It’s impossible to list the over 290 donors that have helped our program in 2018. Because of them we continue to grow as a no-cost-to-student program. We give sincere thanks and send our gratefulness for their generosity and support. We are proud to announce that over 350 of our learners are now U.S. Citizens.

But the true heroes are our volunteers who are the heartbeat of our program by providing their time and energy, and open their hearts to their students.

We have told you what the ESL In-Home Program is. Now we want to share new programs which we have and are continuing to create throughout Nevada, the United States and the World. Yes, our program is now Global!

One of our new programs is the Online SKYPE Program which is free and an easy-to-use online literacy course that we designed to teach overseas adults in English Conversation. We currently teach online in the following countries: France, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Brazil, El Salvador. Many of our online learners are families of our current Nevada students.

Also, because our director was selected as one of the 2018 Top10 CNN Heroes, we are expanding our programs throughout Nevada and to other U.S. states: To name a few, Nebraska, California, Connecticut, Arizona, Louisiana, Colorado, Maryland, Kansas, as well as outside of the U.S.: Morocco, Japan, Jamaica, El Salvador, China, Brazil — all who have seen us on CNN Heroes Tribute and have inquired how they, too, can have this program where they live. We are producing a video/website series on “How to Tutor ESL in Your Community”. Watch for it!
A hero is someone who sees a wrong and tries to right it. Someone who does the things we know we should: care for the sick, feed the hungry, nurture the children, protect the innocent, guard the land, stand up for the oppressed, and never turn away from a mighty problem. A hero brings more hope, decency and kindness into this world. A hero is humble, compassionate, and unyielding to the fear and the hate and the horrors that encompass our world. They don’t care about the critics or the naysayers or those who thrive on the inequities. They stare them down with their will to make a difference. Their work is never easy; it is always hard. And a hero knows that even in the darkest of hours, hope will always light the way so the world can be changed for the better. Day after day, this is what you do with your life’s work and why the answer to the question, “Who is a hero?” is this: It’s you.
Inside a classroom at an elementary school where one of our tutors has a parent group: about 5 women are practicing speaking out loud in English, also learning to write and read.

They're the parents, aunts and grandmothers of ESL children in schools. Twice weekly, these adult immigrants— from Central America, Mexico, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia — drop off or pick up their children and then head into a classroom of their own to learn English.

Learner Wahbiai, a mother from Jordan, has been in the US for 15 years. She has six children, one of them a fourth grader. She used to struggle to understand English in her daily life, she says, but the class helped her expand her vocabulary. "When I go the store, when I go the hospital, I understand a lot," Wahbiai says.

The ESL In-Home Program is expanding nationwide working on family literacy, teaching parents English and helping them engage in their students’ education, which in turn helps the children do better in school. Adult education programs struggle for funding, so our program will expand widespread across the country. But now in the Nevada schools that offer space for our program, principals and teachers say the benefits are real: Parents get more involved in their children’s classrooms and are able to help more with homework. And the fact that our program is held inside elementary, middle and high schools is part of what makes it work.

“I've come to realize that having adult education classes offered in the community, and particularly at a child's school, makes adult education accessible to some parents who would not normally feel comfortable leaving their community,” says Principal Judy Gr in adult education in Nevada for more than 30 years. They may not go to an adult school campus to, (let’s say, study ESL English as a Second Language or for a GED, a high school equivalency degree]. We are a first step.”

The women in the family literacy class have varying levels of English and experience in formal schooling. Some never learned to read or write in their native language. Others, such as those who only speak Arabic, are learning the Roman alphabet for the first time. Meanwhile, Spanish speakers are learning the differences in pronouncing vowels and consonants. "We just start at the very beginning: alphabetic concepts, phonics,” says our tutor at an elementary school in Reno. “That’s where my training as a first-grade teacher really helps, because I’m able to have lots of tools to help them.”

Learner Alqaifi says the class helps her understand her own children. "When they talk to each other, I understand what they say. Before, no understand what they say," she says. Alqaifi says the math unit allowed her to help her fourth-grade daughter with homework questions.

Mary Sebastian, an adult student from Mexico, says the diversity of her classmates has helped her improve her English conversation. "Maybe it’s good there are students from different countries, because practicing more English with Arabic, or Vietnamese, different languages,” Mary says about practicing English with speakers of other languages.

"It's been really neat to see my students realize that the stuff that their kids are bringing home for homework that they don't understand — they actually know how to do it," Samantha, an ESL tutor, says.

Zelda, an ESL teacher in a Fernley middle school reports that one mother from Guatemala hadn’t received her child’s English-proficiency test results and came to her office every day until she got them. Zelda doesn’t think she would have been that persistent if she hadn’t already gotten to know her through the family literacy class.

We can report that parents who participate in our school classes get better jobs as a result of the program, and their children attend more days of school and do better academically.

Our programs are not only for English-language learners: We are helping English-speaking parents improve their reading and writing skills, as well as help them take the GED. School teachers tell us that their achievement test scores rise with the children who have been with parents in family literacy. So we're excited about what we see both for parents and for children.----------------------------------

• ENVISION WHAT IT'S LIKE TO START OVER •

Edson came by himself to the United States from the Dominican Republic and has had a hard time transitioning into his new life. Without vocabulary to express himself or the ability to understand others, he can’t have a conversation with new people, communicate with the waiter at a restaurant, follow his doctor’s orders, or fill out forms at the DMV to get a license. Having daily conversations in English helps new Americans understand the culture, make friends, and carry out everyday tasks while learning the language.

Like Edson, we have many English language learners who need educational tools and instruction to gain citizenship, work, and succeed in their new home.

Do you have 1-2 hours a week to help?

Tutor Tips:

https://en.islcollective.com/ a FREE site. Lots of worksheets, and video lessons for you to download. Some good topics to stimulate conversations.
Students Nellie Hernandez, Brenda Ramirez, and Irma Vega took their Carson City tutor, Jeanne Greene, out for a Christmas celebration. They all ordered American food in English! It was a wonderful time.

Photo celebrating Christmas together!

Rosanna Espinosa and Reno tutor Paige Ernst.

Douglas County Tutor, Helen: My proudest moment as an ESL volunteer occurred last year when my learner earned his U.S. citizenship. We continue to meet on a weekly basis and work towards improving his reading, writing, and conversational skills.

Citizenship study class in Douglas County. A special thank you to Reno tutor, Ms. Linda Nagy-Daykin, Attorney at Law, who spoke to Helen Wood’s class on the 8th of December about becoming an American Citizen.
ESL Community Volunteers are the heart and soul of Northern Nevada. We wouldn’t be able to provide our services without their dedication and enthusiasm. You don’t have to be a teacher or have a background in literacy to be a tutor, our staff will provide you with all of the training and support that you’ll need.

Please consider volunteering in one of the following ways:

**I-1 Tutors** – You will work one-on-one with an adult who is struggling to speak, read, and write English helping them to identify and reach real life goals such as obtaining a GED, applying for a job, or reading with their child. I-1 tutors meet one hour sessions twice weekly with their learner and we ask that you make a minimum of a 3-month commitment.

**English Conversation** – You will provide support to adults by having practice classes in English conversation. Most of our foreign students lack the self-confidence to speak English in public places and need the practice to give them the self-esteem they need. This opportunity has a more flexible time commitment.

**GED Preparation** – The class is goal-oriented for those determined to find a job. Volunteers in this class help mainly with math.

**Parents with ESL school children** - The learners are adults with school children also learning English. This class focuses on goal-oriented learning as well as a family literacy component. Volunteers in this class help the parent to speak in English with their children’s teachers and medical personnel without interpreters.

**U.S. Citizenship Class** – You will be trained in how to help legal immigrants obtain citizenship.

**Event/Workshop Volunteer** – Assist our staff with fun events to recruit tutors for our wait-list of adults who are eager to learn English language skills.

**To serve as a volunteer we ask that you meet the following requirements:**

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Good verbal communication skills
- Agree to a criminal background check
- Attend a Volunteer Orientation & Training Workshop
- Cultural sensitivity to people of diverse backgrounds

**Orientation & Training Workshop**— 2019 Training Dates: Any day/time/location you prefer according to your schedule.

**Before taking this training you must attend an hour-long orientation.** This training is for anyone interested in volunteering to make a difference in someone’s life by helping with basic English. During this training you will learn about all of our different programs, how to teach English as a second language, how to tutor adults, as well as different strategies, tips, and tricks. Please RSVP and/or sign up for an orientation by contacting us at 775-888-2021. **RSVPs are mandatory in order to save you a seat.**

Volunteers like current Lyon County Tutor, Rosalie (age 72), really get to know their learners and are witnesses as the learning and transitions unfold. Here is a Q&A with her.

**Q: What inspired you to volunteer with an adult literacy program?**

A: I took literacy for granted. When I found out how many adults struggle with functional literacy, I was both humbled and motivated to make a change.

**Q: What is your favorite part about volunteering?**

A: My favorite part about volunteering is being able to see the progress in my learner and knowing that his progress in literacy translates into confidence and well-being in so many other aspects of his life.

**Q: Is there anything you have learned from the students and would like to share?**

A: Yes. I’ve learned that volunteering one-to-two hours a week can make a vast difference in someone else’s life and in my own. I’ve also learned that it’s never too late to try learning something new.

**Q: If you could send a message to all adult learners, what would it be?**

A: Asking for help in learning to read, or improving the literacy skills that you already have, is such a brave thing to do. Working and trying to better yourself through education, despite the obstacles and frustrations, is such an admirable goal. I hope you’re proud of the effort and progress that you're making.

It's not an easy thing to do.

**Q: If you could share your experiences as a volunteer with other volunteers, what would you tell them?**

A: Tutoring an adult learner has taught me a lot about communication. If someone isn't understanding you, don't just repeat the same question or sentence. Rephrase your ideas. Communication is so much about how our minds see and hear things. Challenge yourself to see and hear things in ways you don't normally see and hear them. It will help you teach a greater diversity of learners, and you might learn something about yourself and your ways of thinking and learning in the process.

**Q: Is there anything else that you would like to share about your experience as an adult literacy volunteer?**

A: I'm just really glad to be helping another person learn. Learning is one of my favorite things to do, and I'm so glad I can help someone else experience the magic of unlocking knowledge too.
Message from the Executive Director

Education is the cornerstone of open societies. It lays the groundwork for the future direction of people’s lives and the societies they live in. It is a fundamental human right and essential for the exercise of all other human rights and for social, political, and economic participation. (FP)

“The American Dream is about equal opportunity for everyone who works hard. If we don’t give everyone the ability to simply read and write, then we aren’t giving everyone an equal chance to succeed.”
—Barbara Bush

Mission Statement: ESL In-Home Program of Northern Nevada, a nonprofit volunteer educational organization, provides free adult educational programs that empower people, especially those of low-to-moderate income, to become more productive members of their local communities by providing them with the language and cultural skills necessary for life in America.

STATISTICAL UPDATE

Current Tutors……. 194
Current Students… 309
SKYPE students….. 4
U.S. Citizens……….. 349

Potential Students Waiting for a tutor:
Carson……………. 308
Douglas.......... 18
Lyon……………….. 74
Churchill……….. 17
Washoe…………… 379
SKYPE……………… 7
Incline, Tahoe….. 12

Total Students Waiting all Counties: 815

ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP ONE OF THESE ADULTS WHO IS EAGER TO LEARN ENGLISH?

If you would like to be taken off our mailing list please Email us at:
eslinhomennv@gmail.com
Type “Remove”, and your name and city in the Subject box.

TUTORS: Invite your friends to become an ESL volunteer tutor! Tell them why you enjoy the experience. Invite them to learn more about our program on our website:
www.eslinhome.org

It is not necessary for tutors to know a foreign language nor have prior teaching experience. We train at no cost.....one hour on your preferred day/time/location.

Our Mailing Address:
1894 E. William St. #4-125
Carson City, NV 89701
775-888-2021
Website: eslinhome.org

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the ESL In-Home Program of Northern Nevada to help purchase books and train new tutors for non-English speaking adults on our wait-list who are eager to learn English language skills. We are an IRS tax-exempt 501©(3) nonprofit organization. To donate: www.eslinhome.org/donations.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.....EVEN $5.00 FOR OUR ESL CITIZENSHIP FUND BANK ACCOUNT TO HELP A STUDENT WITH THE CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION FEES (USCIS COST: $725)
Don't forget that giving means more than money; you can also give time.