

The Dominican Learning Center improves the lives of adult learners through education.

February 2023

Dear DLC community,

It has already been a busy 2023 and we are happy to be back with you after the Christmas holiday. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and your new year is off to a great start!

In January we welcomed a total of 228 new ESL students to the various parish sites. We also began a new partnership with St. Cecilia's Catholic Church on the West Side and are looking forward to getting to know the teachers and students who make up that site. St. Cecilia is the seventh parish site where we offer small group classes to our ESL students.

We have also been busy working with the team that is handling the remodel of the new location in German Village. St. Mary's, MKC Architects, and the Project Lead have been wonderful, and I am excited to have the move to look forward to. At this point we are still anticipating a move date around the start of the new academic school year.

It is hard to believe that we are only four months away from the graduation ceremony and the end-of-year celebrations at the parishes that will mark the end of this academic school year. I know everyone is working hard to reach your academic goals and I appreciate all of your hard work and commitment. It continues to be an absolute joy to work with you all and to have you as a part of the DLC!

Peace and blessings,

Denise

We WILL be
OPEN on
Presidents
Day!

DREAM like Martin
HELP like Harriet
FIGHT like Frederick
SPEAK like Sojourner
INVENT like Madam C.J.
WRITE like Langston
DARE like Rosa
CREATE like Quincy
INSPIRE like Maya
LEAD like Barack

**Black History
is American History**

February is Black History Month!

Follow us on Facebook
for a month-long
series created by the
Dominican Sisters of
Peace to celebrate and
learn.

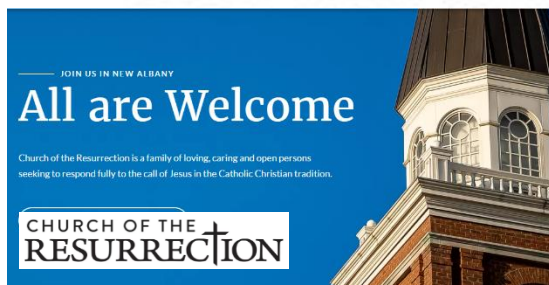


We need ESL tutors!

We currently have a wait list for ESL learners. If anyone is interested in taking on another learner or know anyone interested in tutoring, please contact Annette at 614-444-7330 x2 or <mailto:Annette.Cohn@oppeace.org>
YOU DO NOT NEED TO SPEAK A FOREIGN LANGUAGE TO BE AN ESL TUTOR.

[Volunteers - Dominican Learning Center](http://Volunteers-Dominican Learning Center (domlearningcenter.org))
[\(domlearningcenter.org\)](http://domlearningcenter.org)

Thank you for your support!



THANK YOU to **Church of the Resurrection** who donated gift cards at Christmas for learners in need. Our learners were thrilled to receive them!

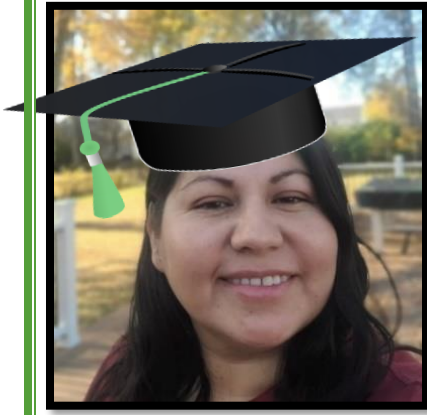
Another special thanks to the **Southeast Lions Club** for their continued support of our programming! We are extremely grateful to them!

We are also very grateful to **The Catholic Foundation** for their generous gift to help fund our parish ESL partnerships at St. Peter Roman Catholic Church, Christ The King Church, St. James the Less Church, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, St. Matthias Columbus, & St. Mary Magdalene.



Congratulations to Our Learners!!!

Your hard work is paying off!



WE HAVE A NEW GRADUATE!!! Carmen passed her final GED subject today! She has been making quick progress since joining our Spanish GED program. We look forward to seeing her and her family at our graduation ceremony on June 24th and wish her all the best in the future that obtaining her GED has made possible! Congratulations Carmen!!!



A Special congratulations to **Roxanna B.**, pictured in the pink shirt, with her twin sister, Ramona. She went up a book level in her Language Arts studies. She and her sister live and work at the Dominican Sister's mother house here in Columbus. She is grateful to be studying with Sister Mary Deane!



Congratulations to GED learner **Sabrina** (left) who passed the Language Arts portion of the GED exam! Way to go Sabrina!

Fadumo (right) is another GED learner making great progress! We're so happy to see her in our office and get to know her a little better when she came in to pick up the next level books for herself and her tutor. She is very excited about learning and definitely favors language arts over math. She has two tutors, one in language arts and one in math. She says her tutors, Mary Therese and Barbara are **phenomenal!** She will be taking the language arts section of the GED very soon and we feel confident she will pass it. She may also join our science class when they are accepting new students.



Congratulations **Estrella!** (Pictured left) With the help of her tutor, Garnett, she is moving into a new book starting the first of the year. One of her goals was to learn how to give directions in English and to learn how to read a map. She has accomplished both skills and is now working on getting her Ohio driver's license!



Congratulations to **Hayatt and Khadra**, who very recently came to the United States as refugees from Somalia. (Pictured left to right above). Since beginning at the DLC in the fall, they have both already advanced a level in their ESL studies!

Hayatt's tutor, Michelle, shared a little bit about working with Hayatt:

"Hayatt's Success Story: When I started working with Hayatt in October of 2022, she was working through Unit 6 of the Ventures Basic book. Now, she's already advanced to Unit 6 of Ventures Level 1! She always comes to our classes prepared and eager to learn! She's also very diligent with her homework and makes sure to ask questions if she gets stuck on something. Hayatt has been such a joy to work with! During class we like to discuss our cultures and share bits and pieces of our lives together and I have really enjoyed getting to know her and learning new things from her as well. I am very confident she will become a proficient English speaker very quickly and I'm excited to be a part of her journey and see her progress." We are so happy for them and very thankful for our great tutors and our amazing learners!



One of our wonderful ESL tutors, Cindy, sent an update on her learner, **Fatimah** (left): I have been tutoring Fatimah since about 2019, with some breaks due to personal issues. She has made great progress in her English and life skills, largely due to her ambition and intelligence. She completed training as a computer technician and works full time, while being a wife and mother of two girls. Recently she and her husband bought a house! This is a huge step!



ESL learner **Mildred** (right) and her tutor Mike got to meet in person for the first time since they normally do their lessons through Zoom. Her tutor says, "Mildred is making amazing progress! We have been able to move at a nice pace through the Basic Level book and are starting Level 1. Mildred always has very engaged questions that show she is using her new English skills throughout the week between sessions. A recent example was asking about specific slang terms she heard ("five bucks" for "five dollars") which led to a broader discussion about slang use in America. She points out that American English is often very specific. For example, while we use different words for "roof" and "ceiling" depending on whether we are speaking of what is above our head inside the house or outside the house, in her native Spanish it is the same word for both."



ESL learner **Andrea** (left) stopped in to take her ESL Post Test. Sister Manuela was helping her with this, and Andrea told her that she has grown her vocabulary. She can now communicate more with people. She knows now that she can understand and learn more English. We are very happy for you, Andrea!



ESL tutor Luciana says, "My ESL student, **Sachiko**, is from Japan. Her family came to the US because her husband has a temporary work assignment here. She loves learning English. She has achieved a very important goal. She was able to speak with her children's teachers without a Japanese interpreter. In our picture we are standing in front of the room at the library we're I teach English to Sachiko."

ESL learners who also moved up a level but are not pictured are **Lidia A, Rida B, Fares L Viktorria, Jenny C, and Nimo K**. They are also making great progress in learning English!

We are so very thankful for being able to serve alongside our volunteer tutors to help improve the lives of adult learners through education. It is wonderful to see the progress our students make and truly see lives being transformed and friendships formed.

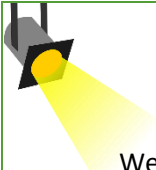
DOMINICAN LEARNING CENTER Welcoming New Learners from Ukraine



We are happy to welcome a group of new learners to our ESL program from Ukraine. Most of them have only been here a couple of months but they have been able to get housing and jobs already thanks to their sponsors and other community members.

Welcome **Inna** (not pictured), **Maryna, Davyd, Maksym, Hanna, Ludmyla!**

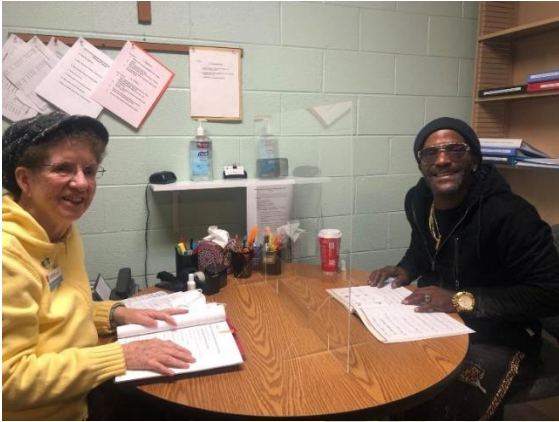
We continue to get new learners from around the world for our ESL program and we need more tutors to help them learn English. **Let us know if you would like to volunteer. Our next training is Tuesday, February 7th from 6pm-7:30pm for an introductory session.**



Spotlight On: Deron, DLC ABE/GED Learner

One Learner's Story

We love to see the learners who come to the DLC for their tutoring. **Deron**, who works with Sister Shawn, is such an inspiration in the way he lives his life, his faith and in his genuine appreciation for learning. He has an amazing story that we thought others would benefit from hearing.



Deron struggled in school due to a learning difference and dropped out at only 16. He then started dealing drugs and eventually started using them. He says he feels like he lost himself and his life sometimes became unbearable. Ultimately, he ended up in jail. While he was in jail, a chaplain came to see him to tell him that his twin brother was diagnosed with cancer and that his brother may not make it. He prayed to God and promised that if God would save his brother, he would stop doing all the bad things he had been doing. Deron says that this was the first time he felt God's presence. His brother recovered! Deron had spent so many years hurting himself and others and decided he needed to devote himself to helping others.

When he was released from jail, he spent time praying and helping at churches. At one church, where he volunteered to do their yardwork, he found out from the pastor that the church needed to be painted and that it was too costly for them to afford. He decided to paint it himself at no charge. He then began doing lawn work for other churches at no charge. A person at one church noticed his good work and told him he should start his own business doing lawn and landscaping work and gave him the means to begin. Thus, Deron started his business and decided to call it "God's Gifted Hands".

Deron continues to assist churches and other people who need help, he works at his lawncare business, and has a job building modular homes. Additionally, he uses his money to purchase food and make meals that he distributes each Sunday on the near east side of Columbus.

Sister Shawn got to know Deron in our GED Success Orientation Class and knew she wanted to help him as his tutor. He feels extremely blessed to have Sister Shawn as a tutor and is touched by her patience, encouragement and understanding. Learning to read has been a heartfelt blessing for him since it is something he didn't think he would ever be able to do growing up. Deron is all about lifting others up, as he has been, and being an example of God's love and forgiveness! We are so blessed to know you, Deron!

[Like and follow us on Facebook to get a regular dose of our learner success stories](#)

Congratulations!

Our January attendance and Aztec winners are:

Attendance (GED/ABE) – Fadumo H.
Attendance (ESL) – Manuella D.
Aztec – Sabrina L.

Keep up the good work!!



Zoom with us and other tutors!
This is a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow tutors and share ideas and strategies with them. Meetings will be:
-GED Language Arts – 2nd Thursday of the month (2/9) at noon
-GED Math – 2nd Monday of the month (2/13) at noon
-All tutors (ESL & GED) – 3rd Wednesday of the month (2/15) at 7:30 pm



See the newsletter email for Zoom meeting ID's and Passcodes – These will change each month

