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For immediate release:

HELP YOUR NEIGHORS LEARN ENGLISH

ESL Tutor Training Program Begins in Dodgeville in September

Teaching English to adults eager to learn our language is a richly rewarding experience. That's what local volunteer tutors in the new English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring program are discovering. For those interested in becoming tutors, the next ESL tutor training program begins the week of September 19 in Dodgeville. The ten-hour training will be held in three sessions: Monday, Sept. 19, from 6 to 9 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 22 from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The training is free. It will be held at the Metropolitan Building, 101 South Iowa Street, Dodgeville.

Students on the waiting list are from Dodgeville, Darlington, Belmont, Montfort, Cobb, Highland and other nearby communities. Volunteers are being sought in all of these communities. To become a tutor, you do not need to know a second language. The training sessions will teach you to overcome the language barrier.

This program is jointly sponsored by the Community Connections Free Clinic, Iowa County Literacy Council, Plymouth Congregational UCC Church of Dodgeville and Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin.

Fun bi-monthly potlucks which bring together the students, tutors and their families are one of the most popular aspects of this cross cultural experience.

"Being a tutor has been a richly rewarding experience for me," says Mary Michal, of Barneveld. "I have made new and lasting friends and have had the joy of learning about and sharing in another's rich culture. Being invited to birthdays and baptisms, and sharing in wonderful meals have been part of the experience for me. It may be a cliché, but it's true: Volunteering in this way is a win-win, and we receive at least as much as we give."

Following the training, tutors will be assigned to a student. They will meet weekly one-on-one at a mutually agreeable time and location, often in the students' homes.

Trainers include Therese Hess of Mineral Point, who directed a three-county adult literacy program in West Virginia for many years; Kathy Warpinski, the retired Dodgeville High School Spanish teacher, who started her career as a volunteer, teaching English to farm workers in a California church hall; and Kathy Korb, who works with the Iowa County Literacy Council, teaching ESL students among other responsibilities.

To sign up for the English as a Second Language program or for further information, please contact theresehess@charter.net or phone her at Community Connections Free Clinic, 608-930-2232.

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