

Request for Diocesan Support for an English as a Second Language Program at St. Paul's, Georgetown

Background: In late 2019 St. Paul's Georgetown embarked upon an outreach project targeting Latino stay-at-home mothers and their pre-school children. The project consisted of providing English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction four hours per week for the moms and an on-site nursery to provide childcare while class was in session. Thanks to Diocesan support, St. Paul's was able to purchase supplies and equipment for the classroom, as well as equip the nursery and pay the salary of an experienced bilingual salaried head nursery teacher.

In addition to Diocesan investment, **outside support** came from **Sussex Tech Adult Education (STAE)**. STAE promoted the program within its own student body and developed bilingual flyers for distribution to families in the St. Paul's neighborhood. STAE also deployed personnel to conduct on-site registration and testing, lent computers to support learning objectives for advanced students, and deployed a paraprofessional classroom assistant.

In-kind support consisted of volunteers from **Christ Church, Dover** (grants writing, programmatic oversight and classroom support); **St. Peter's, Lewes** (programmatic oversight, procurement of childcare volunteers); and **St. Paul's** (preparation of nursery furnishings, provision of nursery and classroom space, volunteer ESL teacher, procurement of childcare volunteer).

St. Paul's ESL/nursery program registered 20 adult learners. Thirteen were accepted on a first-come first-served basis; seven were wait-listed. The ability levels ranged from no English at all to high intermediate. A total of 13 pre-schoolers were served in the nursery. These ranged in age from 3 months to four years.

Classes began in January 2020. Unfortunately we had to close two months later due to the pandemic.

Present/Near Future: We are now poised to re-start the program in January 2022. We will again target Latino stay-at-home mothers and their children. We anticipate the program will run in tandem with the academic year; i.e., January – May and September – December. We have commitments from STAE to again provide advertising, registration, and both pre- and post-testing. STAE will also provide a paid teacher and a paid paraprofessional. St. Paul's will again donate space to hold classes and provide childcare. A volunteer from St. Paul's will coordinate the hiring of a head nursery teacher and volunteers to staff the nursery. The St. Paul's volunteer will coordinate the program with STAE.

Request: Because of the prior generosity of the diocese we have all the equipment we believe we will need for the coming year. As indicated above salaries for the ESL professionals are covered, as is in-kind support. We are asking the Diocese to fill the gap between what we have and what we need, which is **funding for the**

salary of a head nursery teacher and a small amount for consumable supplies.

Budget narrative:

1 head nursery teacher salary: \$20/hr. x 5.0 hrs./week x 32 weeks =
\$ 3,200.00

Consumable supplies; i.e., disposable diapers, juice boxes, crayons, construction paper, whiteboard markers, worksheet copies.
\$ 300.00

Total Request: \$ 3,500.00

Longer range: We expect that the promise of success that we envisioned in the aborted 2021 program will be realized in 2022. Moreover, we anticipate that the ESL/Nursery program is just one step in a multi-faceted approach to deepening outreach to our Latino neighbors. To that end the vestry has discussed developing and offering a youth music program, homework assistance, and a mother's group. We believe there is a great need for these and other services not currently offered by local human/social service organizations. Census statistics for 2020 indicate that Hispanics make up 39% of the population in Georgetown.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/georgetowndelaware>

Informally, the number is probably closer to 50%. Many of these families are concentrated in the immediate neighborhood of our church. They are uniformly poor and lacking in the skills and abilities to advance economically and socially.

St. Paul's has a long history serving the Hispanic community. From 2007-2017 we hosted Primeros Pasos (First Steps), an early learning program. In 2014-2017 we served as a summer lunch program site for income-eligible youngsters in our community, all of whom were Latinos. And for the past three years we have provided non-perishable food to the community through our self-serve Little Red Cupboard. The ESL/Nursery program is therefore consistent with the services we have provided, and continue to provide, to our Hispanic neighbors and is in keeping with our baptismal pledge to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Submitted by Sharon Mackwell
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Attachment: 2020 ESL/Nursery program photos