

EMPOWERING PARENTS PROGRAM

Made possible by a generous grant awarded to Literacy for Life by **IMPACT 100 Greater Peninsula**

When parents have limited English or literacy skills, they worry about things many others take for granted, such as how to give medicine to their children or how to support them in school. Through a generous grant awarded by Impact 100 Greater Peninsula, Literacy for Life is partnering with Matthew Whaley Elementary School to teach parents in four key areas: reading at home with children, interacting with schools, improving health literacy, and developing workplace soft skills.

Parents who could benefit from Literacy for Life's services struggle to make time for their own education when their highest priority is their children, and they frequently have difficulty securing affordable child care. The Empowering Parents Program alleviates these problems by delivering classes at the school where childcare is provided. The school offers a convenient, familiar setting and provides the support of an interpreter.

This summer, as part of the WJCC EL Summer Academy, the focus of the Empowering Parents sessions was "School Success: Navigating the School System." Maria (pictured with her children Jocelyn, Andres and Evangeli) participated in the class. She says that the class increased her confidence to ask questions of teachers, seek help from the school, and fill out forms. She also learned how to use ParentVue to track her children's assignments. She appreciated the opportunity to develop her English while also improving her ability to help her children in school. She was thrilled to receive a children's book at the end of each class and enjoys sharing those books at home with her children. Now that she is aware of Literacy for Life's services, Maria has chosen to continue improving her English by meeting with a one-to-one tutor at Literacy for Life.

Robin Ford, Principal at Matthew Whaley Elementary School, believes one of the greatest outcomes of the "School Success" module is parents becoming more confident communicating with staff, advocating for their children and embracing the partnership between schools and families.

Joan Peterson, Executive Director of Literacy for Life, is thrilled with the outcomes of the program. "We greatly appreciate the funding provided by Impact 100 Greater Peninsula which allowed us to create this program for parents in our community who struggle with English or literacy skills. We enjoy an excellent partnership with Matthew Whaley Elementary School, and would love to bring this program to other schools and community organizations as well."

The Empowering Parents Program is just one of several free services offered by Literacy for Life to adults in our community. One-to-one tutoring remains the heart of the program, and volunteer tutors are the lifeblood of the organization.



Robin Ford with learner Maria Alvarado and her children Joselyn, Andres and Evangeli

- An exciting new program that teaches parents four key areas: reading with children, interacting with schools, health literacy and workplace soft skills.
- "Anytime community organizations can successfully collaborate for their stakeholders, the community as a whole benefits. Partnering with Literacy for Life has allowed us to truly focus on the pillar of our work which builds on a foundation of healthy relationships within families and between home and school."
~ Robin Ford
- Call to tutors. If you would like to tutor someone like Maria please let us know. Our contact information is below.



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