



The ESL Conversation group includes long-time volunteers Kathy and Peggy pictured here with students.

**What is the POC Learning Lab?** The Learning Lab, located in the Community Resource Center in Palatine, welcomes clients into a learning community. In April, over 150 individuals accessed services. We are fortunate to have skilled volunteers to support individuals and families throughout the week. They bring their educational background and respect and love for people from all different cultures and ethnicities. This month alone, clients from Honduras, Nigeria, Philippines, Mexico, Bangladesh, Columbia, Turkey, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, and Kyrgyzstan visited the Learning Lab.

**Meet One of Our Clients** - Ornella is from Georgia, a small country located at the eastern end of the Black Sea. She and her husband have been in the country for four months. POC welcomed Ornella to the community where she has registered for Fall Harper Classes, joined the ESL Conversation Group 2-3 times a week, and learned about community resources. We introduced her to immigration resources, PATH clothing closet, All Saints Food Pantry, Palatine Public Library, ROLE Studio, and the Northwest Community Healthcare Community Health Nurse. Ornella enjoyed the Sikh Cultural Community Event in her first week! In Georgia, she was a professional boxer and was awaiting Olympic status. Ornella is also a dancer and hopes to teach children to box and other athletics. We look forward to guiding Ornella on her journey!



Palatine Township and generous ROLE donors support the POC Learning Lab through grants, donations, and volunteers. ROLE is POC's women's leadership program of which many of the Learning Lab volunteers are a part. POC invites all women to participate throughout their journey to success.

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**POC supports students taking Harper College GED or ESL classes, Citizenship, Community Health Worker Certificate Program, employment, and provides community resources. The Learning Lab hosts the Parent Mentors for professional development classes, the teen group, and a weekly women's support group for native Spanish speakers. To learn more, contact Terri Kelly at (847) 776-9500 or [pocterri@gmail.com](mailto:pocterri@gmail.com).**