

# Partners in English Language Learning



## Lost in a Crowd

This is how hundreds of Western Nevada County Residents with limited English language skills feel when making medical appointments, speaking to doctors and nurses, talking to their children's teachers, filling out job applications, asking for directions, or reading labels. These hard-working and motivated people represent a growing number of adults living in our community who want to learn or improve their English speaking, understanding, reading, and writing skills.



## Who We Are

Partners in English Language Learning (PiELL) has been serving Western Nevada County since 1985. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization with more than 55 trained volunteer tutors currently teaching over 60 adult English language learners in our area. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and have one paid part-time Program Coordinator.

*"I like helping integrate people into the culture because it benefits the students and the community. They aren't part of the hidden population anymore."*

— Becky, Tutor

## Our Program

PiELL offers free individualized language instruction for non-English speaking adult residents of Western Nevada County. Our trained tutors meet students one-on-one, at a time and place that is mutually convenient. One-on-one tutoring optimizes results due to individual attention, repetition, homework, and continuity of follow-up. Our format provides more intense instruction than group classes and often forges lasting friendships between tutor and student. In addition to teaching English, we help our students integrate into the wider community.

*"Every week the hour I spend with Felipa flies by. We listen, we talk, we laugh, we read and reread. Best of all, progress is made. It's a gradual process with tremendous rewards."*

— Kris, Tutor

## Our Students

Most students enter our program at a basic beginner or low intermediate level. Anyone 18 or older is welcome. Non-native English speakers are assessed for competency in English, then matched with individual tutors. They commit to meeting with their tutors once or twice a week for a minimum of one year. Our students come from around the world: China, Iran, Honduras, Mexico, Poland, Thailand, and Vietnam, to name a few.



## Success Stories

We are very proud of our students' recent successes, which include a student who has graduated from Sierra College, three students who recently became U.S. citizens, and three more students who are currently studying for their citizenship tests. There are many more students who have obtained better jobs and whose quality of life has improved as their language skills and sense of community have strengthened. Another important aspect of our students' success is seen in how they are able to interact more comfortably in social situations within the community and stretch beyond their "comfort zone"... the cultural side of our program.

*"It delights and amazes me to see the confidence building for my student, Ellie. Each week she speaks with less hesitancy and a tone of voice that is stronger."*

— Ellen, Tutor

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## We need tutors!

No prior teaching experience or foreign language skills are necessary. We have students currently waiting for tutors! If you would like to volunteer 1-2 hours per week as a tutor or learn more about our program, please call (530) 265-2116 or go to our website: [www.piell.org](http://www.piell.org)

Any fluent English speaker 18 or older can become a trained English Tutor with PiELL. You will help students learn English and contribute to their successful integration into the community.

Tutors enroll in workshops of 5-12 people, learning practical techniques for one-on-one instruction in a relaxed setting. They are then matched with individual students. Tutors are mentored and supported by experienced Resource Tutors throughout their volunteer experience with our program.

We conduct training sessions three times each year... January, May and September. These sessions are held on 2 consecutive Saturdays from 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.

## Support for PiELL

We depend on contributions from organizations and individuals. Donations may be general or directed toward specific needs, such as textbooks or tutor training expenses. We also accept in-kind donations of needed items. We receive no state or federal funding.

We are most grateful to the following organizations

BriarPatch Co-op Community Fund  
William and Mary Ghidotti Foundation  
Grass Valley School District  
Margaritas Restaurant  
49er Rotary Breakfast Club of Nevada City  
RSVP  
Save Mart Cares  
SPD  
United Way of Nevada County  
Westamerica Bank

## Partners in English Language Learning

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PiELL is a 501(c)(3) organization  
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# Partners in English Language Learning



## Our Mission

We help English language learners become thriving members of our community by offering one-on-one language tutoring and building bridges that foster cross-cultural respect, understanding, and friendship.

A Bridge to Community through English Language and Cultural Support since 1985

