

April 2023

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Bruce!

VOLUNTEER AREAS:

Since 2010, Bruce has been part of the Center's ESL program, teaching beginner English classes. The Center will open for in person services again on April 3 and he is very excited about starting in-person classes with compañeres once again! When asked about his experience volunteering at the Center, Bruce shares, "The Day Worker Center in Mountain View not only helps the workers find job opportunities, it creates a feeling of community where everyone can find a sense of belonging."

WHY DID YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CENTER?

Having spent some time working in México, I came to appreciate the challenges of being able to communicate in a language that is different from the one I learned growing up (i.e., English). While my Spanish is still not great, I benefited during my two years in México from the help of native Spanish speakers and believe it is important to return the kindness shown me to those living here who are trying to learn English or even just get by with their day-to-day activities.

WHAT HAS VOLUNTEERING AT THE CENTER MEANT TO YOU?

I enjoy meeting the workers and hearing their stories. I was glad to see that the Center has created videos of the stories of some of the workers. Teaching English to the workers in a way that is useful for them is both challenging and fulfilling. I have enjoyed working with the other ESL volunteers who come from a variety of backgrounds. Maria and the administrative staff are very supportive.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC MEMORIES YOU HAVE?

Several times I was fortunate to be assisted by high school and college students who were filling a class requirement by helping to teach English at the DWC. The interaction of the students and workers was always interesting to see as the students began to learn more about the workers while the workers gained experience in using English. Many of these student's Spanish was typically much better than mine, which proved helpful to me when I found myself having trouble getting an idea or concepts across to the workers.



Bruce teaching an ESL class during Archbishop Mitty High School's visit.



THANK YOU
BRUCE!

VOLUNTEER
SINCE:
2010