

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

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## Letter from the PiELL President

Fellow PiELL Friends,

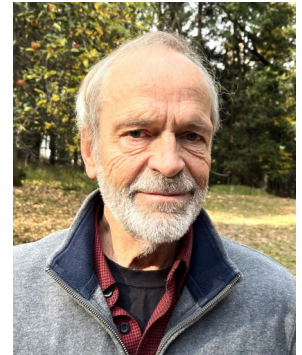
Now that this election cycle has ended, everyone can hopefully leave associated distractions behind, refocusing on other important matters. For PiELL, that means continuing to help English language learners become thriving members of our community by providing one-on-one tutoring and support.

It's something that we've been doing steadily for nearly 40 years in Nevada County, with our dedicated volunteers serving between 30 and 60 learners at any given time, and totaling many, many hundreds of students over the years.

As you'll read in the story on page 2 of this newsletter, impacts extend well beyond what's directly learned by our students, with a multiplier effect making an immediate difference in the broader community and also benefiting generations to come. We're part of a virtuous circle.

I suspect that many readers need only reach back a short distance to find family members who experienced English language challenges as they settled into our country. In my case, it was my mother. Even if you don't have close family members who have benefited from English language instruction, I'm sure that you've interacted with others who have — and their learning has been a boon to our entire community. Let's continue the momentum.

Thanks so much to all of you, whether as volunteers, donors, or supporters. Happy holidays!



**Chris Crain**



Chris Crain, President of PiELL

### Did you know?

Over the past five years alone, PiELL tutors have worked with students from more than 20 different countries, including...



### PiELL Information

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Thurs. 1:30-4:00 pm

Tax ID #68-0160848

PiELL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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*We are grateful to our donors! We do our best to acknowledge every gift. However, if your name is missing from this list – or if there is an error in the listing – please let us know.*

## The Next Generation Gives Back: PiELL Tutor Jose Gamino

Two years ago, when recent college graduate Jose Gamino was looking for a way to volunteer in his home town of Grass Valley, he wanted to use his background in education and his Spanish language skills — so PiELL was a perfect fit. But Jose also had a very personal reason for wanting to work with English language learners. Nearly 30 years ago, his parents, Juan and Silvia, immigrated from Mexico and found work in Grass Valley. They had two young children,



**Jose and his family on a visit to South Korea — where his sister Viviana also worked as an English language teacher.**

Jose and his sister Viviana, who would soon be starting school. They knew they needed to learn English, so they signed up to be matched with a volunteer tutor.

“The help my parents received and skills they learned are exactly what I see PiELL offering today,” says Jose. “My parents learned to read and write in English. Their tutoring sessions helped them feel more confident communicating. My dad’s tutor, Sovahn, became a real family friend. She and her husband traveled the world and would come back and tell me all about the places they visited.”

Jose attended Grass Valley schools, went on to Sierra College, and then transferred to CSU Long Beach, where he graduated with a degree in History and a teaching certificate. After graduation, Jose took a trip to Europe, which included a stay in Paris. “I remembered the stories Sovahn had told me about the city and the Eiffel Tower,” says Jose, “so I bought

a postcard and wrote a message to Sovahn. I wanted to thank her for getting me curious about the world.”

In addition to his regular job as a substitute teacher focusing on special education, Jose tutors PiELL student Alonso who, at 18, is just beginning his journey to learn English. Jose says, “Alonso always shows up with good, real-life questions. I encourage that, because I want him to feel in control of his own learning.” Jose has also begun doing intake interviews with potential PiELL students. Through his volunteer work with PiELL, Jose is helping to ensure that another generation has the opportunities that his parents had.

To those thinking of volunteering, Jose says, “Be more excited than nervous! The students will match your energy.”

***Interested in becoming a PiELL tutor? Visit [www.piell.org](http://www.piell.org) and click on the “Volunteer” tab to learn more!***