

## An Update on the English Language Program & Appeal 2021

Dear Friends of the ELP:

Many of you care deeply about the English Language Program (ELP), have sent contributions to it, and/or have even been volunteers in it in the past, so we wanted to update you specifically.

Due to the pandemic --and with vaccination rates in Guatemala lagging many months behind--, both ELP courses, 2020 and 2021, had to be cancelled, to the disappointment of teachers and students.

Knowing that English skills are critical to many of the students' completion of their academic programs and to future employment, ELP coordinator Randhi Wilson nevertheless found a way to help the Maya students earlier this year:

The Beaverton Literacy Council, a nonprofit in Oregon where Randhi lives, agreed to include up to 30 of our Maya students in their online English as a Second Language classes. The students have been in these virtual ESL classes since April and are reporting good success and progress. The classes are twice a week for 75 minutes each. The ongoing structure of these professional courses have been very beneficial to the Maya students. Other MEF ELP volunteers like Polly Knudsen have been working with the beginner students. Thank you!

And, great news: For this coming fall 2021, again 30 MEF scholarship students have been granted spaces in the program, which will run from September 2021 to June 2022. This time we will be asked to pay a small stipend per student and will need to raise a total of \$1,950.



**We are asking for your support to keep students in this new, reborn format for now. The cost of this program per student is \$65, i.e., \$45 for tuition, and \$20 for the textbook, for one academic year. This is a fabulous price for an incredible opportunity for these students.**



If you would like to support the English studies for Maya students like Gaspar and Flordalma, please consider making a gift at [www.mayaedufound.org](http://www.mayaedufound.org) or by check to Maya Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 1483, Wellfleet, MA 02667. Make sure to indicate that your donation is intended for the ELP.

Thank you very much. We will keep you informed on progress and wish you a healthy and happy summer.



*Elisabeth*  
Elisabeth Nicholson, MEF and

&

*Randhi*  
Randhi Wilson, ELP Volunteer Coordinator

## Here are comments from some of our students:

→ My name is Astrid and I'm studying nursing. The online classes have helped me a lot since I live in a tourist town with many foreigners.

Knowing English at least halfway, will help me find a job more easily since many places require at least a fifty percent knowledge of English.

It will also help me in my profession since foreigners often need medical services and there are no translators.



← My name is Catarina and I study technology and business administration. ---It is difficult to take the classes online, but with the example and vocabulary provided by the teacher, I'm learning a lot and many new words. Because the teacher put the words with an image to understand the reading, it has helped me to understand and learn the new words and above all to talk with my classmates. It has helped me a lot, to speak and express myself better without feeling ashamed because none of my classmates made fun of me.

→ Hello, everybody, my name is Gaspar I am twenty years old, I study industrial chemical engineering. I am from Nebaj, a town in Quiché Department in Guatemala. With regard to the class online, I love it, because I learn about different topics and I'll be able to write, listen and speak English in my career. ---In my career, learning English is most important because many of the scientific books and articles are written in English, and I'll need to understand this language for helping people and designing new forms.



← My name is Floridalma. I am studying criminology and criminal policy. The online English classes benefitted me in understanding dialogue and new words, especially to strengthen my confidence and express myself. The command of the English language is very important to obtain new knowledge, new opportunities and to have access to communication and information from other countries. I wish to continue English classes to develop my professional skills and, in the future, to have the possibility to share and acquire information and ideas on criminal investigation methodologies.