



Family Learning Center Newsletter

Out of Love for Christ and the diversity He has created, the Family Learning Center provides educational support for the refugee community.



We are proud of our 2019 high school graduates.

Congratulations to them and their families! Pictured are Paw Gay, Paw Taw Eh Wah, Paw Eh Wah, Matthew Lin, Esther Htoo, Mu Mu Si, Ler Gay Paw. Also graduated but not pictured: Wissam Alhumrani, Halimo Ali.



On a Saturday in March sixteen middle and high school girls from the Family Learning Center went to the **Dream It, Be It conference** at Columbia Basin College. Dream It, Be It is a one day event just for girls organized by a joint committee made up of members of **Soroptimist International** of Pasco-Kennewick and Soroptimist International of Three Rivers. The girls talked about what they want to do in the future and learned how they can reach their goals. This summer we're excited that the Soroptimists have offered to do an extended version of this program with 25 of our high school girls.

New Partnerships

Last summer the Family Learning Center began a new partnership with **United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties** when we qualified for a \$5,000 capacity grant to fund the work we do to support our high school youth who've lived in our community longer than 3 years. This summer we'll be using a portion of the grant to help some students practice for the SAT and visit some local colleges.

One unexpected blessing from our partnership with United Way was the acquisition of "new" chairs for our learning space. United Way rescued the chairs from the ready-to-be-demolished old Richland City Hall. We received 30 chairs.

If your workplace has a United Way campaign, you can designate the Family Learning Center as a recipient of your United Way giving. Just type in our name in the designated giving space.

Thanks United Way!





Thank you volunteers!

The Family Learning Center has amazing volunteers! Our volunteers commit at least an hour a week for a year at a time.

ESL and Citizenship teachers help their students learn English and prepare to take the test to become US citizens. This year twenty-five people volunteered in our adult program, donating over 1200 hours to our students.

Volunteers are important to the success of our high school students. We are grateful for the adults who spend an hour a week with students practicing English, learning about our culture, and helping with school work.

Marie Noorani is one volunteer who gave a lot of time to help two young women graduate from high school. Marie started volunteering with us early in 2017. She has worked with Paw Eh Wah and Paw Gay for two and a half years, helping them develop their English skills and complete their homework. She says they are what she likes best about volunteering at the Family Learning Center. "I feel like they are a part of my extended family." Thanks to Marie's help, the girls graduated with the class of 2019.

Marie says, "When I volunteer, I feel like I am actively resisting the growing prejudice against refugees and immigrants. It allows me to "put my money where my mouth is" regarding my belief in the justice of providing a safe haven for those seeking to escape violence, poverty, or social unrest. It keeps me grounded and focused on something other than myself."

Whether you spend an hour or two a week volunteering, or regularly donate money, thank you to those who contribute to the ministry of The Family Learning Center, helping our refugee friends as they work to adapt to living in the US.

Ways to Be Involved:

Donate— When you donate to the Family Learning Center, you support our mission to help refugees thrive in their new homeland. And you help to pay our rent and provide programming for children and adults. We now accept donations on our [website](#), and as always, by mail.

Pray— for the families we serve, and our staff and volunteers.

Volunteer—

Academic Mentor for a High School Student: weekly commitment at agreed on time and location. Training provided.

ESL Teacher: We are done with our class year, but now is a good time to plan for September.

Contact us:

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Keep in touch:

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