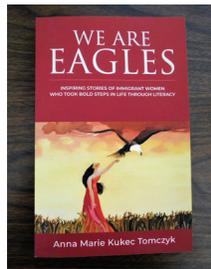


WH WORD & HOPE

We Are Eagles by Anna Marie Kukec Tomczyk

We Are Eagles is a book of inspirational stories of five immigrant women, similar yet different in some ways, who found their voice and self-worth through learning English at the Dominican Literacy Center. It is a book that reflects the courage, tenacity and faith of immigrant women. It contains the stories of not only the survival of these women in their new country, but also of how they became integral members of their communities and examples of resiliency to their families. Their stories are a small sampling of the stories of all the women who come to the Center to be taught English and so much more from their one-on-one women tutors. Women teaching women is powerful, as both the immigrant and tutor are blessed.



tighter through women, who through their education, work in the community and their faith, are examples for the generations to come.



We Are Eagles tells the story of the founding of the Dominican Literacy Center 25 years ago by sharing with the reader personal experiences of students who came to the Center in its early days. The foreword includes a message from Sister Kathleen Ryan, O.P., Administrator, Dominican Literacy Center, Aurora, IL, which shares her personal insights and experience. Immigration Attorney, Patrick M. Kinnally, gives the reader a primer on current immigration law, which provides a framework for the work of the Center.

Women everywhere will be able to see a bit of themselves in these women, for the stories of women overcoming barriers and obstacles is a piece of our story. The fabric of a family is made stronger and

The paperback book is now available at Amazon Books, <https://www.amazon.com/books>

Students Share Vaccination Reflections

One of the most common questions we hear today is, “Have you been vaccinated yet?” In order to have a sense of our students’ responses to this question, we polled three students in May, 2021. If you are still considering being vaccinated, you may be interested in our students’ responses:



Hilda Limon and her family were very strict about sheltering in place and hand-washing. Hilda also disinfected her home daily. Her children finally said, “Relax, Mom, you’re always cleaning!” Hilda was very nervous about Covid, and very happy to receive the vaccination. She had no reaction to the shot, and advises anyone who is wondering about the vaccination to definitely “Get the shot!”



Maria Servin and her husband have both been vaccinated, and she plans to have their children, ages 14 and 9, vaccinated as well. Maria’s husband has been seriously ill with kidney problems, and his doctor recommended that he be vaccinated. Maria did have a reaction to the vaccine; she had a sore throat and headache for several days, but in spite of that, she recommends getting the vaccine.



No one in Lidia Diaz’s family was sick with Covid, but she was very pleased when the vaccine became available. She had only a slight reaction to the shot. Lidia’s adult daughter is a nurse, and she is vaccinated; her son, 23, is unsure about getting vaccinated. Lidia says that having been vaccinated makes her more secure about being with people, going to the store and being in groups. How does she feel about getting vaccinated? “I’m very happy!!”

“I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Maya Angelou

Fall 2021 Opening Plan

It will be so wonderful to come together again in September and resume personal, one-to-one tutoring and learning! Like many of you, we are so looking forward to seeing our “extended family” once again!

New students and tutors must be vaccinated against Covid-19. Previously enrolled students and tutors who are not vaccinated must wear a mask.

We will be resuming conversation class, group announcements, breaks in the kitchen and all other group activities.

New Staff Member Introduction

Nadine Stadel is our new staff member responsible for training new tutors and students on the ELLIS program and to support tutors with questions regarding this program. Last summer, she completed the training to become a certified tester as well.



After retiring from teaching elementary school, Nadine became a volunteer tutor at the Center in January 2016. Since 2018 she has been teaching Monday evening conversation class. “I am grateful to be part of the Center and the work we do supporting women in the community.”

Illinois Recognizes Volunteers

The Spring issue of the Literacy Illinois publication focused on National Volunteer Week, April 18-24 with the theme “Celebrate Service” recognizing the volunteer tutors that are making a difference in Illinois. A feature on a tutor from the Dominican Literacy Center was included in the publication. Mary Ann Wagner has been a tutor at the Center since 2005 and has patiently and lovingly worked with more than three dozen women on their road to literacy. She is a life-long learner who shares her talents with her students through personal conversation, cultural insights and vocabulary practice.

According to the Independent Sector, volunteer service in Illinois was equal to \$27.98 an hour. In 2020, volunteer tutors provided more than \$4.5 million of service hours to the Secretary of State’s Adult Volunteer Literacy Programs.

New Curriculum Update

The **Stand Out** curriculum has begun to be rolled out to our tutors and has been warmly received! The majority of tutors have completed the online training and have signed up for the in-person 30 minute training which will take place in June. The purpose of this session is to answer any questions the tutors may have regarding pacing, resources, etc.

To support the online training which is provided by **Stand Out**, a professional video of a lesson being taught and filmed by Digital Alliance has been produced and posted on the Center’s website.

In addition to the **Stand Out** curriculum focus of teaching English through organizational and listening skills, and predicting an outcome, it also covers a wide-range of topics including personal information, healthy living, work, etc.



2021-2022 New Tutor Training

The dates for the 2021-2022 new tutor training are Tuesday, August 17, Thursday, August 19 and Tuesday, August 24 from 6:00 to 8:30PM. Attendance at all 3 sessions is required.

For more information, contact Alison through the DLC website or at alison@dominicanliteracycenter.org.



Sponsor-a-Student

Do you remember that “new book” smell at the start of your school year? And the feel of brand new pencils, crayons and notebooks? That smell is of ink, wax and wood, but underneath it is the powerful smell of hope, possibilities and new beginnings.

Our women who are starting to learn to read, write and speak English will experience that “new book” aroma this year, as we introduce the new “Stand Out” curriculum. Our student books are filled with current life lessons, soon-to-be-learned English words, and beautiful National Geographic photos. Underlying the beautiful pages is the hope in the hearts of the women to able to finally learning English.

We invite you to be part of providing these exciting learning materials for our students by contributing to the “Sponsor-a-Student” program. Every \$100 donation is matched with a student’s \$25 school fee—and that \$125 will buy a student text, a student workbook, and a tutor planning manual—enough for a whole year’s instruction!

Because school is very different today than it was 30+ years ago, we also need to provide a laptop computer for each of our tutoring rooms to use during instruction. The cost of each computer, fully loaded with short, concept-based National Geographic videos, listening activities, pronunciation practice and a myriad of other video and audio based materials is \$1,000 each. For those who are able, a \$1,000 donation will totally cover the cost of one laptop computer, configured for the needs of our program.

Please consider donating whatever you can to the “Sponsor-a-Student” campaign, and know that we are deeply grateful to you for your gift. Consider it an investment in the future of our country, yielding a human dividend of literate, informed women and mothers in our neighborhoods, communities and world.



Advisory Board

The Advisory Board provides guidance and support for the many initiatives of the Dominican Literacy Center:

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 Alison Brzezinski
 Nancy Dunn
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“Word & Hope” is a twice-yearly newsletter of the Dominican Literacy Center, a 501c (3) nonprofit organization.

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” Mahatma Gandhi

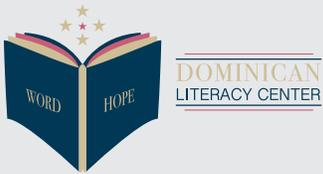


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DOMINICAN
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The mission of the Dominican Literacy Center is to provide opportunities for women to receive individual tutoring in reading, writing and speaking English. We provide these opportunities through individual tutoring by trained volunteers within the neighborhood setting. The Dominican Literacy Center believes in empowerment through education, and in the dignity of each individual person.

- free 90-minute weekly individual tutoring sessions for women in reading, writing and speaking English as a second language.
- customized curriculum of English-only instruction appropriate to each student's level.
- sessions that run from September through May, with day and evening formats.
- the opportunity for a student to remain in the program for three years, usually working with the same tutor during the entire time.
- conversation classes open to current students and "graduates".
- citizenship classes for both men and women.

*For more information, call 630-898-4636, M-F 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
or see our website at www.dominicanliteracycenter.org*