

English At Large Honors Volunteers with Open House at First Congregational Church

Winchester--- English At Large (EAL) depends on the giving spirit of more than 240 local volunteers each year, who deliver life-changing services to immigrants in 21 different communities in Middlesex County. To celebrate and thank them for their generosity and commitment, EAL's board and staff hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Holiday Open House in the Tucker Room at the First Congregational Church in Winchester.

“Our volunteers donate an astounding 6,000 hours of service each year,” EAL Board Member Matt Roper told the group assembled at the appreciation event in December. “Your work as tutors, conversation group facilitators, teachers of Beginner English, career mentors, and intake and test assessors has made English At Large a provider of high-quality and high-impact programs that empower local immigrants to achieve success in the United States. By sharing your gifts of knowledge and friendship, you make our communities a better place for all people to live and work together. Thank you.”

Roper also recognized the First Congregational Church of Winchester for donating the space for the open house, and Market Basket Supermarkets, Razzy's Bakery in Billerica and Sweet Spot Cupcakes in Medford for making generous donations to the refreshment table.

English At Large is a local nonprofit that provides individual and small group instruction through a volunteer network to adult immigrants and other newcomers who want to acquire English as they adapt to life in the United States. The organization is based on the vision that newcomers will develop the English language skills and acquire the cultural knowledge needed to fully engage in their communities and fulfill their life goals. To learn more about this 47-year-old organization, visit www.englishatlarge.org.

Picture Caption: EAL Director of Volunteer Engagement Csilla Tambor (left) and EAL volunteer tutor Margaret Fortier (right) pose for a picture at the EAL Holiday Open House, hosted recently at the First Congregational Church of Winchester. Margaret tutors a local English language learner at the Winchester Public Library.