

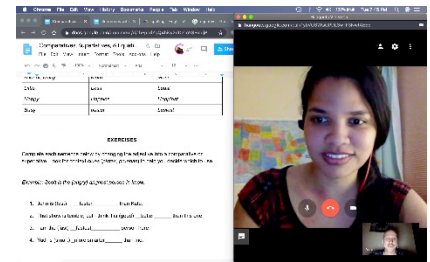
Annual Report 2019-2020

As a sponsored ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph, TEACH empowers English language learners to make their voices heard through integrating practical one-on-one English literacy education, individualized cultural mentoring and coaching, and citizenship test preparation. Tutors help learners build their proficiency in communicating and understanding English to succeed in our culture and be effective advocates for themselves and their families. TEACH is dedicated to promoting systemic change to reduce inequities and injustices confronting immigrants of all nations. TEACH's vision is to build bridges between cultures and foster unity while embracing diversity "That All May Be One." Since 1993, over 3,000 volunteer tutors have served over 6,750 adult learners. TEACH reaches 48 communities in Western Cook, DuPage and Will counties. Students come from 37 countries around the world.

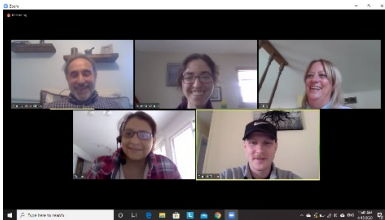


While other agencies assisting immigrants responded to COVID 19 restrictions by shuttering their doors to all but receiving phone calls, TEACH's mission impelled it to continue proactively serving limited English-speaking immigrant communities, who are underserved, marginalized or excluded.

Although in-person instruction was suspended, TEACH made a commitment to engage students through other means. TEACH staff and tutors/mentors kept in regular contact with them and were creative in incorporating new technology, while respecting the varied access to technology of their students. These contacts served to a) maintain connections to the TEACH community, b) teach learners English essential to survive in this new environment, c) perform "wellness checks", especially for isolated students or those in particularly challenging circumstances, and d) identify unmet needs arising due to illness, job loss, layoffs or children's education activities resulting from COVID 19 restrictions.



As a way to track individual and aggregate needs of its learners and the immigrant community at large on an ongoing basis as the health and social crisis grew longer and deeper, TEACH set up an open-ended survey easily accessed and completed via text on a smartphone. TEACH's intent was to fill in the gap left by other immigrant assistance agencies. By shifting its resources to proactively reach out to the community, TEACH identified needs and located appropriate referrals.



TEACH also turned its attention to a new need in the immigrant community: closing the equity gap that immigrant-owned small businesses are facing in terms of accessing COVID-19 relief funds. TEACH conducted pro-active outreach, resulting in holding three presentations on funding opportunities and offering assistance in preparing applications – all in English. To date, at least 10 Latinx small business owners were awarded grants as a result of attending the workshops.

Despite the "new normal", our volunteer tutors' commitment to their students and integration of the mission and vision of TEACH and CSJ continued as strong as ever. Over the course of the past 12 months, 328 volunteer tutors provided one-on-one tutoring to 550 students at 18 tutoring sites, transitioning to remote learning in March. In addition, tutors assisted over 15 students to become U.S. citizens.