



Friendship
Community Project
English Classes since 2015

**Fall 2020
Summer 2021
Newsletter**



www.fcp-iowa.org

About Friendship Community Project

Friendship Community Project (FCP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to teaching English language and life skills to Iowa City area immigrants and refugees. More than 50% of our students are of low to moderate income.

We offer free English classes for adults and assist our students in accessing local resources, practicing conversation, and getting to know people in the community.



A Note From the Director

Dear friends,

This was our first full year of online-only activities due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Although student numbers were down, at only 50 students for the year, we maintained active advanced, intermediate, and beginning classes during both spring and fall terms, in addition to two online conversation groups during the school year and two conversation groups, which sometimes met outdoors, plus a 6-week writing course for advanced students during the summer. For Fall, 2021, we plan mostly online classes with the exception of a small beginning class for those lacking the tech skills to access online classes. We plan to offer this group tech skills tutoring after class.

The pandemic necessitated other temporary changes: We have suspended participation in Community Conversation for reasons of logistics and low enrollment this year but plan to do so when the situation is right.

We have also put our partnership with the ICPD's Daisy Torres, who served as outreach officer to our program last year, on hold, but we have been in touch with her and plan to resume when in-person classes are possible. We participated in interviews related to the ICPD's minority outreach and minority recruitment efforts.

Our Computer Skills program, also temporarily suspended, will resume in Fall, 2021 in a different form with a small number of beginning students who will be meeting in-person. The Covid emergency has helped us prioritize cell phone skills over computer skills for beginning and other students who rely on phones rather than a computer for their online interactions. Skills will be taught to put them in a better position to access online classes and other programs and to receive community alerts related to but not limited to this current pandemic.

We converted our Friendship Pals program to a Phone Pals program during the Pandemic and had 22 students matched with 19 Phone Pals this year, as well as 5 tutors working online with a total of 7 students.

We have updated students on Covid-related resources and community resources via our email and Whatsap lists since March, and go word out warning of the Derecho 15 minutes before it hit. We also used these resources to let students know when we have a volunteer who would like to work with a student Phone Pal.

Our quarterly Hudson's Tap Community Night fundraisers continued via curbside pick-up, but in the summer, a few students ventured into the restaurant in person.



Livia and Franco are FCP Board members as well as students, and Kati has been a fundraising volunteer in our program as well as a student. Here they are, enjoying a Hudson's dinner during our Summer 2021 Community Night.

Sincerely,
Susan Prepejchal

Thanks for your support!

We wish to thank the following Friends for their donations to Friendship Community Project:

- Hudson's Tap (Iowa City) for Community Night donations
- Hills Bank
- Green State Credit Union
- Pam Creedon
- Trigon Music
- Amber and Jeff Capps
- Frank and Beverly Bliss
- Alexander Goloshchapov
- David Prepejchal
- Christine Wingate
- Pratiksa Desai
- Cindy Edge
- Nancy Keith
- David McCartney
- Marcia Klingaman

Special thanks to all our erstwhile volunteers, who persevered despite the challenges of the Pandemic to help adult immigrants and refugees in the Iowa City area continue learning English:

- Registrar/Tech Support: Bob Richardson
- Tech Support: Alexander Goloshchapov
- Teachers: Angela Hayes, Emma Holmes, John Loomis
- Conversation Group Leaders: Bob Richardson, George Sauerberg, Ian Zwaschka, Tim Goloshchapov
- Tutors: Margaret Price, Valerie Longmahoney, Ethan Bennett, Ting Gao, Ian Zwaschka
- Phone Pals: Kalina Boska, Alia Mnayer, Claire Carlson, Shalini Jasti, Mary Hartel, Isabella Volfson, Sidney Peterson, Alexis Winecke, Chloe Leaverton, Olivia Recker, Valerie Longmahoney, Tim Goloshchapov, Shaffer Kirschenmann, Loreina Hsin, Marian Petison, Chloe Clemson, Bryant Nicols, Katherine Kustes, and George Sauerberg
- Student translation volunteers: Patrick Mawela, Livia Pesce, Sara Haroun, Ramatoulaye Diallo

- Board of Directors: Livia Centeno, Sylvia Dean, Kay Nebergall, Franco Pesce, Susan Prepejchal, Yolanda Spears, Linda Schuchert,
- Accounting: Thomas Dean
- Director: Susan Prepejchal

Special Thanks to Good News Bible Church in Iowa City, which has held our space for classes for us and allowed us to continue storing our supplies during the pandemic.



Alex Choguemamani wrote a Spanish language article about us for his column in Little Village,

November, 2021. This link includes an English translation: [Inside the Iowa City nonprofit teaching English to immigrants and refugees](#)

English Class Calendar for 2021-2022

- Fall classes begin: Week of September 6th
- Thanksgiving break: Week of November 22nd
- Winter Break: Week of December 13th
- Spring classes begin: Week of January 17th
- Spring Break: Week of March 14th
- Summer Vacation: Week of May 2nd

Friendship Community Project Fiscal Year 2021 (FY ended 7-31-21)

August 22, 2021

Carryover from FY 20		791.30
Income		
Individual Donations (ID)		2,042.81
Business Donations (BD)		2,582.37
Checking Account Interest (CI)		1.17
TOTAL		4,626.35
Expenses		
Honoraria (H)		3,200.00
Special Donation (earmarked for a student in need)		140.00
TOTAL		3,340.00
CASH ON HAND (7-31-21)		2,077.65