothers and one sister, my older brother is Domingo, my younger sister is Isabela, my younger brothers are Diego, Pedro, Javier and Isaias, we are all single. I am planning to visit my country maybe next year. My school name was E.N.B.I. I went for six years to school. My favorite teacher was Juan De León, because he is a very dynamic and enthusiastic person.

From my country, I came to America in 2006. I came here for a better future.

I imagined it would be beautiful and I would have a better job. What I like about America is that I live here and what I don't like about America is the discrimination.

I came directly to Florida, I have two jobs, I am an electrician and I work in a hotel, the name is Hyatt.

I learned about Literacy Council from Mr. Woody at my job. My first class was on 04/17/2007. I want to learn English because I want to progress in this country. My good teacher is Sally, I like her classes because she is enthusiastic.

My Experience

My name is Claudia Vichez. I was born in December in El Salvador. I lived in a small city named Quecaltapaque, a city that is beautiful with people that are kind and nice. In my country I like to sight. My mother's name is Maria Elena, and my father's name is Santos. I have one brother, his name is Stanley. He is 26 years old. He is not married and doesn't have any kids. Yes, my family is still alive. I don't have any plans about how long I'm going to stay in the U.S.A. I studied in a public school. I finished school in 1993. My favorite teacher was Miss Catalina, she was a good teacher. I'm divorced, and I have three kids, two boys and one girl. They are 9, 11 and 12 years old.

I left my country three months ago. It was January 8, 2007. I left my country to have a better life and to help my family. I chose America because it has a lot to offer. This is a country that is hard for immigrants. I like the opportunity; a good job. What in this country I don't like is the discrimination of Latinos. I work at a restaurant as a dishwasher. I have been working for two months. I found out about the Literacy Council at work. I first came to the classes one month ago.

I want to learn English so I can learn English for my self. My teacher's name is Sally Boutin. I like the way the teacher teaches, but everything is hard to learn.

I am surprised at how much I have learned. I will live a new life.

My Story

My name is Lourdes Dután. I am 32 years old. I am from Ecuador. I have two children, one boy and one girl. We live in Bonita Springs. I am learning English at the Literacy Council's Moms and Tots class.

Welcome Back, Northern Tutors!

We are very glad to greet all our tutors returning from their northern residences. The weather has started to turn more comfortable, less humid and more pleasant.

Over the summer months our student population has continued to grow and we will have a heavy demand for the tutoring services offered so competently by dedicated volunteers like yourselves.

Many of our new students are recent arrivals who have started working in our area and have discovered the importance of being able to speak English in their daily work environments.

The value of their learning English is increased significantly because their employers will be able to converse with them more easily, direct their work tasks more effectively and compliment them when they have completed them successfully.

We are so very grateful for all the dedication and zeal that our northern volunteers bring to augment the work of our year-round volunteer tutors.