



Bienestar

Building housing, hope and futures

English as a Second Language Classes November 8, 2010- March 11, 2011 Outcome Report

Bienestar provided four different English as a Second Language classes over four months due to a large resident interest and a variety of different levels and schedules. We tested 79 residents in late October and placed them in three different English levels: A, B, or C, and four different class times. Seventy nine residents registered and sixty two students began coming to classes although classes ended with 31 students due to residents finding jobs, schedule changes and residential moves. All classes began the week of November 8, 2010 and ended by March 11, 2011.

Four classes were being held during this time:

- Monday and Friday from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Sunset Gardens. Taught by volunteer Selina George, levels A and B, with 8 students
- Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sunset Gardens. Taught by staff member Maria Moreno, and volunteers Thomas Hernandez and Anne Hernandez, levels B and C with 18 students.
- Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sunset Gardens. Taught by staff member Elena Barreto, and volunteer Jonathon Gill, level A with 19 students.
- Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Reedville. Taught by staff members Javier Urenda and Gracie Garcia, levels A and B, with 18 students.

All classes learned a great deal of new vocabulary centered on different themes, such as food, home and classroom objects, clothing, weather, transportation, everyday activities, and general vocabulary. The lower level classes learned about pronouns, how to construct an English sentence, and present tense verbs. The more advanced classes reinforced all of these concepts in addition to learning the possessive form, present continuous tense, past tense, and prepositions.

Attendance

Residents from seven of the complexes attended ESL classes: Montebello, Sierra West, Sunset Gardens, Willow Park, Elm Park, José Arciga III, and Reedville. Seventy-nine residents registered for classes and 62 began coming to the first classes. We ended with half the number of original students due to students moving out of the Bienestar apartments,

residents finding jobs, and having changes in their work schedules, hindering their ability to return to class.

Outcome

In the A level classes, the majority of the students entered with very little knowledge of the English language except for a few words they had heard spoken at work or by their children. These classes concentrated on learning vocabulary, pronouns, and verbs, primarily *am/is/are*, and *have/has*. One of the classes also learned the past tense of these verbs as well. In the A level classes, the average entrance test score was 3.1 and after meeting 12 times for two hours their test scores were 7.6. In the B and C level classes they already knew the aforementioned concepts. These were reinforced in class, and students were also taught the present continuous tense, more present and past verb tenses, the possessive form, what prepositions are and where to place them, as well as building new vocabulary. In the B and C level classes, the entrance test score for the grammar test was 5.3 and increased to 5.6, the comprehensive story scores increased from 6.3 to 7.3, and in the listening section scores improved from 5.3 to 6.25. One of the B classes met 12 times for two hours a week, while the other met 24 times for three hours a week.

Many of the students displayed interest in continuing English classes in the future when they are offered and were very glad they had come to our classes. They mentioned how they could now understand their children a little more when they spoke at home and felt more confident going out to stores and work and being able to better convey what they needed or wanted.



Our Monday/Friday morning class with volunteer teacher Selina George



Our Thursday night class with 10 happy graduates

Respectfully,

Elena Barreto, Maria Moreno, and Javier Urenda
Program Coordinators