



A Note of Gratitude from Grace

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we transition into late summer, my heart is full as I reflect on everything taking place inside our classroom and across our community. I continue to be inspired and motivated by our students. Their resilience, grit, and dedication to building better futures for themselves and their families is nothing short of extraordinary. Seeing their hard work makes me want to push harder every day to expand our resources and deepen our support so every woman who walks through our doors has what she needs to become the best version of herself and live her best life.

We are entering a vibrant season full of momentum! We are continuing to deepen our partnership with the Community Impact Network, and you will see the powerful fruits of this collaboration on full display at our Fall Fundraiser on October 2nd.

Beyond our fundraiser, we have so many wonderful community connection points lined up for the coming weeks, including:

- A creative **Joy Petalers workshop** to bring joy and beauty to our students and community.
- A community **tabling event at Winslow's Table** coming up on September 11th from 11am-1pm—come say hi if you're in the neighborhood!
- And as we look ahead to finishing 2026 strong, we are already preparing for our beloved annual **Celebration of Success in December**, where we will formally honor our HiSET graduates and ESL students. Keep an eye out for more details soon!

Whether you tutor, donate, attend our events, or simply cheer us on from afar, thank you for standing alongside our women. You make this life-changing work possible.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace Souza".

Grace Souza



ESL Student Spotlight: Determination Across Borders

Learning a new language in a new country requires immense sacrifice, patience, and purpose. This month, we are honored to feature Rocky, one of our dedicated ESL students, whose hard work inside our classrooms is driven by a deep love for his family.

"The U.S. has many opportunities that do not exist in Guatemala. I don't mind working hard."

Working Toward a Dream

Originally from Guatemala City, Rocky came to St. Louis with clear goals in mind and a willingness to work tirelessly to achieve them. While living away from his homeland means deeply missing his father, his wife, and his children, his motivation remains steadfast.

Rocky asked his wife for one more year in St. Louis to reach a life-changing financial milestone for his family back home: building a rental apartment for long-term security, and funding a small beauty salon for his daughter to start her own business.

Breaking Communication Barriers

Seeking to improve his daily life and work in St. Louis, Rocky found *Women in Charge* online:

"When I saw that it was close to my home, I decided to enroll. Knowing English helps me to communicate on my job, in stores, and in the community. The English program is important because the classes help people free of charge."

Rocky's determination reminds us that language education isn't just about grammar, it's about opening doors, creating economic opportunity, and supporting families both here in St. Louis and around the world. We are so proud to support Rocky on his journey!

Support Students Like Rocky

You're Invited: Fall Fundraiser 2026!



Mark your calendars! On **Friday, October 2nd**, the Women in Charge family is gathering for our annual **Fall Fundraiser**, an evening dedicated to celebrating our resilient students, honoring our community partners, and raising vital funds to power our education, literacy, and support programs.

Whether you've been with us for years or are looking for a meaningful way to get involved in the St. Louis community, this event is the single best way to see the impact of your support in action.

DATE: Friday, October 2, 2026

LOCATION: TechArtista UCity ([725 Kingsland Ave](#))

TIME: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

HIGHLIGHTS: Live student stories, silent auction, dinner & refreshments

Every ticket purchased directly funds HiSET prep workbooks, ESL classroom tools, adult literacy resources, and our safe on-site childcare room.

Purchase Tickets Here!

Can't make it in person on October 2nd? You can still make an impact by making a donation directly toward our event goal!

Community & Leadership Corner

Wear Your Support!

Help Guide Our Future: Join Our Board of Directors!



As Women in Charge continues to grow and serve more women across the St. Louis area, we are seeking passionate community leaders, advocates, and thinkers to join our Board of Directors.

We are looking for energetic, community-minded individuals who want to lend their expertise, time, and strategic vision to help guide our mission forward. Whether your background is in finance, marketing, education, community outreach, or simply a deep passion for empowering women, we would love to connect.

Interested in learning more or nominating someone? Reach out directly to Grace at grace@womenincharge.org to request a board information packet!

Looking for a stylish, everyday way to show your support for women's education and empowerment? Grab an official Women in Charge t-shirt! Nearly **100% of proceeds** go directly back into our programs, funding HiSET workbooks, ESL learning materials, and on-site childcare.

- **For Everyone:** Show off your heart for our mission around town, at our events, or while running errands!
- **For Volunteers:** We also have custom volunteer t-shirts! They double as a recognizable "uniform" to wear during your tutoring sessions so new students can easily spot you.

Shop Here!

Thank you for staying connected with us. To read more inspiring student success stories like Rocael's and to stay updated on our upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and more, please follow us on **Facebook** (facebook.com/wicuc) and **Instagram** (instagram.com/womeninchargestl). We are so grateful for your continued support as we work together to empower women in our community.

