



# Bienestar

Building housing, hope and futures

## English as a Second Language Class

March 10, 2011- May 12, 2011

### Outcome Report

Bienestar provided English as a Second Language class at the new Community Room at Elm Park Apartments in Forest Grove. Class was held Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm from March 10, 2011 to May 12, 2011. This beginner level class was taught by three high-school seniors from Forest Grove High School as part of their Senior Project: Gustavo Martinez, Maria Padilla and Freddy Diaz, and were assisted by Program Coordinator Elena Barreto. Gustavo, a Bienestar teen resident, approached Gracie Garcia Bienestar's Program Services Manager with the idea to teach ESL to our residents for his senior class project. They worked on how the class would work and his responsibilities as the instructor, such as developing the curriculum. He invited classmates Maria and Freddy to join him in the project. They taught for ten weeks, and each week one person was in charge of creating the lesson plan and was the lead teacher that week. Without Gustavo's desire and inspiration for the class, Bienestar would not have been able to offer this class.

Since this was the first ESL class at Elm Park we had more residents attend the first class than expected. Nineteen residents came to the first class to take the pre-assessment. We then discussed with each person their options of attending this A level class. Many decided to wait for a more advanced class to attend. The following week we had twelve residents attend the class. Over the following weeks we had 8 residents who came consistently.

Once we had a consistent number of students attending each week we divided the class in two groups of varying levels. Each group finished four chapters of the Survival English text book we used, even though the less advanced group took three more weeks to



finish, ending June 1. The class learned a great deal of new vocabulary centered on different themes, such home and classroom objects, family, the body, the calendar, numbers, and general vocabulary. They learned about pronouns, how to construct an English sentence, the present tense verbs *am/is/are*, *have/has*, and had an introduction to the past tense verbs *was/were*, and *had*.

### Attendance

Residents from two of the complexes attended ESL classes: Elm Park and Willow Park. Nineteen residents attended the first class, taking the pre-assessment. Twelve students came back for the A level class with an average of 8 students per week. Seven students took the post-assessment.

## Outcome

The majority of the students who returned to the A level classes, entered with very little knowledge of the English language except for a few words they had heard spoken at work or by their children. We began with the alphabet and started to gradually build on vocabulary, spending a great deal of time on pronunciation. This class concentrated on learning vocabulary, pronouns, and verbs, primarily *am/is/are*, and *have/has*. For this class we began using a new assessment developed by Bienestar staff that is more comprehensive than the previously used assessment; the assessment is a total of 39 points. The average on the pre-assessment of all 19 students who attended the first class was 17.43. The average of those students who returned and remained in the A level class was 13.85 on the pre-assessment. After 10 weeks of class of an hour and a half, the seven students who took the post-assessment increased to an average of 31 points.

All of the students displayed interest in continuing English classes in the future. They mentioned how they now understand more when they are on the bus or at a store. They still feel like they need more help learning English but are very grateful for the help they have received thus far. Thank you again to Gustavo Martinez, Maria Padilla, and Freddy Diaz for their amazing work and dedication to the class.



Our teachers: Freddy, Maria and Gustavo

Respectfully,

Elena Barreto,  
Program Coordinator