

WE ARE NEW YORK

PRACTICE ENGLISH

Newsletter

January, 2011

WANY CELEBRATES VOLUNTEERS

The WANY Community Leadership Project celebrated the work of the hundreds of volunteers who have built our program with a dinner at Jing Fong restaurant. In the past nine months, more than 300 volunteers led conversation groups and gave 75,000 hours—the equivalent of four years of full time work—to help 3,300 adult immigrants practice English at 274 sites throughout the City.



The WANY volunteers demonstrate their desire to improve our City by helping their neighbors practice English and learn important information about health, education and living in New York City on a weekly basis.

PARTNER PROFILE

One of our sponsors, the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, had a group of recent WANY graduates this December. Charles B. Wang is a non-profit, community-based health care facility established to ensure that Asian-Americans in New York City have access to quality health care. Our volunteer group leaders, Kenya Brown and Mary Cravero, helped facilitate this group of enthusiastic and eager learners.

Originally the classes met once a week, but the participants were so motivated that they asked for a change in schedule to accommodate two classes per week, and the volunteers generously agreed.



According to Kenya, the participants took charge of their learning and led the the group discussions. For example, after viewing “The

Wedding” episode, the students identified with the scene in which the band becomes lost. The facilitators soon began answering questions regarding New York City geography and explaining practical terms such as “uptown” and “downtown.” The students learned additional vocabulary and helpful phrases from these discussions. The facilitators would ask them to come up with their own definitions for words, and the students would all contribute, helping each other understand the new words. This group is a good reflection of what WANY is about.

Next year, Charles B. Wang will be sponsoring two additional WANY groups.

Thanks to Charles B. Wang for its continued support and partnership, and congratulations to our volunteers and participants on a job well done!

SUCCESS STORY

Our website www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish averaged 340 daily visits in 2010 and each visitor spent approximately fourteen minutes on the site reviewing and downloading materials. Almost 158,000 documents—scripts, magazines, workbooks, and bilingual magazines—were downloaded. Since September alone, more than 27,000 copies of the new bilingual fanzines were downloaded.

In 2010, the WANY team completed the dubbed versions of the TV series. Now, New Yorkers can listen to the series in Arabic, Bangla, English, Chinese, Russian and Spanish while reading English subtitles.

INTERNS

During the Fall 2010 semester, 42 college students participated in WANY internship programs. Many of the interns are enrolled in the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP) while others were Edward T. Rogowsky interns and still others came from NYU, Fordham University, and Barnard College. These interns are the fuel that keeps WANY working. The interns organized students, recruited community sponsors to host conversation groups, conducted statistical analysis, translated materials, reviewed translations, and wrote articles, including the next newsletter item by Jhovanny Cruz.



WANY INTERNS & STAFF
CELEBRATE THE END OF SEMESTER

CLIP by Jhovanny Cruz

Being an immigrant is hard, but being an immigrant who wants to study in college is even harder. The City University of New York (CUNY) offers an Intensive English Program (CLIP) designed to help immigrant students improve their writing and reading skills in order to pass the CATW tests. Students can take the classes for one year divided into three semesters—spring, summer and fall—but if the students feel prepared to pass the test after any semester, they can leave the program and take the test. The classes focus on grammar, writing essays, vocabulary, developing speech skills and test preparation.

The program has a low cost and doesn't use your financial aid. If your family received help from the state the cost is lower. For example, in the fall semester the course cost \$180. If students receive financial aid from the state they only need to pay \$75 dollars. “CLIP is an excellent program, they teach English and give you advice about academic life” said one student.

Some of the highest level students at the nine different campuses with the CLIP program were offered internships at the We Are New York Community Leadership Project based at the Mayor's Office of Adult Education.

Through this internship, students teach conversational English to adult immigrants, conduct research projects, and look for organizations to sponsor conversation groups. Through the internship, the CLIP students improve their English skills, learn about different cultures, and work in a healthy and familiar environment. The experience is wonderful and helps the students to improve their English skills, learn office work and meet different people.

FREE WANY MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Do you need materials for your ESOL or Adult literacy program? On Friday mornings in January, you can pick up cartons of study guides from the WANY project while supplies last. Each carton contains 13 sets of study guides. The nine booklets in each set correspond to the TV episodes. The study guides are in English. A limited amount of bilingual magazines are also available. For more information contact Marlee Ickowicz at mickowicz@cityhall.nyc.gov. The materials also can be downloaded from www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish.

VOLUNTEER & STAY INFORMED

WANY is coming to neighborhoods all over New York. Follow us on Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/2apg2xy> Twitter <http://twitter.com/WeAreNY> or YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/weareny.

Do you want to help New Yorkers practice English? Register at www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish. Sign up now for upcoming Facilitator Trainings on January 26 and February 1. Or email wany@cityhall.nyc.gov for more information.

