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# ESL In-Home Program of Northern Nevada

## Newsletter

Tutoring in ESL, GED, Computer Literacy and Citizenship AT NO COST!

Volume 3, Issue 4

July-August 2012

### ONE OF OUR AMAZING AMERICORPS VISTA<sub>s</sub>

Over the years, we have been consistently blessed with outstanding AmeriCorps/Vista members assigned to our program. One of them is about to leave us:

**MICHAEL WAKELEY**, an AmeriCorps/VISTA member assigned to the ESL In-Home Program in Carson City, arrived one year ago July. He came from the State of Washington. We accepted him into our program because of his excellent background: In elementary and middle school he studied Spanish. From kindergarten on, he was involved in community service.

After graduating with a BA in May 2010 from Global College of Long Island University, New York, Michael started his travels: He learned to Speak Chinese in China, Japanese in Japan, and Korean in Korea where he worked translating flyers into English. With his knowledge of Spanish, he helped build a road in Costa Rica. Michael's motivational statement on his application said: "As long as there is something I can do to make the world a fairer and more equitable place, that is what I wish to be doing".

I was impressed with his maturity at the young age of 24. What did this highly intelligent, creative, inspirational and charming young man accomplish in one year with the ESL In-Home Program? (1) rebuilt our website (2) designed a data base for our record keeping system, (3) facilitated tutor meetings and potential tutor training workshops, training new tutors with students, (4) prepared proposals for grant funding, (5) designed new award certificates, (6) pitched in wherever necessary helping other Vista co-workers, (7) designed new and more efficient program forms, (8) redesigned our letterhead, (9) researched and received funds as well as in-kind donations for the program,(10) taught the director more computer skills (many that she did not know she did not know!), (11) I could go on and on..... BUT what stumps me (the Director) is that instead of extending his Vista position he'd rather go back to Korea (strange!). He leaves in August for Southeast Korea.

One of his Vista co-workers says " It has been my pleasure to have had the opportunity to get to know this wonderful young man! We have been the "Carson Vista Duo" for a while and I truly have enjoyed the fun!" Donna McElroy, A/C Vista

"Michael is a nice young man and has been helpful to the ESL program. I send him off with great enthusiasm and feel he will be successful in his endeavors." Regards, Rosemarie Sherman, A/C Vista

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Your Director, Florence, is very grateful for what each current Vista is doing for the ESL In-Home Program. You are all amazing! Keep up the good work.



He eats 3 nutritional meals/day



Pays attention at Meetings



Q&A Meetings with Tutors



Michael & Donna

## MORE STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

1. Congratulations to the following students for passing the exam and becoming U.S. Citizens:

- a) **Luz Maria Amezcua**
- b) **Luis Aguilar**
- c) **Ilda Rodriguez**
- d) **Lorena Medina**

2. Tutor Amy Branstetter reports that her student **Camillo Suquilandia Inga** received his Driver's License



3. Vista Donna McElroy reports the following:

Dayton student **Rosa Gudino** received a phone call from a Calif. friend who works as a housekeeper but does not speak English well. This woman's employer gave her a note which the housekeeper could not understand. Our student, Rosa, was able to tell her friend what the note said. Next, the employer called our student Rosa with more requests for the housekeeper. Rosa understood all that the woman said and was able to call her friend explaining what she needed to do. Rosa had her self-esteem increased being able to help others.

## SOME POSITIVE MOTIVATION TECHNIQUES

The challenge is how to encourage students. There are many ways, but here are 6 that are particularly effective:

- 1) Reward students at each successful step. Nothing will encourage them more than a pat on the back when they have made progress, however small that progress is. Confidence comes from recognition at the right time. Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative.
- 2) Encourage your students to try, try again. It is no crime to fail, but it is sad when a student fails to try.
- 3) Share what others have done, and tell each student what you appreciate about their work. Get to know your "quiet" students so that you can point out their accomplishments.
- 5) Involve students in our program. This is one of the most highly motivating factors. Students need to take part in the planning. They need to be working on material that is of interest to them and relevant to their needs. Elicit their ideas, use them, make sure that they have a sense of involvement as well as actually being involved. After all, it is their learning process.
- 6) Make your sessions as interesting as you can. Vary your methods of delivery. If the work is based on their needs (remember, their needs are your priority), if the instruction is relevant, if the material is at the right level, not too difficult or easy, and is as individualized as possible, the student will "eat it up". This — in conjunction with an enthusiastic teacher having fun with the teaching — is what it's all about.

It was because of the involvement of some students that we began teaching more than ESL. Some requested GED which we have incorporated in our program. Some requested Citizenship study which we have incorporated.

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW VISTA:

#### **JOSE MARTIN GONZALES**

is joining our program as an AmeriCorps/Vista member starting mid-July 2012, working with the Director in Carson City. He comes from San Antonio, Texas. He received a BA from Grinnell College, Iowa in April 2011, speaks Spanish and tutored middle school students. His motivational statement on his application states: "I have been fortunate to have many positive and encouraging people in my life. The best way I can honor them is to help others with their knowledge and spirit in mind. I am inspired by the eagerness and curiosity that people have for learning." Jose has volunteered in many different fields, currently for the Immigration and Refugee Department translating legal documents from Spanish to English.



Jose Gonzales,  
A/C Vista, Carson City



Nancy

In August we sadly say good-bye and thank you to our 2 Vista Summer Associates:

**Nancy Cardenas**, Washoe County . Nancy will become a Community Volunteer Tutor again, teaching at WACCS.

**Tara Coghlan**, Carson and Douglas counties. Tara will leave for Amsterdam in August to attend the University of Amsterdam for a Master's Degree in Migration and Ethnic Studies.

Both did a wonderful job in their respective counties. More students from our waiting lists had a chance to learn basic English skills.. We wish them best of luck in their endeavors. We could not have accomplished what you did..... without you.



Tara

**TUTOR TIPS**

**WE ARE DESPERATE FOR TUTORS:** *Invite your friends to become a volunteer tutor! Tell them why you enjoy the experience. Invite them to learn more about our program at our website: [www.eslinhome.org](http://www.eslinhome.org)*

For students who have computers and are interested in Citizenship study, suggest they go to:

[www.americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship](http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship)

You will find lessons/study aids for History and Civics portion of the Citizenship test.

**Tutors: Try and pass the test of 10 questions. The Director could not! Humph!**

**WANTED: Admin. Asst to work with the Director in Carson City. Call Florence at 775-888-2021**

You asked for it. Now use it! We now have a Forum site where you can post questions, messages, ideas, etc. There has been only one posting so far . Where are the tutors who requested this so that you can chat with each other? Go to: [www.eslinhome.org/links/forum](http://www.eslinhome.org/links/forum)

**STATISTICAL UPDATE**

Current Tutors.....128  
Current Students.....,303  
United States Citizens ..... 94

**Potential Students Waiting**

Carson =====47  
Washoe==Reno== 67  
Sparks=26  
Douglas=====31  
Lyon===== 2  
Churchill===== 7

**Total Waiting all Counties: 180**

**We have been approved for 3 more VISTAs. We need:**

- 1. A computer whiz for Carson City.
- 2. One for Churchill County
- 3. One for expanding into another county

**CALL FLORENCE NOW IF INTERESTED; 888-2021**

**UPDATES**

A Computer Literacy class (introduction to computers) will start very soon in Carson City. If your students are interested in learning computer skills, please contact us now:

**Phone: 775-888-2021 or**

We are in need of a **BOARD MEMBER/TREASURER** familiar with "Quick Books for Non-Profits". Maintain journal of income & expenses. The Treasurer is asked to give a **Treasurer's Report at meetings**. Financial statements are also asked for when we apply for grants.

**Call Florence NOW 775-888-2021**

## ESL In-Home Program of Northern Nevada

702 Sean Dr.  
Carson City, NV 89701

One-on-one English tutoring for adults in  
their own home at their own pace at no cost

Phone: 775-888-2021  
E-mail Florence: [eslinhomenv@aol.com](mailto:eslinhomenv@aol.com)

### AmeriCorps/Vista Members:

**Jose Martin Gonzalez, Carson City**

**EM: [jose@eslinhome.org](mailto:jose@eslinhome.org)**

**Donna McElroy, Lyon/Churchill**

**EM: [donnajmcelroy@yahoo.com](mailto:donnajmcelroy@yahoo.com)**

**Rosemarie Sherman, Douglas County**

**EM: [dhb-937@hotmail.com](mailto:dhb-937@hotmail.com)**

**Sarah Howton, Washoe County**

**EM: [sarah@eslinhome.org](mailto:sarah@eslinhome.org)**

Mission Statement: ESL In-Home Program of Northern Nevada Inc's team of community volunteers will provide no-cost tuition and materials in English language fundamentals to adult individuals who wish to learn or improve their English language skills regardless of sex, age, race, religion or national origin, or physical disabilities. This learning process quickly empowers these individuals, especially those of low to moderate income, to become more productive members of their local communities by providing them with the language and cultural skills necessary for life in America..

*To make donations to the ESL In-Home Program of Northern Nevada send check to:*

*702 Sean Dr.*

*Carson City, NV 89701*

*All donations are tax deductible.*

*Invite your friends to become a volunteer tutor! Tell them why you enjoy the experience. Invite them to learn more about our program at our website: [www.eslinhome.org](http://www.eslinhome.org). It is not necessary for tutors to know a foreign language or have prior teaching experience. We train at no cost.*

**We're on the web!**  
**[eslinhome.org](http://eslinhome.org)**

If you would like to be taken off the mailing  
list for our newsletter please email us at:  
[eslinhomenv@aol.com](mailto:eslinhomenv@aol.com)

### From The Executive Director



Florence G. Phillips

"It is noble to teach oneself,  
but still nobler to teach  
others  
--- and less trouble."

Mark Twain