

IOSC Newsletter



Immigration Outreach Service Center **Volume 1 / Issue 5**

Happy New Year! We welcome 2021 with hope for a Covid-19 free world. As we all know, 2020 was a difficult, trying, and frightening year. Yet, the IOSC has prevailed as we continued to provide needed services to the immigrant community. We journeyed from in person activities and services to virtual activities and services.

With the steadfast leadership of Elaine Crawford, tutors and students met throughout the year in Zoom breakout rooms continuing to enhance education and community building on behalf of 53 students.

With the encouraging leadership of Cynthia Keenan, Financial Literacy, Computer Literacy, ESOL and Mentorship migrated to the virtual world as well providing a safe space to gain knowledge, grow support, and build community with amazing connections.

With the conscientious leadership of Pat Jones, the office space has grown with additional space on the second floor for staff with the first floor offices remaining in use by Beyond the Boundaries Tutoring. Pat oversaw the separation of the rectory library into two spaces to provide a safe space for small meetings with Covid-19 protections.

We thank you for walking this journey with us, for supporting the IOSC, for being part of these programs providing services to so many, and for enhancing community building and further education in safe spaces.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

We are beginning our next semester of virtual English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes in February, and both welcoming new students and welcoming back returning students from our Fall semester. Classes will be held over Zoom at the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels twice a week for ten weeks. For more information about our ESOL program, please contact Cynthia Keenan at cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org.

Financial Literacy Classes

Our Financial Literacy classes are continuing virtually in 2021 and we are holding two tax workshops on Saturday, January 16th and Saturday, January 23rd at 3pm. Contact Cynthia Keenan at cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org if you would like to get your tax questions answered and/or to join our regular Financial Literacy classes.

Computer Literacy Classes

Through a generous grant from the Baltimore Women's Giving Circle, we are beginning the Spring 2021 semester of Computer Literacy classes soon. Our Fall semester was very successful and we will continue a hybrid (mostly virtual but partly in-person) teaching model for immigrant women who want to achieve basic computer skills. Classes will be held twice a week and intermediate English is required. Please contact Cynthia Keenan at cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org for more information and to register.

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Beyond the Boundaries Tutoring Continues on Zoom

Christmas was merrier for 42 families thanks to the gift cards contributed to them from the students at Calvert Hall College High School and 53 students from the tutoring program had a merrier Christmas thanks to the nurses at the University of Maryland Hospital who bought them gifts. The students and families sent thank you letters to these generous people.

We continue providing virtual tutoring to 53 students on Saturday afternoons. Volunteer tutors from the vast community meet with students via Zoom breakout rooms as we journey together and build educational and safe relationships. If you are interested in the Tutoring Program please email Elaine at elaine@ioscbaltimore.org.

Santa's Elves Elaine & Cynthia



McOrell, One Happy Student



Clothing Donations

Many thanks to the members of the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation for the many bags of clothing they donated. We have been distributing the clothes to many families in the area. The winter coats were especially appreciated!!!

Virtual Career Fair and Resource Fair

Once again the IOSC partners with Our Daily Bread Employment Center (OBDEC) to host a Virtual Career Fair and Resource Fair. On Wednesday, March 24, 2021 we will host the Career Fair and on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 we will host the Resource Fair. Both events will be held from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm providing space for attendees to meet with employers and resource organizations to make connections for needed services and seek jobs. Please contact Mary Ritter at mary@ioscbaltimore.org for more information.