

ONE2ONE

Learning, Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015



newsletter
one2one-learning.org

One to One Learning, Inc.

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PROGRAMS

Class levels

Those of you who support One to One Learning will be happy to see the progress of our students during the first semester. Your donations help our students to be successful and to move forward toward their goals in life.

The beginning of the second semester finds our 301 students progressing:

- During the first 2 weeks of March it was necessary to start 3 new beginner groups with 18 new students. We are grateful that we had new volunteers who could teach them.
- We began with 11 beginner groups in September. They have completed their beginner packets, have passed the test on this material, and are now in chapters 3 through 8 in the first level "Side By Side" book.
- Two groups who began in November are almost ready to continue into the book.
- Eight groups of students from last year have continued their study and are now in chapters 11 through 14 in "Side by Side" Level 1. One group has completed all 17 chapters with an intense review of the past tense. They have begun "Side by Side" 2.
- Groups who have been studying for 2, 3 or more years are now well into "Side by Side" 2



One group is now in the third level.

- Our pre-literacy group is divided into 3 learning groups, one group is learning how to read and write in Spanish, the other two groups are in English with one group more advanced than the other.
- Our two literacy groups are continuing to advance, having mastered consonants, long and short vowels, blends, and of course sight words. Their spelling tests are perfect. One group is mastering more complicated stories.
- One group in the pre-GED level has advanced to the third level of conversation with more concentration in writing and reading.
(See story by Sonia Garcia)
- Our GED group is challenged by the new TASC curriculum, spending a lot of time writing essays since this is a major part of the test. In these exercises they are sharing their life stories.
(See story by Elias Mayllazhungo)
- Our citizenship group is focusing on writing skills for the dictation part of the test and studying United States history. Two are in the process of applying for their interview.

DAY TIME CLASSES

One to One Learning is represented at **Head Start of Rockland** by two volunteer teachers, **Linda Lopez and Peggy Tracey**, who teach the mothers. The parents bring their children to class and at 9 AM have their own English class. Some of the students recently moved into the "Side by Side" level 1 and others are completing the beginner packet.

Jeanne Sheehan continues to assist a student who is preparing for his citizenship class. Mrs. Sheehan has worked with her student for several years bringing him through many English level classes. They meet in Dominican Convent in Sparkill.

Sister Cecilia continues to teach a student who is on the pre-literate level. The winter brought many snows on Mondays with their classes cancelled but upon returning in March the student had retained the material and was ready to move on.

Joyce Blossom has a student twice a week for literacy class. The student's English is fine but she wants to be able to read and write more clearly and improve her pronunciation. They practice daily necessary communications like writing absence notes and preparing an application for kindergarten.

Donna Nye continues to teach her student who is developing new vocabulary and improving on her daily communication skills.

OUR TEACHERS ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF ONE TO ONE LEARNING

Without this volunteer staff of dedicated teachers, One to One Learning could not function in the way that it does, using small group learning circles. We pride ourselves in this ability to provide a lot of time for each student to practice speaking in a comfortable arena. Students and teacher bond in a special way. Once students are in a group, they don't want to move to another group, they want to stay with their teacher.

Sister Cecilia and the Board of Directors again acknowledged the gift of time and talent provided by our volunteers with a gathering around Christmas.

Thirty one teachers returned with many years of service. Twenty one new teachers joined us this year.

Sharon Mullin, now a senior at Saint Thomas Aquinas College, has been volunteering for four years. **Sharon will receive the Youth Service Award at our Hands of Hope Gala in May.** Other STAC volunteers are **Jessica Carchichalba, Alfredo Castro (Alumnus) Leslie Caba, and Rachel Gordon.**

We will bid farewell to **Beverly Houghton** in June. She will be moving to New England. For eight years **Beverly** has volunteered and directed the pre-literacy program. **We will honor Bev with the Teacher Service Award at the Gala.**

Another teacher who has brought much support to her students for many years is **Rita Callan** who **will also be honored at the Gala.**

Five students from the **English Honor Society of Nyack High School, Madeleine McCann, Dakota Peterson, Phoebe Holland, Lulu Sherman, and**



La Fiesta DE LOS REYES



Sebastian Jukymin began teaching in the second semester last year and returned this year. We will miss them since all but Phoebe will be graduating. They have been excellent teachers and are passing on their legacy to some new students from Nyack who will begin observing and shadowing them.

An interesting note, at the end of February, one of our teachers, **Keegan Fletcher** left us to go to teach in China. Those students will learn well because Keegan was an excellent teacher. We have had volunteers come to learn the skill and to practice teaching. They have moved on to Viet Nam, Japan, Guatemala, and Brazil. So One to One Learning has gone worldwide.

We have another group of students from New Jersey. It began when **Justin Kim** started volunteering. When Justin graduated, he introduced his brother **Eric** and friends **Christine Cho** and **Lathan Liou** to the program. They are students of **Bergen County Academies** and began in 2013-2014 and have continued this year. In fact, they brought **Vera Lee** and **Julia Choi** from **Northern Valley Old Tappan High School** to the family. Our high school students develop a great loyalty to their students and the program and want others to follow in their footsteps.



Lathan Liou shares his experience:

I'd like to start things off by saying that I'm a high school student and sometimes hearing adults call me teacher or maestro can still be unusual to my ears. It's usually the other way around. One to One is absolutely the best program I have ever worked with, and I'm grateful for the opportunity. Never have I thought that teaching could be so much fun. I look forward to going to each class, ready to share with my students some cool English phrases or idioms. I'm not much of a by-the-book person, so lessons with me can be pretty spontaneous. Not only do I get my students to think about current issues, I also get them to speak about them in English.

I love working with my three wonderful students, Ana, Vita, and Flora. They always are eager to learn and their bubbly and friendly personalities make me have a great time. We learn, we smile, and we laugh. Their drive to learn English constantly inspires me to teach them more and more as well as pursue my own goal of becoming fluent in Spanish. Sometimes, words can't describe this magical moment when students become teachers and teachers become students. It is only here at One to One where I believe the purest form of education takes place.

INTERESTED IN JOINING US?

CONTACT

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CHILDREN

Our children have been very happy this year with our new coordinator **Janet Fenton**, a recently retired school teacher, who is here both nights. **Mrs. Fenton** has a lot of great ideas for projects and crafts from her former career. Because of her experience she is very helpful while the children are having homework time. Besides all of this **Mrs. Fenton** plays the guitar and has been teaching the children songs. For La Fiesta de los Reyes the



children
s a n g
Christmas
s o n g s .
They had
prepared
songs for
the visit
f r o m
Cardinal
D o l a n
(weather

cancellation) and will sing at the Awards Ceremony. **Morghan Sonzogni** from **St. Thomas Aquinas College**, **Viviana Zebeda** who works at **Nyack Seaport**, and **Teresa Alvarado**, volunteering for her Confirmation service are support staff on Mondays. The A Team, as **Mrs. Fenton** refers to them, are staff on Wednesdays. They have been volunteers since 9th grade and now are graduating, **Chang Seob Lim** and **Ryan Zobar** from **Tappan Zee HS**, and **Daisy Morocho** and **Dashan Surprenant** from **Clarkstown HS**. Their project this year has been to train the next crew, **Luis Andrade**, **Teresa Alvarado**, **Gabriel Ramundo**, and **Mina Surprenant**. There is always laughter and joy coming from their cabin where all are cared for and loved.



MY FAMILY

By Sonia Garcia

(receiving Student Award at the Gala)



My family and I lived in El Salvador before coming to America. My mother's name is Maria and father is Jesus. I love them very much and I miss them every day. They had thirteen children, five boys and eight girls. I'm the second oldest girl. The reason I came here was because my family is poor and I wanted to help them. My brothers and sisters and I love each other very much. One brother and three sisters have joined me in this country. I helped each one to come. We all live in the same house in Orangeburg, New York.

Ten years ago I married a wonderful man, Jose and we brought into this world my son, Christian who is now ten years old. He has made me a very happy mother. He is the best boy in the whole world, attending Tappan Zee Elementary School where he is in the fourth grade. He is a very good student and especially enjoys mathematics and science. It's never a problem for him, doing homework. It makes life so much easier for me and my husband. We're a very happy family. All of us attend One to One Learning, my husband and I in English class and Christian in the children's program.

MY ROLE MODEL

By Elias Mayllazhongo



When I was growing up in Ecuador, my role model was my grandmother because she took care of my brother, sister, and me by herself. That's why I consider her like my mother. I consider my mother, who went away to work in Spain and the United States, more like a father. My father died when I was almost two years old.

For almost 17 years, and in two countries, my mother worked to get money and a better life for my family. While my mother was away, my grandmother taught me many important lessons. She taught me to respect women, and to work hard. In my country, it's customary for men to hit women, and you see women with black eyes all the time. But my grandmother taught me that women are equal to men. She told me she used to take her three children to sleep in the forest away from their home, so my grandfather could not hit her. One day, when he tried to hit her, she fought back. He never hit her again.

Today my grandmother lives in our home town of Chontamarca. I wish I could see her again. My grandmother never forgot us, and we will never forget her.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

With the help of our friends we were able to distribute 120 baskets of food to our students for Thanksgiving. For the Christmas celebration of La Fiesta de los Reyes each adult student received a gift and each of the children of our students received a gift of clothing and two toys or games.

FOR THANKSGIVING

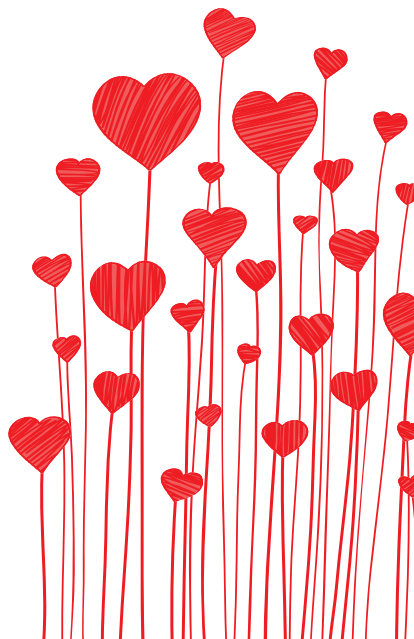
- ▶ Inserra Supermarkets (ShopRite, Northvale) 20 turkeys
- ▶ St. Augustine's Church, New City (Ellen Rice) 10 turkeys and baskets of food

FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

- ▶ St. John the Baptist, Piermont 25 (Outreach Ministry) baskets of food and 25 turkeys
- ▶ Gifts of clothing for children and adults
- ▶ Albertus Magnus High School, Bardonia (Sr. Nancy Richter) 65 baskets of food, 40 turkeys and money
- ▶ (Donated by teachers, Mary and Gary Parisi) Toys and games
- ▶ St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill (Dan Cummings) 6 baskets of food and 6 turkeys. Clothing and games for 4 families

FOR CHRISTMAS

- ▶ St. Anthony School, Nanuet (Sr. Pat Howell and Sr. Daniel Catherine) Toys and games
- ▶ Holy Name School of Religion, New Rochelle (Catherine Francese) Toys and games
- ▶ St. Francis of Assisi Church, West Nyack (Terry McCullough) Stockings for Christmas Eve
- ▶ St. Ann's Church, Nyack (Christine Lundgren) Hats and gloves for adults and children
- ▶ Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Tappan Religious Education Program (Sr. Margaret Breslin) Surprise bags (25 for girls and 25 for boys) made up by the children. Our children just loved them.
- ▶ Transfiguration Church, Tarrytown Hats and gloves for adults and children
- ▶ Mary Ann Aaron and Jennifer Sullivan Gifts for two families
- ▶ Each year Anita and Richard Nazario have Una Fiesta de los Reyes. They ask their guests to bring a toy or a donation for One to One Learning. This custom has gone on for many years and we are grateful to them and to their guests.



VALENTINE'S FUN!



a special thank you...

one2one-learning.org

If it were not for your generous donations, we would not be able to continue our ministry at One to One Learning. Development studies report that individual donations keep many good works going. You gifted us with \$16,980.

We bring our benefactors to prayer each morning.



Frank and Donna La Pietra
*In Memory of Richard, Columbia,
and Joseph La Pietra*
Linda and Jon Ewig
Paul and Una Fitzpatrick
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Diane Gasparini
Margaret Shea
Sisters of Siena Hall Infirmary
Pat and Tim O'Neil
Janet Keyes and Bill Josiger
Ilse and John Lang
Anne Nissen
Rust Gilbert

One to One Learning in collaboration with Catholic Charities Community Services of Rockland, Hudson River Health Care, and Mental Health Association of Rockland has received a two year grant from United Way of Rockland. Funding will be \$23,000 each year to provide at the One to One Learning site, services in English, support social services, financial management, and immigration counseling (provided by CCCSR), nutrition workshops and blood pressure screening (provided by HRHC), and parenting classes (provided by MHAR)



PARTNERING WITH ONE TO ONE LEARNING

Peter and Mary Beth Modafferi supported our mission with a donation to educate one student for the year in memory of Christopher Arroyo

Mary Lenney educated one student for the year with her partnering donation.

Phyllis and Bruce Schweizer (Quality Graphics) educated a student for one semester.

One to One is a sponsored ministry of The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

ONE TO ONE

175 Route 340, Sparkill, NY 10976

Learning, Inc.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR MISSION

To provide English Classes and other supportive services for immigrants to empower them to reach their full potential and lead meaningful lives within their communities.

TRUSTEES

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Sr. Eileen Gannon
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, May 1, 2015

Hands of Hope Gala

June 17, 2015 at 8 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY

MEMORIAL CARDS

In our list of donations you may notice names noted with *"in memory of"* or *"in honor of"* or *"in the name of"*.

We now have cards for your use on these occasions. When such a donation is made, if requested, a card will be prepared.

CELEBRATING 18 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Hands of Hope Gala

We hope that you will join us at our Hands of Hope Gala Friday May 1, 2015 at the Nyack Seaport.

(See Invitation and Raffle Inserts)

Will you help us to make this event successful?

BE A SPONSOR

Take Out An Ad in our Virtual Journal
Purchase Raffle Tickets
Donate a Gift for the Silent Auction

(Your donated gift can be added to the many items that we have had in the past - vacation homes in Cape Cod, vacation weekend at the Lodge at Woodloch Pines, tickets to sports events, art work, airline miles, rounds of golf, gift certificates, spa gift baskets, Bee-Alive gift basket, Italian dinner for 4 prepared by Sister Cecilia, family portrait from Madrigal)

Please call or e-mail Sister Cecilia at 845-512-8176 or clpangel59@gmail.com if you are able to donate a gift

Language Empowers. Language Unites.

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