

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Lisa!

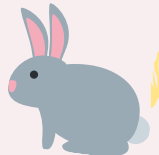


VOLUNTEER
SINCE
2019

Since 2019 Lisa is one of the amazing ESL (English as a second language) teachers here at the Center! Before the pandemic, Lisa came to the Center each week to co-teach beginner's English classes to workers. Although in person classes are paused at the moment, Lisa stays updated about what's happening at the Center through the weekly updates that Gwen, the ESL Coordinator, sends out and is always willing to help out when she can. For example, this past October Lisa joined us to celebrate the Center's 25th anniversary at the Civic Center Plaza in Mountain View.

Currently, when needed, Lisa has been joining Maria in the kitchen on weekends to help serve and distribute meals to the workers.

LEARN MORE ABOUT LISA'S VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:



WHY DID YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CENTER?

I have a strong value for using my resources - time, money, energy - to help and serve others. Initially, I was looking for places where I could volunteer with my then 1-year-old son, and build relationships (with him) with people from a range of life experiences and backgrounds. It didn't work out for me to bring him along, but I instantly loved the community at DWC! It was also a great chance to learn more and brush off my Spanish.



Lisa with her family.

WHAT HAS VOLUNTEERING AT THE CENTER MEANT TO YOU?

I have really missed it since the pandemic, but volunteering was a highlight of my week. I loved getting to know some of the workers who came every week, and it was such a full range of discussions. Through our lessons I loved hearing people's stories, laughing together, learning right alongside them, and at times processing difficult questions or circumstances that they experience.



Lisa's daughter watching the festivities at the Center's 25th anniversary celebration.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC MEMORIES YOU HAVE?

On a more poignant note, I remember one week the lesson had some vocabulary about breaks, asking for water or the bathroom, and other phrases like that, and it led to many of them sharing about how they were treated by some employers. While we had an important discussion and I hope we offered some helpful insights about rights and what to do in certain situations, it also broke my heart and frankly, made me so mad on their behalf. It furthered my compassion for what so many of the compañeros experience, support for DWC's advocacy and work, and strengthened my desire to advocate for those who are too often mistreated and marginalized in our communities.

THANK
YOU
LISA!