



Friendship
Community Project
English Classes since 2015

Summer 2026 Newsletter



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

Hello, Friends

With mixed emotions, we have decided to downscale our English class offerings for 2026-27. For the past three years, we've served an amazingly consistent 120 students per year. However, in 2025-26, we enrolled only sixty-seven. We attribute this largely to fewer immigrants and refugees entering the country at this time in history, as well as pressures on the immigrant community already here. Additionally more local groups are creating their own small programs, and Kirkwood Community College has placed free, adult ESL programs in Iowa City near our location for the first time in a few years. This could all change in the future, but for now, we will keep our program simple.

We will continue to offer a beginning English class at the Broadway Neighborhood Center, and two conversation groups for students beyond that level, one in-person and one online. Additionally, we will continue to pair community volunteers one-on-one with interested English language learners.

This past year, in addition to our Monday and Wednesday morning English classes, we were able to pair 20 students with native English-speaking conversation partners and ran a small, online conversation group for advanced learners, with four students participating. Two students received private tutoring with a volunteer to improve their reading levels. Thanks to a grant from RSFIC, several of our conversation pairs were able to meet in their building space. We also tested a beginning-level conversation group at the Broadway Neighborhood Center in November, but attendance was too low to continue, despite initial signs of interest.

Despite our historically low numbers, we still taught students from twenty-two countries, speaking at least seventeen languages among them. We consider our years serving the immigrants of Iowa City for the past 11 years a success, and we are grateful to have been able to do what we did when it was needed. And for the time being, we will continue in a more minimal form.

Sincerely,
Susan Prepejchal

Highlights

Where this year's students came from:

Angola, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Kazakhstan, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua, South Korea, Sudan, Togo, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

What languages our students speak:

Amharic, Arabic, Cantonese, Cambodian, Fulani, French, Hakka, Kazakh, Khmer, Korean, Lingala, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, and Vietnamese.

Our Volunteers

■ Lead Instructors:

- Emily Embry
- Angie Hayes
- Nancy Keith
- John Loomis
- Esther Smith
- Chadron Stalkfleet

■ Teaching Assistants:

- Bill Brown
- Riley Cronin
- Susan Jacques
- Ann Judge
- Bev Marple
- John Meidlinger
- Susan Jacques
- Sue Otto
- Solenn Vincent
- Isabella Webber

■ Tutoring: Bev Marple and Sue Otto

■ Conversation partners: Kate Alftine, Paulette Baily, Steve Bernhardt, Cate Cave, Sara Chen, Vicki Claussen, Riley Cronin, Srushti Chaudhari, Frank Gersh, Sophia Grancarich,

Susan Jacques, Kushi Maridu, Alison McGoff, Nikita McNamee, Ann Nevin, Susan Prepejchal, Tom Rutkowski, John Sopher, Kath Spalding, Allison Wagner

- Online advanced conversation group leader: George Sauerberger
- Tech consultant and newsletter: Alexander Goloshchapov
- Bookkeeping: Thomas Dean
- Director: Susan Prepejchal
- Board of Directors: Livia Centeno, Sylvia Dean, Kay Nebergall, Franco Pesce, Yolanda Spears, Linda Schuchert

Our Donors

Our donors this year:

- Hills Bank and Trust
- Hudson's Southside Tap
- Teresa Catania
- Chen Shih Hui
- Pam Creedon
- Dennis and Marcia Fouts
- Alexander and Fati Goloshchapov
- Susan Jacques
- Sue Otto
- David Prepejchal
- Linda Schuchert
- Kathy Timms

Can donations:

University of Iowa office of the President, Good News Bible Church, Susan Jacques, Travis Carter, George Sauerberg, Sharon Beck, Esther Smith, Rene Gould, Yunxia O'Malley, Franco and Livia Pesce, Linda Schuchert, Ryszard Szczepanski

Fall, 2026 English Offerings

Fall, 2026 beginning adult English class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am-11:30am at the Broadway Neighborhood Center, 2105 Broadway St, Iowa City, starting Tuesday, September 8th. Class is free!

English Intermediate Level Conversation Group at Nancy's House. For intermediate to advanced English language learners 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Wednesdays at 1023 Kirkwood Court, Iowa City. Call or email first to make sure there is room in the group. Email: keith.nancyj@gmail.com and/or call Nancy Keith at 202-495-9132

Free, Online English conversation group with George, online group conversations: 3-4 p.m. Tuesdays. For information, email info@fcp-iowa.org

Intermediate to advanced English language learners, if you would like to be paired with a volunteer conversation partner, email Susan at info@fcp-iowa.org.

Financial Statement

Friendship Community Project

July 31, 2026 (end of FY)

CARRYOVER FROM FY 2025	
TOTAL	3,212.10
REVENUES	
Checking acct. interest	2.05
Business donations	3,589.19
Individual donations	1,316.44
TOTAL	4,907.68
EXPENSES	
Books	92.39
Supplies	582.98
Facilities/rent	1,000.00
Instructor honoraria	3,350.00
Director honorarium	1,000.00
TOTAL	6,025.37
CASH ON HAND	
TOTAL	2,094.41