

# October 2023

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

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## Meet Katerina!



### **VOLUNTEER AREAS:**

Katerina began co-teaching ESL classes several times a week at the Day Worker Center this past summer. She was also incredibly helpful in preparing the iPads for volunteer teachers to use during class. Currently she has gone back to school, and now drops in to ESL classes when she can. In addition Katerina stays involved through the ESL lesson planning team.

### **WHY DID YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CENTER?**

*I've always had a passion for language. Given my multiracial, immigrant family, I've seen how language can be a tool for connection, as in my cultural background. At the same time, it can be warped into a force of division and discrimination, as with my family's early experiences in America. ESL work seemed like the perfect way to address both these facets: to allow me to connect with the students, and to help disarm the language barrier they face in their everyday lives.*

### **WHAT HAS VOLUNTEERING AT THE CENTER MEANT TO YOU?**

*I have loved every minute working at the Center. I am continuously struck by the students' and teachers' kindness alike. Even as the "teacher," I feel like I've learned so much from the students. The DWC is such a unique, constructive environment, and I look forward to staying involved with the Center!*

### **ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC MEMORIES YOU HAVE?**

*One moment that comes to mind is from the first class I led by myself. I was definitely nervous, and I woke up early to cut out small flashcards for a vocabulary game. During the class, I heard one of the workers talking with a classmate, remarking that someone had to take the time to make each of the flashcard sets. It was really sweet to know that they appreciated what I was doing even when I wasn't sure of myself.*



Katerina alongside other volunteer ESL teachers and compañeros during the ESL celebration.



## THANK YOU KATERINA!

VOLUNTEER  
SINCE:  
**2023**

113 ESCUELA AVE. MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040

(650) 903-4102 • WWW.DAYWORKERCENTERMV.ORG