

Featured Sponsored Ministry



Caroline House Intention for the Month of December

Prayer Intention: Loving God, we ask you to help all people who have to leave their homelands and who become immigrants on foreign soil. May the citizens and governments respect their dignity and receive them with respect and compassion, and recognize in these newly arrived sisters and brothers other children of the same Creator.

Narcisa's Story

Narcisa is from Ecuador. She is grateful for her time studying at Caroline House, where she learned English. In addition to learning proper pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and understanding and skills building for living in contemporary U. S. culture, her life has been enriched by friendships formed with other immigrant women from a variety of countries. Now she is better able to help her children with school and her husband with his business.

When Narcisa started at Caroline House, her older son had recently graduated from the eighth grade and had won a scholarship to a Catholic high school. Narcisa spoke to the staff at Caroline House about the time he was spending out of school, and the staff was able to contact the high school and found out that he had been cutting classes and his grades were poor. The staff at Caroline House spoke to the boy and learned that despite having been the valedictorian of his 8th grade class, he was overwhelmed in his new school setting and was failing. Arrangements were made for tutoring for this bright boy, and he improved his grades, passed the semester and saved his scholarship.

Narcisa's younger son also started after-school tutoring at Caroline House. Narcisa was so grateful because she could see great improvement in her sons' grades. She also realized that they had developed greater self-discipline, respect for others and social skills as they worked with other inner-city children, as well as with high school and adult volunteers from local suburban towns. Her sons have helped others learn and improve. Narcisa's older son now volunteers with our after school and summer program. This young man has become a mentor and leader for other children who attend tutoring for reading and math improvement, and he helps out with chores around Caroline House. Caroline House is now helping him with the college application process.

Path to Citizenship

Melvys came to the United States from Honduras 13 years ago. She has three children: an 11-year-old and 6-year-old twins. When her children began school, she found she needed to learn English so that she could speak with and understand her children's teachers, help her children with their homework and take them to doctor appointments.

Melvys has said, "I feel that Caroline House teachers, volunteers, staff and students are like family. We are sisters to one another, and everyone does what they can to help the others." In addition to attending daily intensive ESL classes and progressing through each level of literacy, Melvys took citizenship classes at Caroline House. She successfully passed the naturalization exam and became a U.S. citizen last summer.

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Family Bonding Through Literacy

Each school day women enter our doors to learn English and life skills and share hope and opportunity with others. Moms with young children arrive pushing strollers or holding their little ones' hands, so that their children will also be given the chance to learn and grow.

With their sunny smiles, Maria and her son Jonathan are students who brighten our house. Maria moved to the U.S. from Guatemala with her husband in 2005. When Jonathan was 2, Maria learned about Caroline House and was grateful to find a center where she could learn English and bring her son to learn at the same time.

Maria enrolled in 2011 and is currently in Sister Justine's Level 4 ESL class. She says her teachers have given her confidence to speak with people in English and to make friends. She says, "The Sisters and staff are so nice. They are friendly and treat me as an important person."

Maria describes 4-year-old Jonathan as "high energy." When you walk into the preschool classroom, you can expect a big smile and friendly greeting from Jonathan. In the classroom, he is mastering his colors, shapes and letters. He loves playing with blocks, puzzles and dinosaurs. On nice days, he enjoys backyard play time, riding trikes, playing ball and running around with his preschool friends. Maria enjoys reading Jonathan bilingual books. Jonathan especially likes books about animals and pirates!