



Happy New Year from Women in Charge!

A New Chapter of Empowerment



Since joining the Women in Charge community earlier this year, I have been deeply moved by the resilience of our students and the unwavering dedication of our supporters. Stepping into the role of Executive Director has allowed me to see firsthand how education truly transforms lives.

Watching our HiSET graduates and our hardworking ESL students at our Celebration of Success was the highlight of my year. It served as a powerful reminder that when we provide women with the right tools, there is no limit to what they can achieve. As we look toward 2026, my goal is to expand our reach and ensure our classroom remains a place of hope and opportunity. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly and for being the foundation of everything we do.

Grace Souza, Executive Director

A handwritten signature of Grace Souza in blue ink.

Support Our Mission in 2026

A Night of Achievement: Celebrating the Class of 2025!



On the evening of **December 18th**, the Women in Charge community gathered for our annual Celebration of Success, and the energy in the room was truly unforgettable. It was a night defined by triumph over obstacles and the power of a supportive community.

The highlight of the evening was honoring our **three newest HiSET graduates**, alongside our hardworking ESL students who have made incredible strides in their English proficiency this year. As these women stood to be recognized, they were surrounded by an audience of family, friends, dedicated volunteer tutors, and members of our Board of Directors.

There wasn't a dry eye in the house when **Mary King, our HiSET Program Director**, took the stage. Mary's moving speech perfectly captured the grit and grace our students demonstrate every day. Her words were a beautiful tribute to the long hours of study, the resilience required to balance family and education, and the bright futures that now lie ahead for these graduates.

The night was more than just a ceremony; it was an outpouring of support and love that reminded us all why Women in Charge exists. To our volunteers and donors: **you made this night possible.**

Dayjah: Finding Her Voice and Future at Women in Charge

Growing up, Dayjah loved school, but she rarely had the chance to call one place home. With a mother struggling with mental illness and a father battling addiction, her childhood was defined by constant moves. She attended countless schools, never staying long enough to finish what she started.

"I remember leaving behind my art projects," Dayjah recalls. "I used to wonder if the teacher would just throw them away, knowing I wasn't coming back."

When her grandmother—her primary source of stability—passed away, Dayjah found herself truly adrift. By age 19, she was pregnant, her mother was homeless, and after a dangerous altercation with her father, she no longer felt safe in his home.

A Sanctuary at Women in Charge

Everything changed when Dayjah found temporary housing through a partner social service agency. Through their collaboration with **Women in Charge**, Dayjah finally found the one thing she had been missing since childhood: a safe, consistent space to belong.

For Dayjah, our center wasn't just a place to study for a test; it was a sanctuary. It was a place where she could escape the complications of her daily life, "use her brain," and simply feel normal. Even after the birth of her child, Dayjah refused to give up. She balanced the demands of new motherhood with her studies to finish what she started.

The Result: A Legacy of Education

We are so proud to share that **Dayjah officially passed her HiSET**. Today, Dayjah's life looks very different. She is working, has secured reliable childcare, and is diligently saving for a housing deposit to create a permanent home for herself and her baby—a place where no art projects will ever be left behind again.

Her journey has inspired a new career goal: Dayjah plans to become a Teacher's Assistant. After experiencing how education and a supportive environment changed her own life, she wants to give that same gift back to the next generation of students.

"Women in Charge gave me a safe space to go each day and get away from the bad stuff of my life. It changed everything." — Dayjah

[Support Students Like Dayjah](#)

Meet Yael: The Heart of Our Growing ESL Program

We are also thrilled to officially introduce **Yael Sabah**, who joined Women in Charge earlier this year as our **ESL Program Coordinator**. Yael has quickly become an essential part of our team, bringing fresh energy, deep expertise, and a palpable passion for language justice to our classrooms.



In just a few short months, Yael has worked tirelessly to ensure our ESL students feel supported, confident, and empowered to navigate their community. Whether she is coordinating with volunteers or working one-on-one with students, Yael's dedication ensures that every student—regardless of their starting point—has a seat at the table and a voice in their future. Please join us in giving her a warm 'official' welcome!

Want to support our ESL program directly?
Click the link below to browse our Amazon

Wish List and help provide the specific classroom materials and tools Yael needs to empower our students.

[View the ESL Wish List](#)

Looking Ahead: Save the Date!

The success of 2025 was just the beginning! We are thrilled to announce that we will be hosting our **Second-Annual Trivia Night** on a Saturday evening this **April**.

While the specific date is currently being finalized, we promise a night of friendly competition, community spirit, and support for the women of Women in Charge. Watch your physical mailbox for the official invitation, which will be arriving soon!

A Note on Our 2026 Communications: In an effort to be more eco-friendly and ensure that more of our resources go directly to our student programs, the Trivia Night invitation will be our **final paper invitation for 2026**. All subsequent event information, updates, and invitations will be sent exclusively through our digital channels.

Don't Miss an Update!

To stay in the loop on the Trivia Night date, registration details, and other upcoming events, please make sure you are following us on social media and that your friends and family are part of our community too!

- **Follow us on Facebook** [HERE](#)
- **Follow us on Instagram** [HERE](#)
- **Grow Our Community:** Forward this email to a friend and encourage them to join our mission by signing up for our mailing list here:

[Join Our Email List!](#)

Your belief in our mission is the reason stories like Dayjah's have a happy ending. Thank you for standing with us through this year of transition and for being the community that our students can rely on. We are so honored to have you on this journey with us.

Wishing you and yours a peaceful and happy New Year!

