



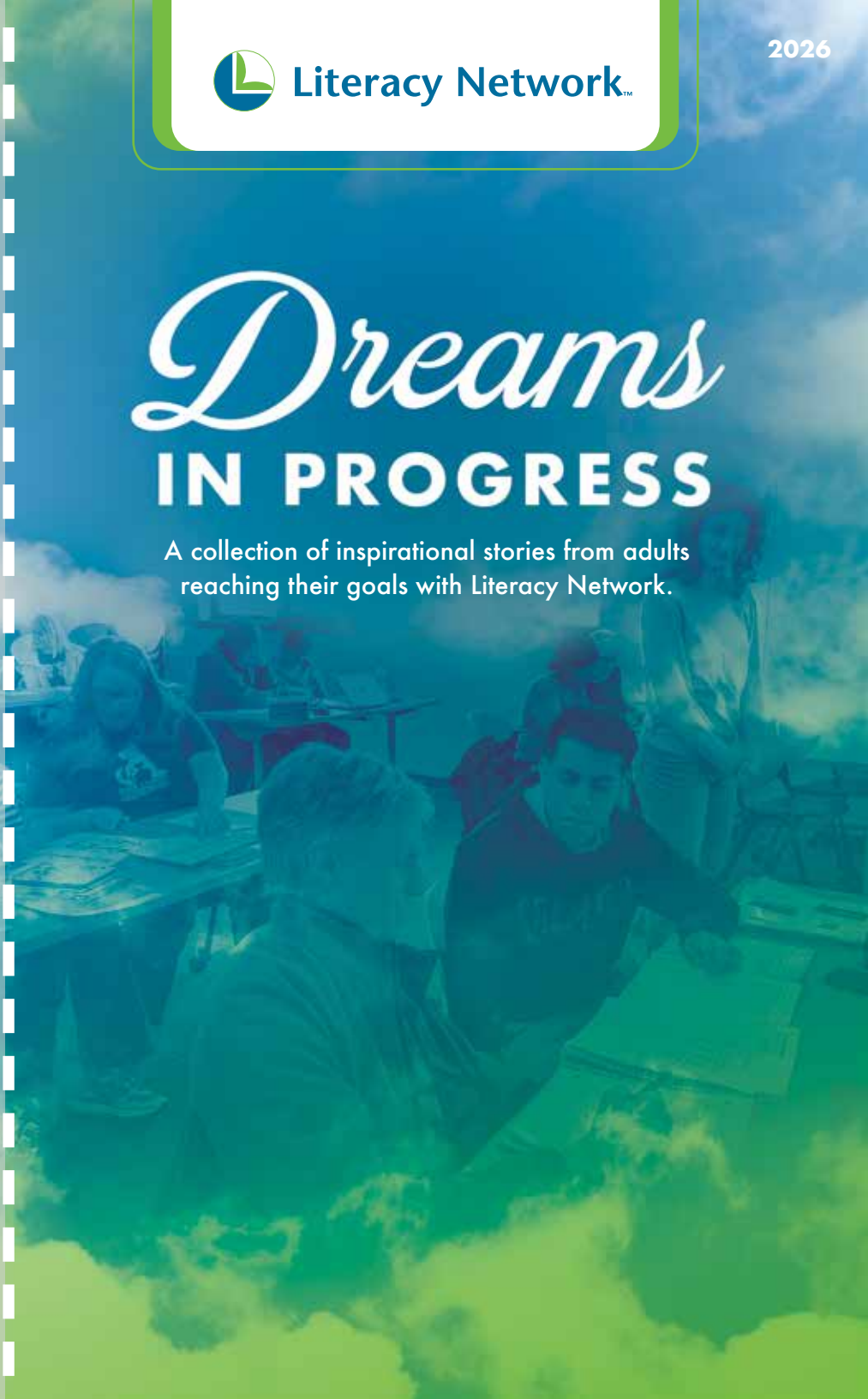
Literacy Network™

2026

# *Dreams* **IN PROGRESS**

A collection of inspirational stories from adults reaching their goals with Literacy Network.

SPIRAL BINDING AREA





## **OUR MISSION**

Literacy Network helps adults in Dane County build skills, reach goals, and connect communities.



Since 1974, adults at Literacy Network have built their skills for improved opportunities. Adult literacy education leads to long-term impacts in the lives of students and their families.

**Adults at Literacy Network:**

- find meaningful, family-sustaining jobs
- communicate better with their children’s schools
- gain their U.S. citizenship
- obtain their high school equivalency diplomas
- take the next step to college and other certifications
- learn the basic reading, writing, and English language skills that support them in all areas of life

We are proud to have supported 1,700+ students in 2025—a record number for the third year in a row!—with the collaboration of 30 regular employees, dozens of community partners, and hundreds of volunteers.

# *Dreams* **IN PROGRESS**

The following writing offers authentic personal perspectives from adult students in Literacy Network programs. Students chose to respond to some or all of the following questions:

- ***What is your dream? Why?***
- ***How do you work toward your dream? or What progress have you made toward your goal?***
- ***Many dreams are not easy. What makes it hard to reach your dream?***
- ***What (or who) helps you keep working on your dream?***
- ***Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream? How?***

These stories are unedited and reflect the abilities of more than 100 students, all at different places on their journey of adult education.

## **CARLOS**

*Level 2 English Class*

My name is Carlos, and I am from Ecuador. I moved to the U.S. 5 years ago. I have many dreams! I can accomplish them. I bought my first car. I have a good job. I can build a house now. I want to accomplish many goals, travel, speak fluently, have children and money.



## **EVERTH**

*Workplace English*

Hello! My name is Everth, and I'm here for to share my goals with you. I have many dreams that I would like to fulfill in the future, such as having my own business based on a barbershop and my own welding workshop. One of my biggest focuses is sending my children to the best university. Also I would like to be fluent in English. I'm very excited that Dane Manufacturing and the Literacy Network has given me the opportunity to focus on a second language.

## **MARVIN**

*Workplace English*

My name is Marvin, I'm from Nicaragua. I have many dreams. One of my goals is a improvement in my English until I'm fluent. To achieve this dream, I have to study so much. Another dream is to return to my country with my goals achieved.



My name is Manuel. I hope to achieve my dreams. I hope to get permanent documents for my family, being the basis for the others. To achieve this dream, we have to live correctly and honestly, complying with the laws of the country. I also want to open one business. I have to conduct market research to determine the business opportunity. My friends and family help me. Finally, I want to see my daughters succeed. We need to manage university study scholarships.

**TATIANA**

My name is Tatiana. I am from Nicaragua. I moved to the U.S. 17 years ago with my husband and my son. I have many dreams for me and my family. Right now, I am working as a machine operator at Dane Manufacturing. I like this job because I create pieces for different items. My dream is to start my own business with my husband and my son. Also I hope that he graduates and has my grandchildren!

*"My dream is to start my own business  
with my husband and my son."*

## IAN

*Workplace English*

My name is Ian. I'm from Nicaragua. I moved to the U.S. 5 years ago. It has been a big change in my life, and all these years I learned a lot of new things. I work like a welder, and my dream is go back to my country and have all my family in my life. I have a lot of goals, like be fluent in English, start my own business and support my family, and I would like to travel to a lot of countries.

## JORGE ROJAS

*Workplace English*

My principal dream is to live in peace. I need to have patience. I studied at the Literacy Network for the American Citizen test. I am thankful for it. I need to work next three years before my pension. In this moment I want to work in my own ranch with animals, to help my friends and family, and to live in peace. I have home and the land. I want that to be a good investment.

## BRAD

*Level 2 English Class*

My name is Brandon I am from every country hahaha just kidding, I am from Nicaragua. I have many dreams, I have already completed several. One dream is open business and get jobs. My second dream is visit my friends and family in my country. Another dream is visit Asian countries and I will do all this through hard work and perhaps with help of some people.



## **PATRICIA**

*Level 2 English Class, ESL Tutoring*



I have many dreams, but now I want to be fluent in English. I hope to get a new job or to advance in my job position. I want to help my daughters with their dreams too. I want to help Latin and American people in their communication in my job and the community. To achieve this dream I have to change my routine. I have to be disciplined in my study time. My job is my first help and my school, Literacy

Network is my support. My teacher Caitlin is very patient with me.

## **ISABEL SANLUÍS**

*Level 3 English Class*

When I was a child my dream was to be a makeup artist. Now I do makeup but it is not enough. I want to study cosmetology because in a future I want to open a beauty salon. That's why I want to learn English. It's difficult for me because I have to work and when I come to class I'm very tired but it does not matter because I know one day I'm going to speak English.

## **ELIZABETH**

*Workplace English*

I have many dreams. One of my goals is to be fluent in English. To accomplish this goal, I have to study so much. I take classes studying my work day at Dane Manufacturing.

## **ANA ELIZABETH**

*Level 2 English Class*

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Thank God I have already achieved several dreams because I am an older person. Already did goals in work. I am a grandma and mom. But I still have some dreams! One of my dreams is to speak fluent English. I have to study and practice conversation with other people. Another dream is to travel. I like to learn about other cultures, visit new cultures, and meet new people. I hope to visit some places on the eastern and southern of the United States, Mexico, and places in Europe como Rome, Paris, London, Madrid, Portugal. I have to save money because to travel is expensive. Fortunately, there are credit plans available for travel. First of all, I want to visit the Virgin of Guadalupe to give thanks for the next surgery of my grandson Angelo in his brain. I have faith all will be fine with help of God.

## **MIRNA**

*Workplace English*

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My name is Mirna. I have one son and one grandson. My dream is to meet my grandson's children. To achieve this dream, I have to take care of my health. I also dream of spending a long time in English-speaking places for communication with all people in the U.S.A. I thank Dane Manufacturing for opportunity to study the language that improves our communication.

*"I also dream of spending a long time in English-speaking places for communication with all people in the U.S.A."*



Have you ever opened your eyes and already felt a challenge waiting for you? Some battles come from the outside your window , others wait for us in own mirrors, inside our minds and bodies. I have learned that the hardest challenges are often the ones that people cannot see.

I am a mother, a woman living with a chronic illness, a teacher and student who wants to continue her education. For more than twenty years, I have lived with Ankylosing Spondylitis, a degenerative autoimmune disease that affects my mobility, memory, and vision. I am constantly in pain; the pain never goes away, I just learned how to live with it, I am always an extreme tiredness. Simple tasks can require much more effort for me than for others

Living with this condition has changed my life. It has taught me patience, strength, and faith. I believe that our attitude is stronger than any diagnosis. Even when my body feels weak, I choose not to give up. As a mother, I want to be an example of perseverance and courage.

Moving to a new country was another big challenge. I had to learn a new language, new culture, and start my professional life again. There were moments of fear and doubt. However, I decided to continue studying and improving myself. Step by step, I became stronger and more confident.

One of my dreams that I want to be realized is to become fluent, I want to become a bilingual interpreter and personal coach to support Hispanic community who feel unheard because of language barriers. I also hope to grow my small business where

I offer event services I want to create opportunities for others, improving and changing their lifestyle.

I trust God in every step of my journey. This scholarship will help me continue my professional education and turn my challenges into purpose.

In conclusion, my dream of learning English is very important to me because it is the first step toward becoming a fluent speaker. It will help me grow professionally and personally, and it will give me the confidence to achieve my goals and serve others in my community.

## **JOSE ALEGRIA**

*ESL Tutoring*

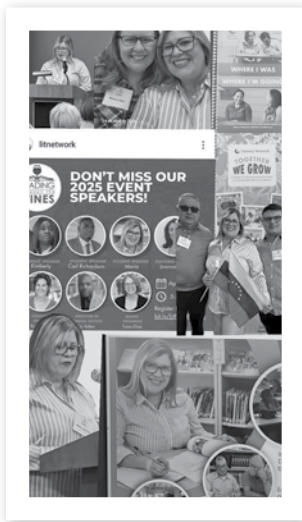
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My dream is to build some cabins on my land in Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, because it is a beautiful and peaceful place. I came here with that idea in my mind, although sometimes I had some difficulties in the middle, but I always stay focused on my main goal.

I believe that if you focus and work hard you can make your dreams come true, following a good plan. In my case, I work hard to save money and support my family. Sometimes I lost focus on my plan, but my friends and family helped and motivated me to focus again.

I feel really thankful with Literacy Network, because they help me a lot with the language and give me the opportunity to lead a more normal life here. Also, they give me more education and knowledge and I improve my skills to be prepared for the GED course. With that course I can increase my opportunities in my job.

*"I believe that if you focus and work hard you can make your dreams come true, following a good plan."*



## My Unplanned Dreams and Goals

Every achievement, whether personal or professional, from my point of view, stems from an emotion; dreams, goals, perhaps even our life plan, seek a feeling that gives us the yearning to achieve it.

When I arrived in this country, my biggest obstacle was the language; not being able to do something as simple as talking to other people, taking a bus, or going to the market. From that moment, my biggest dream was born:

to speak a language different from my own and thus be able to express my feelings and emotions to other people.

From that small yearning, I began to look for information about institutions that would give me the opportunity to learn from the beginning, that would have staff who had the patience and methodology to educate from the start, and thus be able to move forward with this dream that I had set for myself.

In my constant search, I discovered Literacy Network, an institution that provided everything I was looking for from the very beginning: a methodological learning system from the outset. Their teachers and tutors give you the opportunity to develop gradually as you progress through the learning process, while also offering a helping hand to support you throughout the support, their care, charisma, and communication become a part of you.

Literacy Network has not only given me the opportunity to learn another language, to share with other people from a different

culture than my own, it has given me the possibility of fulfilling other personal dreams that I did not dare to do, such as writing in their annual collection of stories of older adults, participating in Reading Between the Wines as a speaker and telling my story to many of our sponsors, being part of the advertising image about literacy of older adults.

All of this was not built alone; I owe a great deal to my family, my husband and my son who have supported me, and to all those people who have joined me along the way to offer unconditional help and their time. Those unsung heroes, as I call them, whom most people don't know, but who are there to support you, such as the administrative and academic staff of Literacy Network. To them, my most sincere words of gratitude.

My journey doesn't end here; there are still many goals, dreams, and purposes to fulfill. Perhaps, throughout each day, other ideas will emerge that will allow me to learn and improve my confidence, fostering my personal growth. Aspirations transform into goals that, through perseverance, motivation, enthusiasm, and heart, can be achieved. The key to making it possible is to stop seeing it as unattainable.

As Gandhi said, "Dreams seem impossible at first, then improbable, and finally inevitable when we do commit to them."

## **ALEXIS**

*Workplace English*

Hi. My name is Alexis and I have many dreams. One of my goals is to study for an MBA in USA. For this goal I need to learn English and understand when people talk to me in English. I am studying English already in my work and at Madison College.



I want to be a Successful online reseller Because this job allows me to Works from home and at the same time I can take care of my children, and also I Love doing this job. I want to learn more about this topic. For example. Clothes, Bags, top Brands. Trending Brands and styles, tipe of Fabrics, Platforms to Cross listings, platforms to sell, and all about fashion. I has been doing sales little by little. I think I'm open to learn,

because i feel and I need Two apply strategies. To reach my goals. I feel Discourage Sometimes. However, I continue, doing my job to get what i want for me and for my Family. I would like to have enough knowlegde and etrategies to reach my goals fast and easy but I know that I have to be patient.

As an adult I decided to learn about this Business. I feel motivated by hispanic people in the social media whose encourage others to become resellers. But the first thing is that i was looking for a Job that allows me work from home or start my own Business in order to take care of my two years baby and spend time with my family, [My three children] My Family respects what i do. Because is good for me in for my Children. I have been learning about this job in youtube, and tiktok and also i paid a course to learn more about it. I am in the ESL transition class. And In this classes I have been Improving my English. Learning English has Helped me to use different online sales platforms, which are all in English. Learning English has permitted me feel more confident. This because i sometimes do Live shows. I am very grateful with Literacy Network For the support they have given me and others Inmigrants. I am very proud to be part of your students And I want to say thank you to all my teachers, especially Catalina Thomsen

and Megan Kennedy because with patience teach their classes. Thank you very much.

*“Learning English has permitted me  
feel more confident.”*

## **JUAN**

*Workplace English*

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My name is Juan, and I am 21 years old. I have many dreams. I am start my first business – a clothing store. I want my store to be one of the best in the future. For now, I want to make it grow little by little. I also have a dream that is to be able to learn fluent English. I am studying English now as part of my work at Dane Manufacturing.

## **OLGA**

*Level 2 English Class*

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My goal is to be an elementary teacher, because I am passionate about child development and teaching.

I have an course Introduction to Childcare and started Fundamentals of Childcare and I’m still studying English. I find it difficult to speak English work and spend time with my family. My husband and daughters are supportive of my dream. Literacy Network it teaches me words, and speaking English that way helps me make my dream come true.





I have many dreams, one of my dreams is study about hydraulic engineering. To achieve this dream, I have to get technical training for this specialization. Learning English is an important part of this goal. I am study English in Dane Manufacturing. Thank you for your kindness in letting us express our dreams.

**SEEMA SARMAL***Level 3 English Class*

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I want to earn money in this country. So I will try to make crocheting work. And I want to sell on the Facebook or other sites like this. Although I am highly educated person. But here the system is totally different from my country.

So in the end, I thought crocheting is good option to earn money here. Although my mother taught me the crocheting while I was a little kid as a fun and be a creative person. I don't know this hobby will work in this way.

**ZULEIKA***Workplace English*

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My name is Zuleika and I am from Puerto Rico. I moved to the US 9 years ago with my children. My dream is my children graduate from high school and go to university.

My name is Chou I am from Laos. My family moved to the USA in 1993. We lived in Fresno, CA. I got married and moved to Madison WI in 1996. One of my dreams is to work hard and save money, because I would like to support my children to go to college and do sport, dance. My husband and I each have a full time job and also farming after work and do farmer market on the weekend.

**ERIKA SALMERON LUCIANO**

My dream is learn English and help my husband with his work project.

I have a English Class (Tuesday and Thursday). I listen to music on English. I ask my 6 year old son to teach me what he learned at school about English.



Being a mother, wife, and woman is difficult, unfortunately, there isn't enough time for everything.

My husband, motivates me to come to class. My children, aged 5 and 6, are learning English at the same time with songs and children's books.

Literacy Network help me. They motivate me every time I come to class, they greet me with a big smile.

## SONG

*Workplace English*



My name is Song. I'm from Thailand. I moved to the U.S. 2004. My first year, my dreams: I wanted my children go to school, learn English. I wanted them know how to speak English well. After that I wanted to find a job and save money, buy the house for our family.

Second dreams! I wanted my children to to college, be a doctor or find the good job. 2025, my third daughter and daughter-in-law have accomplished my dreams. My daughter got a doctorate of nurse practitioner, and my daughter-in-law a doctorate of pharmacy.

My third dreams! Is I want to be healthy and save money, go to travel with my children in the future. I'm single mom. I have 7 children, 4 girls and 3 boys in my life.

## MARCO

*Workplace English*

My name is Marco, I am from Bolivia. I have lived in this country for many years. I have goals. After I retire I want to travel around the world. Meet many people and cultures, variety of views, putting happy with music and dancing different rhythm. Eating different kind of food and drink variety of beverage. Meeting of different people always is enriching of the life, be happy no matter what happens.

## MARIA

Level 2 English Class

My dream is to be a bilingual teacher and I can help everyone, specially a children with special condition. So well, I have been taking English classes to improve my English level, and I did different courses about childcare and administrative support. I know that many dreams aren't easy, and really what makes my dream hard is don't have free time everyday. So, I am a wife, a mother, a worker, and I love spend time with my family. Usually, I take a break for my dream a couple hours at the end of the day. I understand that I need to improve my English to get a better employment, and I have more opportunity as a balance in my life. Of course, Literacy Network help me through English classes to made toward my goal.

*"My dream is to be a bilingual teacher and I can help everyone, specially a children with special condition."*

## RICHARD

Workplace English

My name is Richard, and I am from Venezuela. I moved to the U.S. 8 years ago. I want speak English fluently, but I studying CNA. It's a challenge for me because it's totally new career for me.

After I get certified as a CNA, I would like to study phlebotomy. I want to travel with my son to Japan, for gift on his 15th birthday.



I came to the U.S. 20 years ago. I am from Mexico. One day I hope my dreams can come true. I work at ETC as an assembler. I've been working for 10 years now. I work so hard to support my family and try to save as much money I can to be able to own a house one day. I work extra hours, I try to make my job efficient every day. One day I would like to travel to Mexico to visit my family.

It's not easy to talk about dreams because sometimes it is related to many wishes. And there are a lot of them. And it's when it becomes complicated because someone wants all of them.

However, when we grow up, we learn that dreams and hopes sometimes are not for real and it's necessary to work on something or to do a big change to make a dream come true.

I think that to dream is important because it creates a path to go and it sets a basis to start something and when you get a point to start, you can't stop anymore. One thing leads to another.

Often, the place when you start your dream is completely different when you continue your dream or where you finish it.

Personally I always wanted to be challenged for new things and new tasks. To be part of another culture and be a member of its society it's a great goal. To be helpful and useful.

To be incorporated into a new society, culture or country's way of life it's not easy and even harder when someone it's not young anymore and their background is completely the opposite. That person for its integration needs a task (And at that age someone would find mandatory tasks!)

Also that person needs help to be trained and good counsel and advice. If not loneliness is immense.

At the beginning I was scared of the dilemma of a new life in a new country. As far as my family needed me I wanted at the same time to be a strong member of a community.

That's my dream.

What's the problem with that dream?

That there are a lot of obstacles.

It requires time and effort. And meanwhile to work in everyday life. So to be constant and disciplined become fundamental. However it requires a lot of help from the wisdom of a teacher. Its guidance and counsel. If not, it feels like a blindness spot.

In these almost four years that Literacy Network has helped me I have seen the big change that has happened to me.

I still remember my first days at work when people got desperate with me and nobody talked to me. And when someone tried to talk to me, despite my efforts I didn't understand anything.

That doesn't mean that today I'm not making mistakes or I got everything under control but I can see the enormous difference.

Everything that was a problem becomes a goal. I needed to improve and could solve a lot of things at work and everyday life, like paying at the store. Go to a restaurant, take a bus trip or to visit a doctor at the hospital. Just to give some examples.

Literacy Network has given help to me in many ways like personalized attention and support with materials. The personnel have been very serious in this matter of my learning and gave me a lot of help. All the teachers that I have been working with are just great.

I'm very happy to be here and grateful.

I know that I'm not done and the task of learning a new language and to be a part of a society it's like being in another world. It's like a dream that never ends.

At the same time you can't stop learning. And the chores and duties continue.

Thank you.

## **WILDER**

*Level 2 English Class*



My name is Wilder. My dreams are: speak English, open to business, travel to Venecia Italy, have a house, and more.

## **DIEGO ANDRES ESPINOZA TELLES**

*Level 2 English Class*

My personally dream is keep working, get money, and learning English for study in some university (I don't know where yet). In my whole life I wanna study medicine. In big part that why like 4 people in my family studied that.

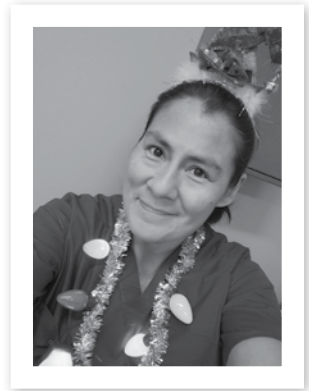
I always try to make better my life. For make real my big dream, I need to change too many things in my life for get that.

My mom, my grandmother, and my friends are always available for help me in everything they can. I will keep trying.

I have a lot of goals. But my priority are to get my U.S. Citizenship and speak fluently in English. I take a class and study little by little. Sometimes I read books for fun. I also enjoy to practice conversation with family, friend, coworker, and teacher. I have many dreams, but I know I can achieve them!

**ROXANA APARCANA RODRIGUEZ***Transitions ESL Class*

My name is Roxana Aparcana Rodriguez and I am from Lima- Peru. I have my family living in the United States for years and I 've been living here for two years as well. I'm working in UW Hospital as an environmental Service Tech.



When I was a child, my dream was to be like my mother, a nursing technician, she obtained her profession at the hospital. My mother started as Housekeeper there. Actually I am having the opportunity to learn about nurse assistant and follow one of its brand. But I saw my Mother knit and crochet, I felt so curious that tried to do the same and she notice on me that I like to sew clothes for my doll, every rag I found I used for to made clothes for my dolls and she gave me some new cloth and I was happy because I did some new dresses. My Mother passed away very young at 48 years old. This took me away from my dream.

Years passed until a neighbor's sister told me that her sister had opened a small place for making craft. She has done many beautiful things, so I decided to take some courses there. This is what I love to do, creating things by hand and I was very smart on

this. I started thinking about having my own business and began selling what I made and have my own brand in the future. I came back to my dream.

I've taken some courses to reach my project, such as how to make candles, how to make different boxes, porcelain, etc. At the same time I was studying how to run a business, import and export courses. I always was looking for opportunities to sell what I was learning and other products too. One part of my life I dedicated to try to have my own business on my own. Now I really want to take up my dreams again.

It is true that some dreams are so hard to reach out but as I said how do you know it won't work if you've never tried it? And I know there will be some obstacles in my path to having my own business, but that's what it means to gain experience and grow. I'll have to get back up and keep going, always being persistent and disciplined.

I need to update all with new techniques, it is difficult but not impossible.

When I was a child my mother was who always supported my arts. She gave me some new cloth to design the dresses to my dolls and after years, my now friend who is very skilled at making doll patterns she told me one day: "you have the ability to create and carry out your own projects" she gave me advice on how to run a possible small business, what I should keep in mind and she always gave me tips on how to carry out my small creations, how I can develop my own art. At the same time she taught me how to calculate the cost of each item. She inspired me a lot in how to express my own art. Now, I would like to take some courses about how to create patterns if it is possible. But I know I need to update all about what I learned because there are new techniques and different methods to do all those creations.

I am taking English classes and I met very nice people. Our teacher

is always open to understanding each situation with her students. They talked to us about the scholarship, what opportunity we have to make true our dream. They gave us their experience and they are being honest to make the reality, means what are the steps we should follow, they give us the necessary guidance and help us improve our English for good communication. Thank you Literacy Network!

*"It is true that some dreams are so hard to reach out but as I said how do you know it won't work if you've never tried it?"*

## **LARISA**

*Workplace English*

I have a dream! My dream is buy my own apartment in US. Improve my English, pay off my car. Travel in Montenegro for visit my sister. Also I have to help my daughter graduate. My biggest dream is to live by the sea, make my own cheese, and grow roses. I would also like to teach to dance Tango. Travel a lot, study different cultures and the way of life of people in other countries. Finally, dance the Tango at my granddaughter's wedding.





My dream is speak fluent English and go to school get my GED and go to university, get my Bachelor of Business Administration. Travel the world and enjoy the life. I want a ranch in Texas with a river, buy many animals, plant fruit trees, retire with good money and live on my ranch.

**JOSÉ ANGEL***Level 1 English Class*

*What is your dream?*

My dream is to speak English  
go to my country

*What things do you do for your dream?*

study a lot

*What makes it difficult to reach your dream?*

little motivation

*What or who helps you with your dream?*

My family  
My teacher

*Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream?*

Yes, it has helped me to communicate

My dream is to learn to speak English as well I can and to read and write it as well possible.

Because I want to help my daughter so she can be independent and not have to worry about helping me.

I try to study as much as I can in English, I take classes here at Literacy Network, listen music and watch movies in English I try to practice on my own but I think I still have a long way to go.



Although I know I still have a lot to learn, I feel I've learned much more than the last semester.

I understand English better when I listen to it and also when I read it I'm trying to write more to learn more vocabulary.

I know it's not easy, but I can make more progress.

What or who encourages me to keep going?

Helping my daughter, and believing in myself.

I also appreciate the support I receive from you all; I should strive to do better.

The organization of the Literacy Network team is fundamental to achieving my goal.

Thank you very much.

## **MAMADOU LAMARANA DIALLO**

*Level 2 English Class*

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My dream is to be a public lawyer, for defending against internal conflict. Working toward a public interest lawyer requires demonstrating a strong, consistent commitment to serving the public through targeted law school. This is not easy because I have difficulty adopting the U.S. culture. It is hard to reach my dream, it's hard because, I sometimes need help for writing. My family, because I can chase my dreams.

Yes, my class helps me with my dream because it helps me improve my English skills. I'm learning to read, write, and speak more confidently, which will help me get a better job.

## **SAYDA BLANDÓN**

*Level 2 English Class*

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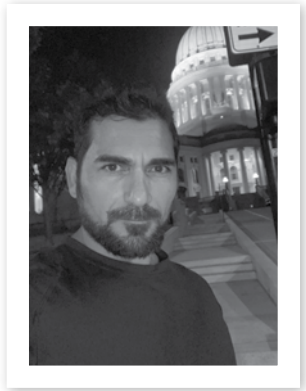
I have several goals, but for now I'm focusing on two at the same time! Since I was a child, I've loved reading books, specially the Christian Bible, and I've always enjoyed exploring the unknown. For me the English language is a big challenge, but I know that with God's help and a great effort on my part I can achieve it. This is going the "extra mile" (going beyond the minimum to reach the maximum). Although on the other hand, I have many responsibilities at home, work, and commitments to my children, it's often very tiring and frustrating, but I remember that I must work on this now so later I can be a help and example for my children.

This is very important to me, and I believe that both goals can be achieved simultaneously! I trust myself and my potential.

*"I trust myself and my potential."*

I want to become an English teacher. After completing my classes and earning my degree, I hope to teach children in other countries and help them pursue dreams that may lead them to opportunities in the United States.

My goal is to help children realize their potential. I aspire to create positive change, much like Hammurabi shaped laws, Plato founded his academy, and Aristotle taught ethics and guided leaders like Alexander the Great. I want to inspire creativity as Michelangelo did in architecture, nurture artistic talent like Da Vinci, encourage musical passion like Beethoven, share scientific curiosity like Darwin, and light up the world with innovation like Nikola Tesla. This is my goal to see the next generation of children to become like.

**EXCELY**

My number one dream is speak and understand the English language.

I am studying United States history. I dedicate a lot of my time to learning the history, the laws, and everything about the United States.

Sometimes I'm too tired and don't want to go to school, then I remember my purpose and continue.

I want to be a source of pride for myself and also for my two children.

## MICAELA GOMEZ

*Level 1 English Class*



My dream is to learn to read, write, and talk in English for my future. I have an English class (Tuesday Thursday) and practice on Saturdays. Many words sound similar and the pronunciation is difficult. My book, my papers, and my teachers Ena and Anna help me. The class at Literacy Network helps me to read, write, listen and talk

## ANGEL MORENO

*Level 2 English Class, ESL Tutoring*

My goal is to have my real estate so I can have quality time with my family. To achieve this, I have to continue with my small car sales business and keep working in construction.

Selling a car is a bit slow due to the current crisis, because people are afraid to spend their money. By providing good service, we have achieved slow sales despite the economic crisis.

## MAI

*Level 2 English Class*

My goal is to come to Literacy class and learn how to read and write to the best that I can. Learning how to read and write will make things easier for me so I can start a sewing business. This is one of my many dreams that I would like to achieve.

*"Learning how to read and write will make things easier for me so I can start a sewing business."*

At the moment, my dream is to adapt and find myself in this country. What does this mean to me? First of all, it means feeling needed and being an important part of society. Now I am on the way to this goal.

Many years ago, I did not think that one day I would need to change my habits, my way of life, and my view of the world. I did not expect that I would have to rebuild myself in some way to fit a new reality. It is both difficult and exciting at the same time.

Sometimes it feels like I am not moving as fast as I would like. But when I see how many people support and help me, I want to make more effort to reach my goal. I would especially like to thank Literacy Network and all the people who work there. You not only help to overcome the language barrier, but you also give moral support and many useful pieces of advice. What you do is very important and kind work.

I would also like to thank my tutor, Connie. She is very kind and attentive. She is always patient and ready to help me. I am very grateful for her support. Your support inspires me keep going, to achieve my goals, and to set new ones.

**ANONYMOUS***Level 2 English Class, Citizenship*

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Hello I came to this country to provide for my family and I thank God I am succeeding. For now I'm taking citizenship classes and attending English classes. However difficult they may be we must never stop dreaming and fighting for them. God and my family are my support day by day of course. Thanks to the teachers and tutors I can continue learning every day to fulfill my dreams.

*What is your dream?*

The first step in learning English.

*What things do you do for your dream?*

I try very hard far future.

*What makes it difficult to reach your dream?*

I am usually sick.

*What or who helps you with your dream?*

Always my son and daughter.

*Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream?*

Yes, and I enjoy our teacher's teaching.

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**SAYED MUJTABA HASHIMI***ESL Tutoring*

My name is Sayed Mujtaba Hashimi I am from Afghanistan I came to United States on 5 November 2025 on Special immigrant Visa. I would like to write about myself and my future goal. I have done my bachelor degree in Business Administration major in finance and also I have studied papers of ACCA (Association of chartered Certified Accountants) at American University of Afghanistan and I have 13 years of

experience working in finance. I am good at recording, analyzing, interpreting and auditing financial statements.

Before the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan I worked as finance manager in an organization named Islamic

Investment & Finance Cooperatives Group (IIFC-G) which was funded by WOCCU/ USAID. Our organization was a micro finance institution which provided loan to business, agricultures and personals sectors. The aim was to boosting the people economy in the society as well as creating jobs for the people through loan which was financed to them. Our main goal was to decrease the poverty rate in the society.

After the withdrawal of the USA troops from Afghanistan living in my country was became very difficult and our life in danger. So we decided to leave Afghanistan and went to Pakistan to process our immigrant visa (SIV Visa) there. Finally we got our visa and come to USA.

Here in USA my first goal is to prolong my studies in Finance/ Accounting field through study some finance/accounting courses and some certification such as CPA (Certified public accountant), CMA (Certified Management accountant) and CFA (Certified Financial accounting). After this I have plan to establish my own accounting firm where I can create jobs for the people and where I can present best accountants to the society. As I newly start my life in USA I am not able to pay the fees for mentioned certification and courses. I really thank Ms. Megan our ELS instructor who is helping me to find a financial aid for my studies in Madison College. I wish I could find a financial aid to prolong my studies and it enable me to reach my future goal so that in the future I will be able to help others like as I have been helped.

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**ROCHELLE MARTIN**

*Essential Literacy Tutoring*

I want to be a writer of kids' books. I go to the library for tutoring for help writing.

My dream is to improve my reading, writing and comprehension, skills because I feel that I didn't have much help with it in the past, when I was younger. So now that I'm older and the world is full of options for me. I want to learn new things and go back to school. Although I'm going to need help on my reading to succeed in whatever career that I'm going to be choosing to open up a new journey in my life.

I believe Literacy Network helps me get closer to my dream in a way. Because I'm learning things that I didn't catch on to when I was younger. I'm making progress on it now. Although there's one thing that I don't like about it. Is that we only get one day of the week to learn. But for me the one day is better than no days. So I'm very thankful for that one day. It's a step closer to achieving my dream.

Since I was a child, I had been interested in the human body and intrigued by its complexity. While in the 8th grade, I realized what happened to body sickness and recovery, then sickness and recovery, so my question was what happened inside the body and how that happened, so I want to be a doctor. I really admire them and I want to be like them. I am doing advanced reading to become familiar with diagnosis and medicine. Until high school I discovered how the immune system works, how it responds, and how it recovers, so, I wanted to be someone who researches and figures out the issues and how the system works. I was sure about achieving my dream which is to be a scientist (immunologist).

I became interested in science, I started to read short articles, books, and watch videos. I did not stop there, but I got some books

from my aunt who was a nurse, and I had done some work on pets, like covering injuries, helping them to recover quickly, investigating the reasons and watching how they recover, which I love, which saves a lot of pets life. I discovered that some have weak immune systems which have poor or slow immune responses while others one has perfect responses which mean a good immune system. So, I said what happened with people also and I felt I put my hand on the first line to understand how the immune system works and how it could keep it strong because this system is like the boss in our body and the cells like police and security systems.

My passion and interest grew and I want to know more about it, so, I chose the science college which is the first step in my immunology. My family and professor encouraged and inspired me. So, I wanted to know as much as possible. I completed undergraduate then started more deep in immunology which I discovered immunotherapy. I started my Master's degree in Immunology. Since I got it, I was more eager for more knowledge. So, I came to the United States to pursue my goal which is to start my PhD in immunology.

I want to help people in poor countries to recover from some immunity and autoimmunity disease, cancer, and others.

I believe I can do that and God will help me because this is humanity more than finance. I still try to get it, but there are still a lot of obstacles preventing me, but I will be someday and I will fight for this dream. I will get help and push to be in.

I believe God chose the perfect time for me. I will be able to achieve my dream, and I will keep praying, studying, and working until I achieve my dream.

*"I came to the United States to pursue my goal which is to start my PhD in immunology."*



Me and my family many years ago started to build a dream to buy a house.

We keep working, save money, keep learning English, this three things are very important to achieve our own dream . When we know more English we can find more options about what we can do and we can't, and the experience of others peoples buying their first house.

We have to check about the loan interest rates, how many years we have to keep pay, the best place for live, about schools for kids, about my commute, the house history if isn't new, how many years have the house, how much the old owners pay for bills, how rules they have in the neighborhood . If we don't know English we don't have answers for all this questions.

But now we know English we can find the better options..

I also have another dream. My second dream is can keep help peoples to explain how important is to learn English and how, and where they can start to learned, motivate and teach them.

I will explain it is not too easy when you have a full time job watch kids do errands, clean the house and attend to English classes but they have different options and its important to keep learning to continuo whit each dream they have.

I keep working toward my dreams by keep taking English classes , learning from other peoples how they bought their house before.

My dream is to improve my English, because I can have better opportunities in all the areas of my life. In my work place with my community, public spaces, or just when I meet other people.

How I work toward my dream is to attend my class and practice what I learn every week. This is helping me to feel more confident, and more aware when I speak, read or write in English.

Sometimes it is hard to follow my dream, because I have to give priority to my job,kids,and family. I try not to give up.

I keep working to improve my English because I'm able to communicate with teachers and support not just my kids, but help the school to connect with the latino community, at the same time I fell so proud to help my community with the English barrier.

Improving my English, helping me to help other people.

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**LACOSSIERE CARL RICHARDSON**

*Transitions ESL Class,  
ESL Tutoring*

A dream is the image you wish to have of you in the near future, it's the vision you have of your ideal future, the direction towards what you aspire to. It is a deep motivation, a clear vision of an objective for projecting yourself into the future, maintaining hope and nurturing as personal engine to move forward. A child usually wants to be famous or is motivated de big things in their life, so in my childhood, I dreamed to become several things like doctor, civil engineer, or study agriculture but



sometimes for some reason they face obstacles or do not have chance to reach their dream.

I had a chance to reach one of the things I dreamed for, but I am living in another country, so I am dreaming now to attend a CNA class because I am currently going through a period of professional, not to mention personal transition. I am facing a new challenge, being in a new country with new system where it seems complicated to work in my field which is agronomy, so I think going to school can help me integrate better into the society because it's often said that, it is not birth that determine one's place in society but rather one's abilities a knowledge. I think that studying here in the U.S can give me a better ability to adapt, not only to the job market but also to everyday activities.

To reach the CNA class, some of the things I have done are taking an English class in order to improve my understanding and speak English more confidently. I am reading a lot of documents about CNA to know exactly the necessary points about CNA, the categories of people you will be working with, the different places a CNA can work. I also talk to other people to get some advices and talk to my English teacher to help me find a scholarship.

Sometimes, you have the dream and you make effort to reach it but that does not mean you will not meet some struggle, something can make it hard to reach your dream because the path to achieve a dream is not often linear. So, when I moved to the US, I said myself if I want to integrate the American culture or society I must speak English, make friends, and go to school but each time I thought about the school, I was scared. I know the class will be taught in English which is made it hard for me to make this decision. Also, I did not know if I can find support if I want to take a CNA class because I did not have money to pay for it class and I also thought about how can I manage my time between work and school since I was dedicating much more time to work. These factors made it hard for me to reach the dream of taking a CNA class.

We know that , sometimes it's not easy to reach a dream that is why we need support from other people or institutions to help you attain a dream, in my case my encounter with the worthy institution Literacy network changes everything; it makes me more confidently by providing me with an English class(E.S.L) and the necessary resources to help enroll in the CNA class. Today, as a student in the transition and tutoring class, I meet people who are always available to give me advice, explain to me the various opportunities at Literacy Network and Madison college that can help me acquire this class. They also connected me with people who can support me. These people and Literacy Network play a vital role on the path to achieving my dream.

Finally, it is important to dream because our dreams are filled with hope for what we want to become, for the creation of a new person, a new entity because the future belongs to those who believes in the beauty of their dreams.

*"These people and Literacy Network play a vital role on the path to achieving my dream."*

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**GLORIA BERNAL**

*Level 2 English Class*

My name is Gloria. I am from Colombia. I came to USA in 2021 in order to join with my family. I have had many dreams along my life. I have accomplished a lot of them. Now I have less dreams but I hope to achieve all that I desire. For instance I want to travel for a long time, maybe one or two years traveling for different countries. I have to save money and have enough time. This dream is every day closer to me because in June I finish my work life, so I'll have time. My family helps me. My children support my dream and they cheer me with love and company.



My name is Darly Pierre. I was born on December 23 in the West Department of Haiti, in the commune of Petit-Goâve. I am the youngest of seven children in a Protestant family where faith has always been the foundation of our lives. From a young age, I learned to put God first in everything I do.

I completed my classical studies and attended university in Port-au-Prince, the capital of Haiti, where I studied Public Administration and Communication. As I was growing up, I always had a deep passion for helping others—especially those who were vulnerable or unable to help themselves. I gave my time and support without expecting anything in return. Without realizing it, that mindset was shaping my path through my education, the businesses I owned in Haiti, the home I built, and eventually my journey to the United States.

In 2022, I married my wife, Trichena, who has been faithfully by my side in everything I do. Today, we are blessed with a beautiful 22-month-old child. In 2024, we moved to the United States and settled in Madison. Starting over in a new country was not easy. One of my biggest challenges was communication because of the language barrier.

To improve my English, I attended classes at the Catholic Multicultural Center for about two months. There, I learned about Literacy Network and enrolled in Transitional English classes. My first goal was clear: to begin a new career in healthcare.

I decided to enroll in the CNA program at Madison College because the program is shorter and there is high demand for CNAs. It was

very challenging, especially because my English was not yet at the level I wanted. However, through faith, perseverance, and hard work, I successfully completed the program. Today, I work for the State of Wisconsin as a Resident Care Technician, serving others with compassion and dedication.

But this is not the end of my journey. My next step is to attend nursing school and become a Registered Nurse (RN). Serving people has always been my passion, and I want to continue doing it at a higher level. To achieve this goal, I am continuing to strengthen my English and prepare myself for success.

When I reflect on my life, I can truly say that about 60% of my journey has been made possible by people God placed on my path—often people I had never met before. I am deeply grateful for the unconditional support of the Garcia family (Leslie and Quinn) and the Bowen family, who have supported us from our very first day in the United States and continue to stand by us today. Their kindness has made a lasting impact on our lives.

I also want to sincerely thank the entire staff at Literacy Network for their priceless work—especially Enna, who enrolled me in Transitional English, and my instructor Megan, who always encourages and guides us.

One of my biggest dreams is to establish a center in Haiti to support children and young people in need, giving them opportunities and hope for a better future.

I live by this principle: “Nothing will change if you change nothing.”

With faith, hard work, and determination, I believe the sky is the only limit.

*“With faith, hard work, and determination,  
I believe the sky is the only limit.”*

My first dream is to become professional in my career and have a stable life. I want this because it means independence. My second dream is to improve my English and continue education so that I can have a better future for myself and my family.

I work toward my dream by studying English every day and practicing what I learn in class. I try to read, write, and speak as much as possible, because I know that progress comes step by step. Sometimes it is not easy, but I continue because I want to improve my future.

My husband supports me with patience and encouragement, and my son gives me strength because I want to be a good example for him. Literacy Network class also helps me a lot, because I learn new vocabulary, practice speaking and feel more confident. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my tutor Sophia for her guidance and support throughout this process.

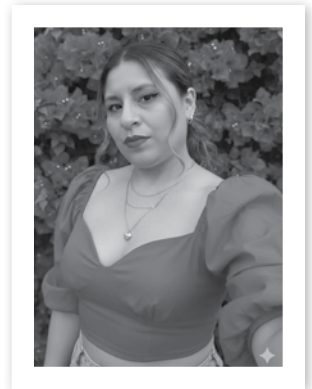
My class at Literacy Network helps me with my dreams because I am improving my English skills by giving my confidence. I can now read books, understand form and talk with other more easily.

My name is Choua. I am from Laos. I move to the United States almost 4 years. I be here because I married with my husband. I have to live with his and I have many dream. I know it very hard but I think I can do. I can learn new thing in the U.S. My first dream is speak English well. I have to go to school and practice conversation with other people. My second dream I want to become a U.S. citizen. I have to take class learn about United States. I hope I pass U.S. citizen test.

## ADELINA

*Level 2 English Class*

My name is Adelina and from Mexico. I moved to U.S. in 2000. I have many dreams. I want to buy my house. I have to work a lot and save money. My 2 dream I want to be fluent English. My 3 dream I want to be a lot job in my business. To achieve this dreams: work more and save money and go to English classes. My son and my teacher helps me with dreams! I know I can achieve.



## NAYELI

*Level 2 English Class*

My name is Nayeli. I want to achieve many things in life. One of my goals is to visit Korea. To achieve this dream I have to work a lot and save money. My supervisor can give me more hours for work.

I also want to be fluent in English. For this goal I need to practice with other people and improve my vocabulary. My classmates and teacher help me with my English.

Another goal is to be financial free. To accomplish this goal, I need to learn how to invest. I have to find a financial advisor to accomplish this dream.

I know I can achieve them!

*"My classmates and teacher help me  
with my English."*

## **CLAUDIA**

*Level 2 English Class*

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My name is Claudia, and I am from Honduras. I moved to the U.S. 3 years ago.

I have many dreams!

One dream is to open a business and travel. My big dream is another baby. I love my family!

## **ATZIN**

*ESL Tutoring*

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My dream is can speak English very well and I can express my feelings and emotions. I'd like to find a new and better opportunities for a job. I'd like a challenge no matter how hard it could be. Can speak an other language is interesting for me, because just thinking about. When I was kid and I can not speak and when I heard my parents speak, I did and I think it is the same thing with the big difference, because now I'm an adult. Learn an other language is hard but not impossible, you can do that.

I have a few thing what help keep working on my dream, these are some examples:

Phone in English language, Watch TV show in English, go to the store for shopping or groceries, at work, keep taking my tutoring English class, listen to music in English and making new friends.

*"Learn an other language is hard but not impossible, you can do that."*

## **ROSSANA MORALES**

*Level 2 English Class*

My dream actuality is learn English more fluid. Because I live in this Country, so that is import to find work, connect with other people.

I work with American people and they help me, talking in English.

Sometimes the pronunciation is not good I, I can't talk and feel insecurity.

Every day, I practice, talking, writing and watching TV in English.

And Literacy Network help me to reach my dream.

The teacher Ilana help me too, because she talk very slow and I can understand, and that make me safer to talk with customer in my job



## **KAMOLA SAFAROVA**

*Level 2 English Class*

My first dreams is to learn English and then move on to other things. I strive for my dream I succeeded through patience. Impatience delays a person from achieving his dreams. Life helps me to continue my dreams.

Yes, of course Literacy Network helped me a lot. I learned many words from Literacy Network.



My name is Bethsalys, and I am from Venezuela. I moved to the U.S. 1 years ago. I have many dreams! I know I can accomplish them. I have to be patient, and work hard. One dream is to be fluent in English. I have to go to English class. My teacher help me with my English. I also want to get my driver's license. I am scared to drive. My husband helps me practice. I have many dreams, but I know I can achieve them!

**MARIA LUISA***Level 2 English Class, Citizenship*

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My dream is learning more so that I can understand and communicate with more people.

I will attend classes every week. I practice speaking english with my daughter at home. I also use duolingo on my phone to learn new things.

It is hard because English is not my first language. Sometimes, I feel nervous to speak. Also grammar is difficult for me, but I keep trying and don't give up.

My daughter helps me a lot. She practices with me and corrects me. My teachers also help me and give me support and patience.

Yes, my class helps me very much. I learn new vocabulary, grammar, and how to speak better. The teacher speaks slowly and helps me understand this class makes me feel more confident.

My name is Mariana. Many years ago, my husband and I arrived in Madison from Ecuador, and it was very difficult. The change, the climate, and the English were all challenging because I couldn't speak or understand. I'm a stylist, and I couldn't work in my field, but I took English classes and learned. Today, I can converse and understand, not perfectly, but I can manage. It hasn't been easy, but it is possible. I have friends with whom I spend time playing basketball, and my friend speaks English while I speak Spanish. I have two children: an 18-year-old son who loves to draw and is in college, and a 15-year-old daughter who has been a manicurist for three years. I am very proud of them; they are my support and motivation to keep going. I volunteer in various places cutting hair, styling makeup, doing manicures, and more. The English classes I've been taking at Literacy Network help me reach more people and improve my pronunciation. That is my goal. Thank you God for all the blessings you give me and thank you to the teachers for their patience with us thank you thank you

**CARLOS***ESL Tutoring*

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My dream for right now is learn more English, I want to speak more. Fluid. With the people. I get more communication. In the future. I want to go to the school and learn about my specialty medicine. Veterinary and (Zootecnia) Animal Husbandry and cows. And my home country I was vet for 6 years.



My current dream is speaking English so well because I would like to work as Auditor again but in United States. I have received several jobs options by LinkedIn in this field but I could not accept for my English level.

I feel than I have improved my English because I am trying to study English every day and attend the Literacy Network classes.

Kate (Literacy Network) helps me a lot for reaching my English dream and my dedication and persistence. I thought that learning English was easier but I know that it is a process and I need patience and persistent.

Literacy Network is a key for reaching my dream because its classes and tutoring are very well and I have learned a lot. Thank you, Literacy Network!

*"I thought that learning English was easier but I know that it is a process and I need patience and persistent."*

My dream is study CNA for more money. I like help old people because they need more help than us. I like take medicine look out the time take a medicine and help live good. Why? Because I do happy to help who is sick and help them live well.

## **ANONYMOUS**

*Level 2 English Class, ESL Tutoring*

People walk and they use the bamboo raft and inner tube and some people know how to swim.

Soldiers don't like people leaving and they always shoot them. People scared and hiding. Soldiers find people and shoot them.

Laos soldiers on top of pandau.

Thai soldiers on bottom of pandau - after people cross river.

We went to Thailand and stay in camp 1984-1989, then U.S.

I married at camp. I didn't know numbers or a,b,c.



## **ESTELA TORRES**

*Community English Class*

1. *What is your dream?* To achieve something in life.
2. *How do you work toward your dream?* Studyin and striving.
3. *What makes it hard to reach your dream?* I am learning to control my mind.
4. *Who helps you keep working on your dream?* Just me
5. *How does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream?* It helps because I want to learn English.

I have always dreamed of myself want to open a small flower shop, but I didn't have experience. But I tried learning hard to do it. Finally I got older, before I'm working so hard, I don't have time to do what I want to do. But now I can't do it. I hope my next life have a chance to do it.

**FILIBERTO***ESL Tutoring*

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My dream is learn ingles for a beter Job one barber's license and communicate with the clients.

Literacy Network is good school for understanding.

I need more convercetion for my cleints and Pepol.

I study Duolingo at Home and School and watch TV and video with ingles subtitles.

**ANONYMOUS***Level 4 English Class*

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First, I want to support myself in USA. Second, I want to help people.

In order to reach the above goals, I want to improve my English and I can communicate with people correctly and immediately.

My dream is to speak English fluently. English is very important for school, work, and communication in daily life. To reach this dream, I am studying hard and practicing every day. Learning new languages is not easy, but I stay motivated because I know it will help me have more opportunities in the future.

The Literacy Network school is helping me achieve my dreams. They are helping me learn English and giving me the confidence to continue learning and improving myself. I am very thankful for the teachers and the opportunity to study there. Step by step I am getting closer to my dream.

My other dream is to become a nurse. I want to be a nurse because I like to help people and take care of others when they are sick or need support. I want to make a positive difference in people's lives.

**PEDRO DIAZ**

I want to learn to speak and write in English because I want work as a senator. Right now I am studying at Literacy Network. I practice every day with my Duolingo App too.

Sometimes what makes it difficult was the time because before had two jobs. Right now have one job and now have time for study.

Literacy Network, my wife Yusely help me. The teacher Ena is good. She explain and she is dynamic.





It has always been my dream to be a good English speaker. That is my main focus right now and I am working towards it. I want to improve my English so that I can better communicate with people in the grocery store, classes, and so I can find a job faster. For instance, I can attend my classes, work on assignments, and submit them before the deadline with ease. My daughter advised me to study with Literacy Network to improve my English and at the same time practice at home. After that, I connected with the Literacy Network. They gave me the resources to study for my high school equivalency diploma ( HSED ), so I started studying and ended up getting the degree. My daughter and my family were very proud of me because this degree opened many doors for me, including making studying for the Citizenship exam easier. I also studied a lot and also entered a course in Literacy Network. The Literacy Network and my family helped me a lot, and I am very happy with these achievements.

My dream is to have my own business in my country. Why? Because I want to provide for my family and one day be able to be together sharing many moments that I have missed with them.

I know that day will come, but for now I try my best and strive to do my best in this country. I know this is all a process, but I know that with God's help and all the good people I know, I will achieve it.

## **GABRIELA QUIROGA**

*Level 1 English Class*

*What is your dream?*

My grand dream is talk Ingles Fluid.

*What things do you do for your dream?*

I think have more friends maybe opportunities. I need to defend myself.

*What makes it difficult to reach your dream?*

No speak Ingles.  
Is necessary.

*What or who helps you with your dream?*

I look people help me tutor.

*Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream?*

Yes Literacy Network help me Citizenship every day suport to me



## **ISRAEL SANTIZO**

*Community English Class*

I want to understand English so I can enjoy movies, music, and conversations with new people.

I want to share my culture and have others share theirs with me. This is to connect with new people and new places.

*Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream?  
How?*

Yes I can practice my speaking and listening. Also I am learning more words and gramar, in addition to having corrections when I make mistakes.

## **KAREN ORTIZ**

*Level 1 English Class, ESL Tutoring*

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My dream is for my son to have a professional career. I will work hard so that I can help him complete his studies.

*What makes it difficult to reach your dream?*

being a single mother, sometimes it's difficult because of my job

*What or who helps you with your dream?*

Myself.

*Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream?*

Yes, of course, because he hoped to find a better job

## **GERMAN**

*Level 1 English Class*

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My dream is learning English for a new job. I'm going to make a best student.

Make me difficult for my dream the language.

My teachers English class help me much.

Literacy Network also it has helped me a lot.

## **MARLON CHARA**

*Community Literacy*

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I would like to study mechanic because there a lot of work mechanic industry

*What is your dream?*

Learn English to grow professionally.

*What things do you do for your dream?*

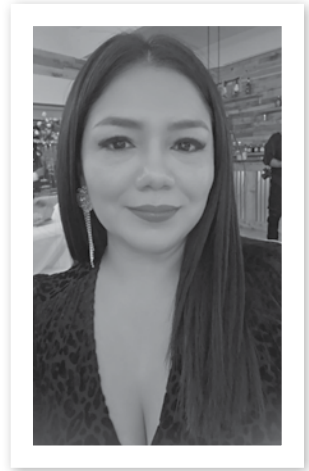
study, learn.

*What makes it difficult to reach your dream?*

Pronounce it.

*What or who helps you with your dream?*

My teacher, My husband.



*Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream? How?*

Yes, I like my classes, my teacher, They are dedicated to helping us learn. I have three years to learn English so I can become a citizen, and literacy helps me.

I used to have a tailor shop when I was in VietNam so I aslo want to open a tailor shop here. When I was little, my mother bought me a doll, but it only came with one clothes. After that, I started sewing clothes for the doll by myself, and then I loved sewing. In here because the language barrier, I need to learn English to take business classes. It is not easy, besides learning English class at Literacy Network, I also use apps to improve knowledge. I hope I can open a tailor shop here.

*"I hope I can open a tailor shop here."*



It is very hard have one dream, now I'm feel one dream, never imagined go back to school for learn other language. English is hard to learn when you have many things in your head, but try every day to reach my dream. Yes my dream is speak with the people in my community, help to grown together, help my son to reach his dream; my dream is help other people to reach his dream the

same time with me. Literacy Network with the tutors is special part to reach my dream. All the time they looking better way for learn. They are very special with the inmigrant community. Tutors are very patients with the students. They have all the time smile is your face. They are special person for me. Literacy Network is fundamental pice for reach not only my dream for many people reach their dreams. I know every day try go ahead. I hard for reach my dream is looking people same my tutor for practice.

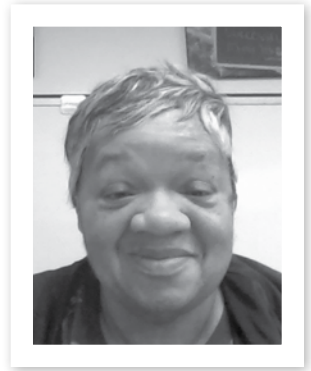
My dream is to be a nurse. Because I got old and more and more want to learn knowledge about healthcare for myself and others, that can take good care of myself and others. I am sure knowing that my dream is not easy to achieve. I really want to improve my English speaking, listening, writing and reading at my Literacy Network class and my teacher very helpful in helping my dream.

## JACQUALINE TIBBS

*Essential Literacy Tutoring*

My dream is to become a paralegal because when I was in my late 20's I worked for the ALJ I was copying and deleting files out of a that the ALJ couldn't do. Someone said that I should look into becoming a paralegal

*How do you work toward your dream?*  
By going back to school and getting help with my reading and writing.



*Who helps you keep working on your dream?* My tutor at the literacy program by helping me with my reading and writing

## YOLANDA

*Level 3 English Class*

My dream is to travelling around Europe, because I like to get to know new cultures, stories. The countries I would like to know for history is: Italy, Greece, Portugal, Paris, Netherlands, etc. To fulfill this dream is to save, but nothing is impossible.

*"To fulfill this dream is to save,  
but nothing is impossible."*

## ABDURAMANE

*Level 3 English Class*

I have a dream to be a great businessperson. I do careful my goal to keep my dream well. Be focused in your proposit and believe in yourself. My resilience help me to much. [Literacy Network helps me] because I learned a lot of thing.



My dream is to learn English and open my business and talk better with the people. I want a better life and more money.

*Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream?* Yes, because I learn English grammar and pronunciation. I understand coworkers and my supervisor better and I need speak English in my business.

**LADY***Level 2 English Class*

My name is Lady. I am from Colombia. I have been here for 2 beautiful years. I have many dreams of course. However, here and in my near future I really want to make it come true, especially 2.

One of these dreams is to speak English very well and fluently. I want to have a big conversation with people, tell good jokes without bad interpretations, and help people. Because of this, I assist every Monday and Wednesday English class at Literacy Network. And also I try to consume all in English, for example: watching TV, listening to music, and reading. And practice talking with friends, coworkers, and customers in my job, as much as I can.

Another dream is to travel and see different places in the United States and the world. For this I am managing my time and my finances to get it.

I hope to continue working to make it true. Thanks for your help on this.

## **GUSTAVO GARCÍA**

*Level 3 English Class*

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My dreams are simple, but they aren't easy. I want to be the best mechanic of the state and way not of the country. I like to Study, but some topics are difficult but not too much. When you feel hunger to reach your goals, one of many steps is to learn english and little by little continue with the next step.

I'm little desperate to reach them .. but in this country with many situations have learned that thing take its time and many much in other country that no is yours. Also, I want to have a stable life without worries, or at least less worries. I know that I'm not Young, but I have time to get my goals. I hope to reach my goals.

It's no east, but I must. To make a big effort, I have to give the best of me, and trust on myself. If I trust on myself, I'm sure I will reach everything.

There win't be nothing imposible. In my mind there is an idea and I will never give up. Whenever, wherever, I'm decided to get them. I have to do extra activities besides to work, I have to practice new knowledges I have learned many things about of the life. I understand the family is the most important in the life. The family is the main support to reach anything. They are when the things is not going good.

Finally always we must thank to God for each day of life and health because without it we are nothing.

## **CYNTHIA NOLARI**

*High School Equivalency*

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My dream is to working hard and to be someone better in future so my EMT program is a pathway for me to nursing school also this scholarship will help me a lot as a mum of one.

I am Yailina Manrique. I am from Colombia and I have been living in the US for seven years. My dream is to live peacefully in this country, with economic stability that allows me to meet my needs and those of my family.

Sometimes finding a job isn't easy, or the jobs you do find don't offer stability or long-term security. The limitation of not having fluent English also closes many doors. I dream of owning my own business, where I can put my skills and knowledge acquired throughout my professional career into practice, and where my first language, Spanish, can be valued and used to help others.

To achieve this dream, I've been taking English classes and tutoring at Literacy Network to improve my language skills and communicate more easily in my daily and professional life. Last October, I left my job due to layoffs at the company where I'd worked for three years. It was then that I realized I needed to work toward my dream, and I decided to begin training to obtain my childcare license. I didn't have the resources, but I was able to get a loan to cover the costs. I've already completed several of the training courses required by the state of Wisconsin for certification, but I still have others to complete. I also still owe money on the loan I took out to start my training.

To achieve this dream, I require financial resources that I currently lack; for this reason, I applied for this scholarship—so that it may help me cover the cost of the training required to obtain my family child care license and enable me to establish my own family child care center.

What drives me to work toward this dream is my son—the ability to support him so that he may continue his university studies

and secure a better professional future in this country. I am also motivated by the opportunity to contribute to this nation that has welcomed me; through my work, I aim to demonstrate that immigrants, too, make valuable contributions and play an important role in this country's economy and growth.

Literacy Network has played an important role in my dreams, providing me with English classes and tutoring that have allowed me to improve my English skills, making my daily communication a little easier and more comfortable. I also appreciate the opportunity to be part of SCL; it's a space I enjoy, where I feel useful and valued.

*"The limitation of not having fluent English  
also closes many doors."*

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**MARIAMA BAH**

*Community Literacy, Level I English Class*

My name is Mariama Bah. I'm from Belgium. I have been in the USA since end of 2023. Since I was a kid, I have had a dream to be a nurse. I love to help people and I like interacting with other people. To reach my goal, I have been taking classes to improve my English. In January, I started a nursing program at Madison Area Technical College.

The challenges for me to reach my goal are English and taking Care of my Kids. English is not my first Language, it's important for me to understand the course and communicate with patients. I also need it when I go to the store, my daughter's school, and my son's daycare. Learning English is very important to achieve my goal. Before I went to in person classes at Literacy Network. Now I'm in two classes . One with a Group and one with an individual tutor.



There was a time in my life when I could not imagine having a dream. I was coming out of prison, homeless, struggling with untreated mental health issues, addiction, and deep trauma. I had no education, no stability, and very little belief that my life could be anything other than what it was. Survival was my only goal. Today, my life looks completely different, and that is why this dream means everything to me.

My dream is to work in human services as a caseworker or counselor. I want to help people who are where I once was, people reentering society, experiencing homelessness, living with addiction, or carrying trauma that feels impossible to escape. I know how hard it is to ask for help when shame and fear take over. I want to be living proof that change is possible, and I want to walk alongside others as they rebuild their lives.

I am working toward my dream by committing myself to education and recovery every single day. I returned to school after years of believing I wasn't smart enough or capable enough to succeed. I am now graduating from Madison College, something I never thought I would be able to say. Each class I complete is not just academic progress—it is a reminder of how far I have come and how much my life has changed because of education.

This dream has not been easy to reach. I have had to heal from years of trauma while learning how to live sober, stable, and responsible. Financial stress, mental health challenges, and rebuilding my life from the ground up are ongoing struggles. Some days, simply showing up takes strength. But I have learned resilience through recovery, and I no longer let my past define my future.

What keeps me going is my recovery, my children, and the belief that my story has purpose. I stay grounded through support systems, self-work, and the determination to be a better version of myself than I was yesterday. Education has given me confidence, structure, and hope. It has shown me that my voice matters and that my experiences can help others rather than hold me back.

The Literacy Network has played a powerful role in my journey. It has helped me strengthen my academic skills, rebuild my confidence, and believe in myself again. Being in class has reminded me that I belong in educational spaces and that I am capable of success. The support and encouragement I receive have been life-changing.

A scholarship would help me continue this new chapter of my life without the constant stress of financial barriers. More importantly, it would be an investment in a person who is committed to giving back. I am not the same person I once was. Through education, recovery, and hard work, I am building a life I am proud of, one where I can help others find hope, stability, and a second chance, just like I was given.

*"The support and encouragement I receive  
have been life-changing."*

**ZINEB**

*Level 3 English Class*

My dream speaking English very good, about change my life and I fond other job. I know my dream not easy, I need to much more study English and practice listening and reading, but I don't have time. I try every day watch TV and read book. I believe that I will achieve my dreams but I trust myself.

My dream is to continue my education and build a better future for myself and my family. Education is important to me because it opens doors to better jobs, independence, and confidence. I want to improve my skills so I can reach my full potential and be proud of what I accomplish.

I work toward my dream by coming to class, practicing my reading and writing, and not giving up even when learning feels difficult. I try to use what I learn every day, whether it is reading important documents, writing emails, or communicating more clearly. Each small step helps me move closer to my goal.

Reaching my dream is not always easy. I face challenges such as balancing school with work and family responsibilities. Sometimes I feel tired or discouraged, and learning new things can be hard. However, I remind myself why I started and why education matters so much to me.

What helps me keep going is my desire for a better life and the support of my teachers and classmates. Encouragement from others gives me confidence, and seeing my own progress motivates me to continue. I am learning that challenges do not mean failure; they mean growth.

My class at Literacy Network helps me greatly with my dream. The teachers are patient and supportive, and the lessons help me improve my skills step by step. I feel more confident in my abilities because of this class. The Literacy Network gives me the tools I need to succeed and believe in myself.

A scholarship would help me continue my education without worrying so much about financial stress. It would allow me to focus on learning and reaching my goals. This scholarship is not just financial help—it is an investment in my future. I am committed to working hard and making the most of this opportunity.

## **PAULINE PADILLA**

*Community English Class*

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My dream is speaking fluently English, to work with the government, to study Magister or maybe or a Phd. Because one of my dream is to help the others even with my country, so I need to be enough experience, knowing and language to do this right.

*How do you work toward your dream?*

I am working proving my English

*What makes it hard to reach your dream?*

It makes me hard because the English, I am not confidence enough to speak.

*What helps you keep working on your dream?*

The first step that I need to complete is the English.

*Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream?*

Yes, It does.

## **URIEL LOPEZ**

*Community English Class*

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My dreams for now are to find a better job , In order to fulfill my dreams I am improving my level of English , that way I will have more time with my family , classes at Literacy Network have helped me in my dreams

## **MARBELLA**

*Level 3 English Class*

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My dream is have my house because when I was a child I always dreamed of having a garden and to have personal space. I have been toward dream constantly working and never stop believing that I could achieve it.



My dream is to work in the dental field and become a dental hygienist. I like to help people and take care of their health. This dream is important for my future and my family.

I work for my dream by studying and learning little by little. Last year, I received this scholarship. It helped me study and get my EFDA license. This was very important for me.

My dream is not easy. English is not my first language. I work, study, and take care of my family. Money is also a challenge.

My classes at Literacy Network helped me a lot. They helped me improve my English. Because of this, I got my driver's license.

The classes helped me speak better and feel more confident. Now I can go to the doctor, go to school meetings, and talk better every day. This helps me grow at work and in my life.

This scholarship will help me continue my studies and reach my dream. I am very thankful for this help.

My dream is to have good job in the future. I want to be a interpreter. I want to help many people understand each other. I want to [help] people who speak different languages. I study English at Literacy Network. I practice speaking and listening every day. Sometimes learning English is hard for me. But I will keep studying to reach my dream.

My dream is to build a better life for my family and become successful in the United States. I want to speak English fluently, get a stable job, and provide security for my wife and our child. I came from Haiti with hope for a better future, and I believe education is the key to achieving that dream.

I work toward my dream by attending English classes regularly and practicing every day. Even when learning a new language is difficult, I stay committed and positive. I try to improve my speaking, reading, and writing skills because I know English will open doors for better job opportunities and help me integrate into my community.

It is not always easy to reach my dream. I have financial responsibilities and immigration challenges, and sometimes it is stressful not being able to work yet. Balancing family life and school can also be challenging. However, my wife, my child, and my faith in God give me strength and motivation to continue

**ANONYMOUS***Community English Class, ESL Tutoring*

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My dream is to find a good job with promotions and make more money. I want to change my life and my family. I want to help another peoples.

I started learning the English language, because I realized that if you don't know English, you can't get a good or well-paid job.

After improve English, I can get good job. I can promoted and I can also do different jobs. After that, I can achieve my goal.

*What makes it hard to reach your dream?*

Is limited language. Sometimes transportation problemes (the job

is very far) and no good job. So, now I need to take some courses or training that will give me a certificate from the Madison College.

*What helps you keep working on our dream? Is Literacy Network*

*Does your class at Literacy Network help you with your dream?*

*How?* Yes. They give me the teachers who help me study and follow English lessons. I'm grateful to them.

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## **MITCHELLY QUINTERO**

*Level 4 English Class*

A different language is a different vision of life. English has always fascinated me, but I didn't know it could change my career and my future. I love English and I want to learn to speak it fluently, so I can study a full degree in English.

I dream of being a health professional here, just as I was in my country of origin, and it is very important to me, which is why I make an effort every day. I also want to be a good example to my daughter, who is also studying, and I want her to see that learning and knowledge have their rewards.

However, learning another language is a great challenge; between work, family, and being new in a different country, I feel that there is so much I need to learn. But I have discovered that with organization, effort, and dedication everything can be achieved.

Every day I feel more confident, more eager to speak and learn English, and that motivates me to continue because, even though I still have more to learn, I can already see the progress, I can communicate better and integrate into society, visit places and not have to resort to my phone to speak.

I am excited about being able to study a degree in English and have better job opportunities, even though it has not been easy, I will continue making an effort because every day I am closer to making my dream come true.

Learning a new language can open doors to endless opportunities, special for learning English, one of the most popular languages. When I came to this country, I first started learning English. English will help me to create A more diverse and wonderful life. My dream is to learn English well so that I can enrich my life and experience more of the world. and I am determined to work hard to achieve this goal.



My dream is to use English fluently and correctly. This dream is very important to me because I believe that it allows me to better integrate into society, grow. I became motivated to improve my English when this belief began to sprout. Being able to speak English confidently would allow me to become more confident and proactively engage with this great and diverse country.

However, learning English is not always easy. One challenge I face is because it is a completely different second language. My expressions are always slow, indirect, involving translation and conversion. I'm unsure if the other person understands correctly, and I must repeatedly confirm others' questions, fearing they might lose patience. Another difficulty is time; I need to practice. Despite these obstacles, I plan to improve by taking Literacy network courses and continue learning with classmates. With practice, patience, and determination, I believe I can succeed.

In the future, I hope that mastering English will help me be more confident. I want to use English to contribute my knowledge and skill to help people more effectively. I also believe that learning English will help me become a better person.

In conclusion, my dream of learning English well is very important

to me. Although the journey may be challenging, I am committed to studying hard. I believe that one day I will use English as good as my mother language, and my hard work will turn my dream into reality.



# LITERACY NETWORK PROGRAMS

## CITIZENSHIP

Our Citizenship program offers English classes for lawful permanent residents working toward the goal of obtaining their U.S. citizenship. Classes cover the U.S. civics and language skills necessary to pass the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services naturalization interview and test. Students seek citizenship for many reasons, including to enhance their work opportunities, become more involved in civic life, and provide a more secure future for their family.

## COMMUNITY ENGLISH

Community English classes teach English as a Second Language (ESL) to adults so that they can engage in their family's education, advocate for their family's needs, and participate in their local communities. Multi-level classes are supported in partnership with schools, libraries, and community centers throughout Dane County. Curriculum topics are based on students' goals and often include conversation, calling a child in sick, and scheduling appointments.

## COMMUNITY LITERACY (ESL TUTORING)

ESL tutoring students work one-on-one with volunteer tutors every week. Students set their own goals every semester, and tutors use lessons tailored to each student's goals. Personalized lessons allow students to work with their tutor on skills like creating a resume, learning English to have a parent-teacher conference, or understanding directions at work. Students learn at their own pace and practice skills they can use right away in the community and at work.

## ESSENTIAL LITERACY TUTORING

This program's focus is on building essential skills in reading, writing, computers, or math. Students are native English speakers or advanced English Language Learners who work with a tutor one-on-one for help strengthening essential skills. Students want to build their skills for a variety of goals, such as increasing employment opportunities, preparing for further education, helping their children, or personal growth.

## **GROUP ESL**

Group English as a Second Language (ESL) classes teach adults speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills for everyday communication. Classes are offered at five English levels, from practicing introductions and the alphabet at the basic level to understanding academic texts at the advanced level. Students from many language backgrounds study in classes of 25-30 and work toward goals related to work, health, family, and community.

## **HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY**

Students have multiple options for earning a high school credential, including GED tests in English or Spanish and high school equivalency classes. Study is tailored to the student, with choices to work with an instructor at Omega School, meet weekly with a Literacy Network tutor, or participate in HSED classes at Madison College with the support of a Literacy Network tutor. Students seek their high school credential for many reasons, including preparing for higher education, improving their career outlook, and proving to themselves and others that they can achieve this.

## **TRANSITIONS ESL CLASS**

Transitions supports higher-level English Language Learners by providing rigorous English language, literacy, critical thinking, and academic skill development. Participants receive personalized advising services to create a plan and identify resources to reach their educational and career goals.

## **WORKPLACE ENGLISH**

Workplace English classes offer customized on-site English language instruction to support employees' communication on the job. The curriculum is tailored to meet an employer's specific goals.

# GET INVOLVED

## VOLUNTEER

**Help students** reach their goals and achieve their dreams by becoming a volunteer tutor.



*Liguo (center) worked with tutor Ed (left) to earn her high school diploma and tutor Katelyn (right) to build her English language skills.*

*"Before the Literacy Network, I couldn't speak one sentence of English. After two years, I am not scared to talk to people and can have conversations with others. I can make appointments by myself and I don't need an interpreter. It has helped me be more independent."*

- Liguo

## DONATE

**Your support** helps adult students obtain new jobs and promotions, better communicate with their children's schools, and gain U.S. citizenship. They earn high school equivalency diplomas and take the next steps toward college and other certifications. Your gift helps adults improve their skills with free literacy education.



*"In this time of extreme financial uncertainty and the increased challenges faced by our immigrant neighbors, it's even more important than ever to give locally to support programs that empower immigrants, build citizenship, and help people feel welcome in the United States."*

*- Doug Keillor, Board Vice President and monthly donor*

## WAYS TO GIVE:

*One-time donations*

*Monthly donations*

*Planned giving*

*Donation of stock*

*IRA contribution*

*Employer match*

*Donor-advised funds*

*Tribute gift  
(in honor or memory)*

# SUPPORT THE STUDENTS



Learn more about volunteering:  
[www.litnetwork.org/volunteer](http://www.litnetwork.org/volunteer)

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Donate online: [www.litnetwork.org/donate](http://www.litnetwork.org/donate)  
Send a check to: **Literacy Network**  
**701 Dane Street, Madison, WI 53713**

*Thank you!*

# WHAT SETS LITERACY NETWORK APART



**High-level support for success.** Every student starts their educational journey with a one-on-one interview to identify their goals and skill level and make a plan for success that follows them throughout their time at Literacy Network.

**Flexible curriculum.** One-on-one tutoring and group classes are tailored to meet students' needs and goals.

**Regular follow-up.** Staff connect regularly with students to ensure they have the support they need to persist with programs.

**Commitment to strong partnerships.** Program locations are around Dane County in schools, libraries, community centers, and workplaces.

**Personal relationships.** Our students, tutors, interns, and staff form strong bonds, creating cross-cultural connections, a sense of community, and better understanding of diverse life situations.

**Efficiency.** We efficiently use resources and leverage approximately 10,000 hours of volunteer time annually at a value of more than \$300,000.



# Literacy Network™

**LEARNING FOR LIFE**

*Help people change  
their lives through  
literacy education!*

**VOLUNTEER. DONATE.**

Learn more at [www.litnetwork.org](http://www.litnetwork.org)

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