By: Sien Li (Administrative Assistant)

I started working at the Chinatown Y about two months ago. The New American Welcome Center program truly provided what the Asian Americans and immigrants need. Beyond teaching English, we teach cultural differences and create a sense of community. I love seeing students coming in with a smile every night. It can be difficult to overcome the language barriers, especially when some of our students didn't even have a chance to finish primary school in their homeland. We are trying our best to not only teach English but also remind our students that it's never too late for anything and never too old to learn new things.

By: Chloe Yuen (Program Coordinator)

I am glad that I joined the NAWC team this May, where I have met so many lovely students who share the background as mine. As a new comer, I have faced many difficulties when I first settled in the US. Working as the program coordinator, I feel that I am working on something meaningful and my everyday duties are all aim at providing a welcoming environment and the best classes for the new immigrants. It is my pleasure to serve those in need and it is always delightful to see students look satisfied for the classes or the events that we hold.
My name is Gui Xiong Peng. Seven years ago, I immigrated to the United States along with my family. In America, we had to start all over. We spoke very little English. After my family decided to live in New York, we had to adjust to the culture and environment. I love living in New York City. With little English background, I decided to take classes for the citizenship exam.

Last year, my friend told me about a free program in Chinatown YMCA where they offered adult citizenship classes. While going to a full-time morning job, I was happy that they had evening classes during the weekdays. The New Americans Welcome Center had greatly changed my life. I was so happy to be in a free and friendly program. Knowing that my citizenship exam is coming soon, I studied very hard to pass the exam. The citizenship exam was hard for me because it had difficult English vocabularies and United States history. My teacher was very patient in teaching the historical context while keeping the night classes interesting. We had a lot of mock tests in class before the citizenship exam. The teacher truly cared about us.

Shortly after I finish my fingerprint, I was called to take the citizenship exam. I got a lot of help from New Americans Welcome Center, and it made me confident. As expected, I passed my citizenship exam on August 31, and I’m proud to be a US citizen. I’ll continue learn more English in ESL class. I will tell my friends about this great program that helped me and my family. I want to thank all the teachers and staffs in the Chinatown YMCA New Americans Welcome Center for the help. Thank you for this great opportunity and all the classes have provided for our community.
**What classes do you offer?**

**Currently, we offer Literacy level, Beginner level, Intermediate level, and Advance level ESL classes, Computer literacy class and Citizenship class. However, you can check for a more updated schedule on our website or stop by our office to find out more information!**

**How much does each class cost?**

**All of our classes are completely FREE!**

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I enjoy the NAWC program at YMCA very much. This program helped me build confidence in communicating with people. I hope this program can be an on-going program so I can continue to improve my English. This is very important for my future. I appreciate my teacher a lot. She was very patient with all her students and explain clearly.

– Xuan Jian Cao

Ever since I joined YMCA’s NAWC program, I think I have improved my knowledge of basic computer knowledge. I can use the computer better than before. Thank you to all my teachers and YMCA.

– Hua Feng Lin

I have been in NYC for 8 months. I also remember the first day that I arrived here. Everywhere were foreigners, everyone spoke English. It made me very confused that I didn’t know how to start my life here because I couldn’t speak English. I didn’t have a good impression of NYC at first. The transportation was old and the environment was reechy. But New York City is a city with four distinct seasons and I like it. There are many different types of food from all around the world.

– Zheng, Si Si

I am happy every day because I have a job. I go to work at 8:30 in the morning on weekdays and some Saturdays. I go to school at 5:00 pm. I enjoy my English classes at YMCA. I feel very welcomed by all my classmates and teachers at the YMCA.

– Xiao Meng Cheng

I have only three family members in my home; me, my husband and the younger son. I hope my older son will come to the United States soon. I miss my family very much. I am from China. I am currently 56 years old and work as a home aid attendant in Chinatown. I am a student at YMCA. I like America a lot. I get to study English. I go to work almost every day.

– Li Zhu Lei
EMBRACING CULTURE (Christmas Celebration)

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