



**Friendship**  
**Community Project**  
English Classes since 2015

# Fall 2023 Newsletter



[www.fcp-iowa.org](http://www.fcp-iowa.org)

# About Friendship Community Project

Friendship Community Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, founded in 2015, dedicated to teaching English language and life skills to Iowa City area immigrants and refugees and to promoting a sense of community belonging and practical assistance in accessing local resources, learning about our community, and dealing with day-to-day life challenges through structured English classes, informal conversation groups, Friendship Pal pairings with community members, a help desk, and tutoring in special situations. We are grateful for the support of our volunteers and donors, allowing us to fulfill this mission.

## A Note From the Director

Dear friends,

2022-23 was a year of big change for us — We returned to in-person English classes for the first time since the pandemic began! It was so good for staff and students to see each other again after two years and to meet new friends too.

It was a year of experimentation and transition, as we handed out masks to be used in the classrooms and gradually phased out most of our online classes. It's good to be getting back to normal!

Sincerely,  
Susan Prepejchal



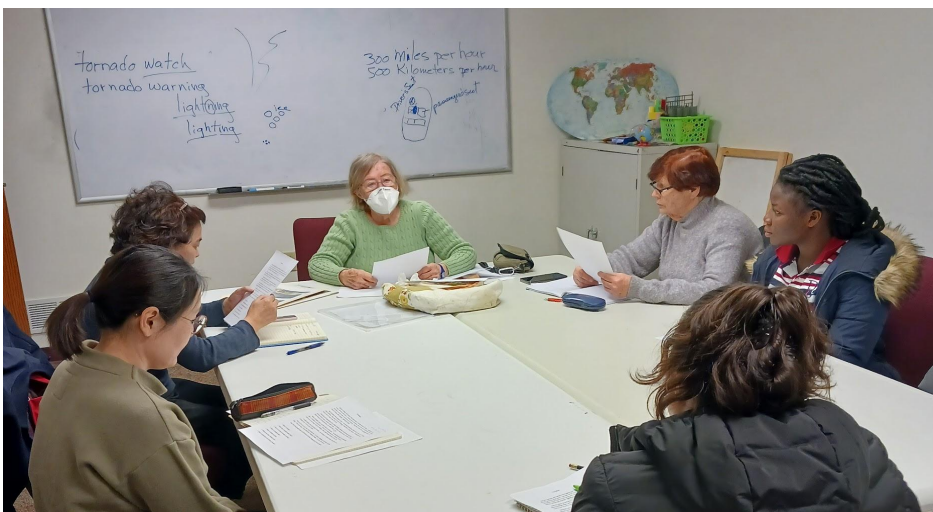
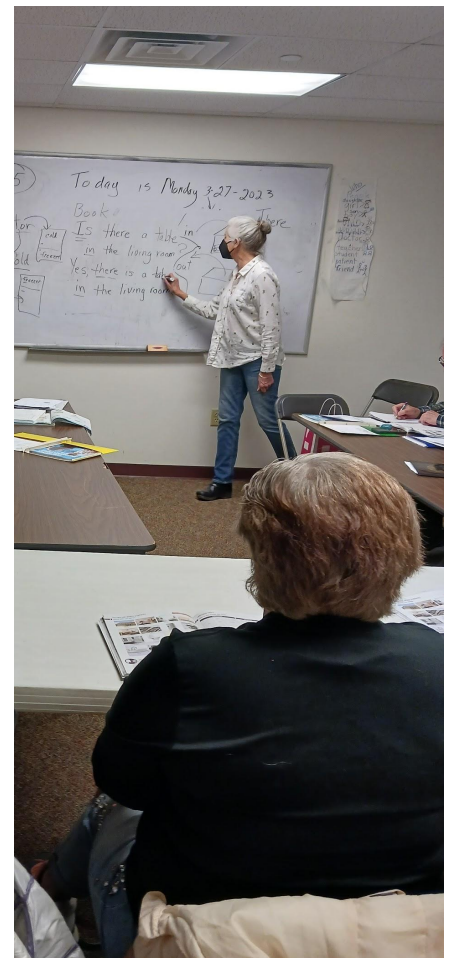


# Highlights of the 2022-23 year

This year we taught 110 adult English learners from the Iowa City area in our in-person and online classes, with tutors, and/or in our conversation groups or with individual conversation partners.

We also partnered with the UI Department of Rhetoric's Conversation Center to bring Community Conversation events to our students during the fall term. These met once a week in the Old Capitol Mall.

We hosted two in-person summertime conversation groups, one for advanced learners and one for intermediate learners. We also had three tutors working with students over the summer.



The students we served came from 31 different countries and spoke a total of at least 23 different languages, including Amharic, Arabic, Cambodian, Chinese, Ewe, Farsi, French, German, Hakka, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Kiswahili, Korean, Lingala, Oromo, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.

Countries our students came from this year included: Angola, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Guinea, Japan, Honduras, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sudan, Taiwan, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Vietnam. Many are refugees; others come for work and a better life or because their children and grandchildren live here. Some are elderly, and some are special needs. Our eldest student this year is 88 years old and still learning! These are our Iowa City area neighbors.



## Our Volunteers

- Oksana Hirschak (Ukrainian translation)
- Ramatoulaye Diallo (French translation)
- Livia Centeno (Spanish translation)
- Sara Haroun (Arabic translation)
- Andras Tasi (graphic design for updating our promotional materials)
- Thomas Dean (bookkeeping)
- Alexander Goloschapov (tech support)
- Bob Richardson (online registration spreadsheet)
- Director: Susan Prepejchal
- Tutors: Cynthia Hernandez (1), Sue Ward (3), Vida Brenner (1), Noreasa Higgins (1), Yadira Barrientos(2) Elizabeth Shockley (1), McKenna Schnack (2)
- Beginning Instructors: Emily Wilson, Angie Hayes
- Intermediate Instructors: Adam Daigle, Nancy Keith, Margo Christensen
- Advanced Instructors: John Loomis, Ian Zwaschka, Elizabeth Shockley, Anna Kelly
- Conversation Group Leaders: George Sauerberg, Adam Grimm, Ian Zwaschka, Adam Daigle, NancyKeith/Susan Prepejchal/Gail Ross, Aditi Tripathy

- Classroom Assistants: Heather Normal, Lanchi Nguyen, Lee Sailor
- Substitute Instructors: Dona Saforek, Lee Sailor

Conversation Partners (followed by number of students): George Sauerberg (3), Parker Schafer (1), Jennifer Cape (1), Lee Sailor (2), Susan Prepejchal (3), Holly Bennett (1), Roxana Barbulescu (1), Lanchi Nguyen (1), Bob Richardson (1), Marcia Bollinger (1), John Erickson (3), Gail Ross (1) Margaret Huang (1), Corinne Stanley (1), Heather Norman (1), Anna Kelly (1), Aditi Tripathy (1), Lizzy Shockley (1) Barb Selmer (1)

Summer Conversation Groups: Nancy Keith, Susan Prepejchal, Gail Ross (intermediate), Aditi Tripathy (advanced morning), Adam Grimm (advanced individual or pair sessions, evening).

## Our Donors

Funding for our classes came from a grant from the Community Foundation of Johnson County, Hills Bank, and a grant from the Green State Foundation, as well as from individual donors, including some of our own students, some of whom donated money or cans to be redeemed for cash at the Can Shed. Some students also donated masks.

- Community Foundation of Johnson County grant
- Hills Bank
- Green State Foundation grant
- Marcia Bollinger
- Pratiksa Desai
- David Prepejchal
- Kim Heang Ly
- Trigon Music Press
- Alexander Goloshchapov
- Joanne and Doug Madsen
- Hudson's Southside Tap
- Ikumi Kato
- Thomas Kuhlmann
- Dat Hong
- Hy-Vee

Thank you to everyone who joins us to reach out to the refugees and immigrants in our community as they adjust to their new home in Iowa.

# English Class Calendar for 2023-2024

- Fall Classes Begin: September 11th
- Thanksgiving break: Week of November 18th
- Winter Break: December 5th- January 21st
- Spring Classes Begin: January 22nd
- Spring Break: Week of March 11th
- Summer Vacation Begins: May 2nd

Beginning, intermediate and advanced students can register for our free English classes at <https://fcp-iowa.org/register>. You can email Susan at [info@fcp-iowa.org](mailto:info@fcp-iowa.org) if you have any questions.

We will have low/high beginning, intermediate, and advanced in-person classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings, 10:00-11:30 AM, starting September 11th. Masks may be required, depending on circumstances. These classes will meet in the basement of the Good News Bible Church, 845 Pepperwood Lane in Iowa City.

One advanced class will meet at the Iowa City Public Library, on Monday and Thursday evenings, 6-7:30PM.

You can register online before attending class or in-person when you arrive.

# Income Statement Friendship Community Project

## July 31, 2023 (end of FY)

CARRYOVER FROM FY 2022	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,214.29</b>
REVENUES	
Checking acct. interest	3.25
Business donations	12,796.48
Individual donations	2,107.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,907.43</b>
EXPENSES	
Books	1,190.70
Supplies	1,626.70
Facilities/rent	2,000.00
Instructor honoraria	5,427.50
Director honorarium	1,822.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,067.40</b>
CASH ON HAND	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,054.32</b>