

September 2023



During the summer, Leonard co-taught ESL classes to compañeros!

 **THANK YOU LEONARD!**

VOLUNTEER SINCE: 2023

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Leonard!

VOLUNTEER AREAS:

Leonard recently joined the Center as part of the ESL program. During his time here, he co-taught classes and left a lasting impact on our compañeros. In addition, Leonard also worked with Kat, another ESL volunteer, to get the iPads ready to be used by ESL volunteer teachers in classes. We wish Leonard good luck in college and look forward to his return in the winter!

WHY DID YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER AT THE CENTER?

The Day Worker Center seemed like the perfect place to help members of my community while taking away plenty of valuable skills - an unbeatable tradeoff. I was excited to help teach English to new learners because I enjoy teaching. And, I was equally excited to add to my knowledge of Spanish because I want to become more proficient in my third language. Finally, I liked the dedication of DWC staff and overall organization of how classes are run and students are treated.

WHAT HAS VOLUNTEERING AT THE CENTER MEANT TO YOU?

In a word: unforgettable. I was fascinated by the depth and effort of each instructor in both their approach to lesson planning as well as teaching. Every class involved a variety of helpful activities, which really made a difference in how learners could absorb the language. I was thrilled at the opportunity to help with translated directions and guiding learners on only my second day! The DWC staff were incredibly supportive in everyday needs of the ESL volunteers as well as more complex endeavors like revitalizing the iPads. Truly, I am excited to return and continue helping learners achieve their goals.

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC MEMORIES YOU HAVE?

When Kat (a seasoned ESL volunteer teacher) and I were tasked with examining the iPads for use, I remember thinking to myself that this was going to be a long task. However, the very next week, Maria and Gwen had prepared all the iPads for us to look over, despite the privacy and app concerns. In fact, whenever there was a step that needed to be taken, the response was speedy and thorough. The sheer level of accessibility and responsibility that the DWC staff/ESL volunteers demonstrated was truly mesmerizing.