One Hundred Volunteers Contributed More than 6000 Hours to the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center's Classes in 2020

The Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center offers free and low-cost classes to the community, thanks to our amazing volunteer instructors and assistants. In 2020, volunteers eagerly and quickly dedicated themselves to learning how to teach online so that we had only a short period of transition from in-person to online classes.

Our 116 volunteers served as teachers in our English and computer classes, teaching aides in our citizenship program, administrative volunteers, and more. Some of our volunteers proposed and implemented program re-designs to best accommodate students, others worked extra time to help people pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine! The Gilchrist Center served nearly 6,000 immigrants in Montgomery County in 2020, and the work of our volunteers directly impacted more than 2,000 people in the County.

On April 24, the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center hosted its annual Volunteer Appreciation Event to celebrate our volunteers who were so crucial to our operations in 2020. In the midst of the pandemic, our volunteers worked harder than ever to ensure that immigrants in our community received the services they needed, in spite of increased challenges, such as technology access for our clients. In this year that was so difficult for all of us, our volunteers contributed more than 1,000 more hours of their time than in 2019!

Our staff were joined by County Executive Marc Elrich, County Council President Hucker, and Councilmembers Katz and Riemer in honoring our volunteers at an online event featuring student and teacher testimonials and live music. We were pleased that family members of Charles Gilchrist -- Mrs. Phoebe Gilchrist, Mr. Jim Gilchrist and Mr. Don Gilchrist -- joined us.

We are immensely grateful for their commitment and dedication to our common goal to make Montgomery County a better place for immigrants.

Apply Now for Online Computer, Workforce Development and Financial Literacy Classes

Do you know someone looking to improve their basic computer skills? The Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center has started its Spring registration for online classes!

Registrations for basic computer classes, workforce development, financial literacy workshops and citizenship at the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center will begin the week of May 4, 2021. All classes are held ONLINE.

Computer and Citizenship classes are FREE. Please check out our website for details! Interested parties can also call our office at 240.777.4940 for support with registration or information for other services. Registration for our spring ESOL classes is closed (we had spaces for 200 students and more than 300 students applied!). For a list of other agencies providing ESOL classes, please click HERE.

To find out more about the programs and services we offer, please visit https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/programs_and_services.html