



the Lantern

Holiday 2022 • Volume 17, Issue #3

A newsletter of the Presentation Lantern Center

Sponsored by the Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA

Shining a light on financial literacy★

As our intrepid immigrant students navigate the challenging worlds of home, work, school and family in a new country, culture and language, we're reminded that not only English literacy but also financial literacy is integral to their success. United Way has been a significant partner this year in our efforts to help our immigrant students increase financial literacy and build stable, independent and strong finances for the future.

These are long-term goals. Rome was not built in a day, and it often takes months or years of working with individual students for them to achieve big life goals. Nevertheless, we have been thrilled to hear several examples recently of students who have achieved long-time dreams with our coaching and assistance.

Most notably, an immigrant student's family has bought their first house, after



Lantern Center intern Mariana Bayona-Paez translates financial terms to Spanish speakers, as another translator worked with Pashto speakers Nov. 7. Currently being translated: "tarifa=fee."

months of multiple meetings and advice along every step of the process, from inspections to mortgages. We are thrilled that they can finally live in a place they can truly call their home!

In the past month, Ben Drury of Dupaco has provided financial literacy presentations to many of our students. On Nov. 7, Ben's plan to present a short lesson on basic financial terms quickly became a full hour of explanation of everything from the concept of a bank to compound interest and how to use a debit card. Our adult English language learners asked many questions, and the answers will help them better navigate life in the U.S. and improve their financial well-being for the future.

The Lantern Center arranged to have Spanish and Pashto translators who could translate Ben's explanations of banking terms sentence by sentence and allow back-and-forth follow-up questions. Our Spanish and Pashto speakers had LOTS of questions for Ben—it seems that everyone has questions about money and its management!

Ben plans to return to give more financial literacy lessons, with students specifically asking to learn more about mortgages and budgeting. The conversations continued one-on-one with this animated group of about two dozen, allowing students to learn from each other as well.



Ben Drury of Dupaco Community Credit Union spoke to about two dozen Lantern Center students and tutors about basics of banking, such as the difference between a checking and a savings account.

Our mission is to offer "hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to adult immigrants, especially women, who are striving to better their lives." Many of those attending the presentation were women who do not have significant experience managing money. In some cases, they have lacked access to basic education as well. However, EVERYONE who attended, including tutors and experienced English speakers, said they learned something.

Helping people access banking services, manage money, purchase property, save for the future, increase stability and grow their financial resources is truly providing "hospitality, education opportunities and advocacy" to those "who are striving to better their lives!"



Education Highlights

We've had lots of exciting happenings in our tutoring community recently! One student with significant education and professional experience in her home country has now earned a full-time position in her field in the U.S. Another student landed a full-time job that has a much better work-life balance. He makes use of his first language and English as he interacts with the customers and his coworkers.

We have had nine new student pairs in recent weeks! These include a former student who is returning with specific goals related to gaining computer skills and exploring new job opportunities. Another student in Galena who lacks transportation was matched with a Galena-area tutor. Other new students have come to the Dubuque area from Ecuador, Indonesia and Guatemala.

This fall, we were contacted by Loras College regarding tutoring needs of four young men from Burma (Myanmar) that the college had enrolled under unique circumstances. They were matched with tutors and are working on higher level language skills. The pairs also spend some time in their sessions reviewing class assignments.



Programming associate Kassie Rich, Sr. Paula Schwendinger of H.O.M.E.S. and education director Sue Ellis review curriculum while pairs tutor at the Lantern Center. The Lantern Center is proud to partner with H.O.M.E.S. in providing training for H.O.M.E.S. tutoring to immigrants in rural Dubuque County.

It is heart-warming to see the way our students give back to the center. One of our current students is also a volunteer, coming to the Lantern Center in the morning before her afternoon tutoring session to watch the children of our students. Other students have insisted on paying for educational materials or on "paying it forward," giving back financial or tutoring assistance so that we can help more immigrants in the future. This holiday season, these students provide a powerful example of sharing the bounty of our blessings and our tables, whether they be large or small.

Changing of the board

This holiday season, we said "goodbye" to one of our beloved board members, Kevin Deeny, and we welcomed two new members of the board of the Presentation Lantern Center: Faye Finnegan and Craig Takes. Kevin has served on our finance committee for years, and his passion for giving back to his community is unmatched! We will miss Kevin's insight, dedication to our mission and careful, logical approach to challenging organizational problems.

Faye has had a long career as a development professional with Loras College and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. She recently retired as director of donor relations at Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. Previous to that, she

was academic internship coordinator at Loras College, assistant vice president of institutional advancement and director of development at Loras College.

Craig worked in several roles for the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, DC, before founding and serving as president of Home Technology Systems, Inc., and Anciano Technology Systems, both of which developed and distributed technology to the senior living marketplace in North America and Europe. Craig has also been involved with Project Concern, the Chamber of Commerce and the Sunnycrest Operational Board for Dubuque County.

Thank you, Faye and Craig, for bringing your energy and talents to our team as board members at the Presentation Lantern Center!



Kevin Deeny



Faye Finnegan



Craig Takes



SCHMID INNOVATION CENTER
900 Jackson Street
Suite LL5-1
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

The Presentation Lantern Center is a drop-in center offering hospitality, educational opportunities and advocacy to adult immigrants, especially women, who are striving to better their lives. Founded by the Sisters of the Presentation, the Center is generously sustained through donations from our founders and individual donors like you. Thank you and God bless you.

HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday:
10 am-3 pm

Tuesday and Thursdays:
1-7 pm

Contact us at

563-557-7134
info@thelanterncenter.org

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Tim Moothart
President

Mary Lou Mauss
Vice-President

Lynn Marie Fangman, PBVM
Treasurer

JoJean Decker
Secretary

Faye Finnegan

Marilou Irons, PBVM

Maura McCarthy, PBVM

Leanne Welch, PBVM

Craig Takes

We welcome your support and prayers. Your generosity touches many lives and hearts from around the world.

Please make checks payable to Presentation Lantern Center.

Visit us at

 www.thelanterncenter.org

Like us at

 www.facebook.com/LanternDBQ

Follow us at

 @LanternDBQ

 @thelanterncenter