

MERCY MATTERS

EDUCATE A WOMAN...EDUCATE A FAMILY

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Three MLC students reflect on how they changed during our fall semester.

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FALL SEMESTER GAINS

From learning how to write a sentence in English to building confidence, celebrate recent student wins with us!

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LIFE AFTER MERCY

We love to stay in touch with our graduates. Here Glenda Molina shares how her resume created at MLC is a real confidence booster.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO LEARN

By providing a welcoming haven for women who have experienced the hardship of poverty, domestic violence, war, natural disaster, family tragedy, and immigration, we ensure that learning and empowerment thrives.

MLC teacher Alla Schlate hosts a monthly community lunch for her English As A Second Language students: "Feeling supported by your peers creates a safe learning environment. Most of these women have problems at home and stress they have to deal with, but when they come here, I want them to feel excited and happy to come to class. Our monthly lunch creates that connection and community with each other."

Alla's students shared: "We get together each month to celebrate all cultures the students represent with a focus on the students who have their birthdays that month. We bring our favorite food and soft drinks to share with everyone in the class. We describe how we prepare the dish and why it is our favorite. We also talk about how different foods are prepared for certain occasions. For example, Slavic people prepare Olivie (potato salad) and Venegret (beets salad) for special occasions, like birthdays and the New Year Eve. The most popular Brazilian food is Feijoada (black beans, different part of pork, and paio, calabrese) served with rice, kale, orange salad and fried bananas. Everyone enjoys relaxed atmosphere and, of course, learn new words connected with food and cultural traditions."



Most of my students have problems at home and stress they have to deal with, but when they come to MLC I want them to feel excited and happy to come to class.

--Alla Schlate, Teacher

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

WE ASKED OUR STUDENTS TO REFLECT ON HOW THEY CHANGED DURING THE FALL SEMESTER. THEIR GAINS ARE ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF COMMUNITY FRIENDS AND PARTNERS LIKE YOU.

I am a 37 year old woman and my given name is ~~_____~~ I have 3 children one girl and two boy. I Exercise a little every morning.
I feel that I have definitely changed since september. I have a big change for my education when I come september. I am not good but now I feel good for my education. When I have an appointment with a doctor I did by my more confident. When I go my children school I have more confident thank you MLC and my teacher.

My name is _____ I am 31 years old.
I am a very good baker, I learned baking from my mother. My mother now lives in Syria. I don't see my mother since 10 years ago I missed her so much. But this longing taught me to be strong and to be a good mother. So here I am struggling to learn a new language to help my children.

* Hi! ☺
I am _____, I am 18 years old, I have a 16 years old brother. I like my life, I live in Bridgeport with my parents and almost my entire family.
I like to learn English, I like to come to MLC, all people is friendly. I want to do many things in my life.
My first goal is learn English then I can go to College or University, I like to study.
Now I feel good and when I get stressed I like go to the beach for a walk around or at night I go to bed to play with my rabbit, he is very curious.
My rabbit name is snoopy.



100+

The number of people on our waiting list.

(We are exploring new ways to empower more women!)



WHAT IS SOMETHING IMPORTANT YOU LEARNED LAST SEMESTER?

“The numbers and say hello.”

“I learned how to ask questions.”

“I learned to believe myself more and I know now I can learning.”

“I can say a complete sentence and learn new words and other things.”

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN THIS SEMESTER?

“Everything.”

“I would like more understand when someone talk me English.”

“I would like to learning more, I’m going to all my possible.”

“I would like to be ready for my GED® test.”

LIFE AFTER MERCY

WHEN OUR STUDENTS REALIZE WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR THEM.

Regina Wrenn, our Volunteer and Enrichment Coordinator, provides career and education guidance to MLC students who obtain their high school equivalency diplomas.

Last year, she helped Glenda Molina--a MLC graduate and current Housatonic Community College student--create her resume. They recently met and Glenda spoke about how much the resume gave her confidence.



Look at this, this is me, can you believe it?!

-Glenda Molina, MLC graduate

Before working on her resume with Regina, Glenda thought all she had was cleaning experience which she felt didn't mean much. After writing her resume, she realized the skills she had gained at her jobs, including organization skills, scheduling and managing co-workers.

She went home to her daughter, showed her the resume and said: “Look at this, this is me, can you believe it?!”

Regina commented: “We will soon be creating resumes in our GED® and advanced Adult Basic Education classes, and this is precisely what we try to get them to understand: their transferable skills and how amazing they are.”



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Dear Friend,

Inside this newsletter you'll be inspired by exciting gains made by our students during our fall semester, learn one of the ways we create community at MLC, and more. None of this is possible without you! Thank you for partnering with us to empower women through education.

Warmly,

Kinday Wyman
President/CEO

Sammy Bailey
Chair, Board of Directors

MLC Preschoolers On The Move!

Our preschool class recently visited Sacred Heart University's Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts to see "Jack Frost" and the Downtown Cabaret Theatre to hang out with Winnie the Pooh.

This was their very first time on a school bus!

Their moms--who are MLC adult students--came along for the ride. This was a great opportunity to practice their English outside of the classroom and learn about fun, family activities in the Bridgeport area.

"I never had the opportunity to participate in any of my older children's school field trips because my English was not good. This is my first time going to the theatre. I'm very happy now to go with my son."



You're cordially invited to experience
the power of education for women



tea & tour

at mercy learning center

Let's Get Together

Come visit Mercy Learning Center! Our Tea & Tour event offers a unique opportunity to explore our wonderful center in person. Check out our classrooms, meet our dedicated staff and students, and witness first-hand the impact created by your generous support of our mission.

Tours to be held on February 22, March 27 and April 11
Register today at mercylearningcenter.org/teaandtour