

ONE TO ONE

Learning, Inc.

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one2one-learning.org



Annual Report / *newsletter*

2010 - 2011

OCTOBER 2011

One to One Learning, Inc.

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www.one2one-learning.org



OUR MISSION:

To provide English Classes and other supportive services for immigrants to empower them to reach their full potential and lead meaningful lives within their communities.



**Language Empowers.
Language Unites.**

TRUSTEES

Sr. Irene Ellis
Sr. Eileen Gannon
Sr. Lorraine LaRocca
Sr. Mary Murray
Sr. Margaret Palliser
Sr. Carolyn Wolfbauer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Alex Aguilar
Ms. Adriana Bernal
Ms. Marion Breland
Ms. Carol Davide
Sister Joanne Deas
Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick
Sr. Virginia Johnson
Mr. John Lawler
Sr. Ursula McGovern
Sr. Margaret Murphy
Ms. Yvonne Chereña-Pacheco
Mr. Paul Piperato
Sr. Nancy Richter
Mr. Gino Silvestri
Mr. Joseph Vogler

A Message from Sister Cecilia La Pietra, Executive Director

October 10, 2011



Dear Friends and Benefactors,

In February 2012 we will celebrate the 15th anniversary of One to One Learning. I went back five years to the Annual Report for 2006-2007 to see where our organization was at that time. In March 2007 the Board of Directors and I took part in a strategic planning process with the assistance of a facilitator, Tom Burns, who had previously facilitated a board planning session in December 2002. Our task was to measure our strengths and weaknesses, recommit ourselves to the mission, and strategize for the future.

In 2007 evening classes were held in Connolly Hall of St. John the Baptist Church in Piermont. Because of the increase in student population, the space was inadequate to meet the needs of the program. The executive position was part-time, with no other assistance. A result of the strategic planning was to meet both of these challenges.

All of this has been accomplished within the last five years:

- *September 2007 full-time Executive Director and Administrative Assistant*
- *April 2008 office moved to Marydell Faith and Life Center*
- *September 2008 English classes and computer lab moved to Marydell*

So we have come a long way during these past five years. Here at Marydell we have been able to expand. We have increased registration. Our office is a welcoming space for day-time students, folks interested in our mission, and new teachers who come to learn about our materials and methods. Our computer lab is right here on the property. The children's program has its own space with a wonderful lending library. We have an hour of mini-courses, including yoga, parenting, nutrition, health, sewing, knitting, and crocheting, that take place before English classes begin. We are looking toward new classes in budgeting, energy saving, children's health, and dental health. We have an immigration lawyer who has a space in which she is able to assist our students and other new comers in applying for TPS, green cards, and citizenship.

Part of the strategic planning process was the recognition that the changes in increased management and space would require increased development efforts. Then in 2009 we all experienced the down turn in the economy which continues to worsen. State and institutional grants on which One to One Learning depended are no more. We have had to look toward you, our friends, for more assistance and you have responded to our partnering initiative, our decal project, and our general giving. You have participated in the Hands of Hope Gala, Star-Fest and other events sponsored by our students. We are most grateful to you.

As we look toward celebrating our 15th anniversary we do so in hope that we will continue on in our mission together with you our benefactors, teachers, board members, alumni, and students –

LANGUAGE EMPOWERS; LANGUAGE UNITES.

*Peace,
Sister Cecilia*

PROGRAM

Students of **One to One Learning** celebrated their success at the Awards Ceremony on June 22, 2011. Their teachers were honored and thanked by the director with small tokens of our appreciation. Many students showed their gratitude by presenting their teachers with gifts and flowers.

Teachers presented certificates to their students as each name was announced and group pictures were taken.

The total number of students receiving certificates was:

131 STUDENTS

Certificates Recipients–

75 HONOR STUDENTS

41 MERIT STUDENTS

15 PARTICIPATION STUDENTS

A SUMMARY OF THESE STUDENTS ACCORDING TO YEARS ATTENDING IN THIS TIME FRAME:

TIME ATTENDED	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
11 YEARS	1
8 YEARS	1
6 YEARS	2
5 YEARS	2
4 YEARS	8
3 YEARS	13
2 YEARS	29
1 YEAR	58
SPRING SEMESTER	17

OTHER STUDENTS WHO WERE ON REGISTER BUT DID NOT COMPLETE THE YEAR OF STUDY:

TIME ATTENDED	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
JUNE REGISTRATION	25
4 TO 6 MONTHS	45
2 TO 3 MONTHS	45
1 MONTH OR LESS	58

304 = TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS ON REGISTER 2010-2011

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



The coordinators of the evening children's program were **Christine Buel**, professor at Nyack College and **Angelique Annisse**, advanced student at Nyack College. Student volunteers came from Nyack and St. Thomas

Aquinas Colleges, and local high schools, Tappan Zee, Clarkstown, Albertus Magnus. Their dedication to coming each Monday and Wednesday was a stabilizing factor. The children looked forward to seeing their mentors and nice relationships developed. Throughout the year there were 20 volunteers in the children's program. Their donated services were approximately \$12,000 for the year.

The focus this year was to provide an atmosphere of learning. For the first half hour time was spent by the older children on homework and reading books from our library. Our volunteers read to the little ones. After that, time was spent on crafts, puzzles, and games. The evening concluded with a snack and maybe a video.



THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHERS

Our teachers are the heart and soul of One to One Learning. In 2010-2011 we had 33 learning groups from beginner to GED (high school equivalency). Each group had between 5 to 10 students. Because of this type of learning in small groups, our students have the opportunity to practice speaking, not very easy in a class room setting.

Some volunteers could come to teach both nights; others came only one night. In the case of the latter, cooperating teachers kept notes on the class progress. We had 50 volunteer teachers. In terms of donated services, these teachers saved One to One Learning a total of \$100,000 for the year.

MINI COURSES

YOGA



There were between 10 and 15 faithful yoga students each Monday and Wednesday. **Kate Gregg**, benefactor and former English teacher at One

to One Learning, got the students to the point of doing the *Salute to the Sun*. Students went to their English classes peaceful and energized.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Adriana Bernal, board member of One to One Learning and staff member at Hudson Health Center



provided classes on health concerns, including flu, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

Diane Holtner of "Eat Smart New York" from Cornell University, Cooperative Extension, gave a six week course including topics on nutrition, meal planning, smart food shopping, cooking, and



food safety. Several students received certificates for their participation.

PARENTING

Our parenting workshop, sponsored by **Patricia Vendetti** of Mental Health and given by **Dr. Najafi**, a well-known author and therapist in the



Annual Report	
September 1, 2010 - August 31, 2011	
INCOME	
Grants	\$ 8, 500
Donations	42, 067
Fund Raising	34, 420
Student Fund Raising	10, 663
Book Sales	3, 744
Computer Classes	920
Investment Interest	6, 549
TOTAL	\$106, 863
EXPENSES	
Stipends	\$ 84, 351
Utilities	5, 802
Office Expense	4, 259
Capital Improvements	2, 021
Furniture/Equipment	320
Transportation	1, 570
Fund Raising Expense	14, 975
Memberships/Board/Gifts	2, 141
Student Books	6, 418
Cleaning/Maintenance	1, 320
Financial Management	182
Newsletter	5, 210
Fire Alarms	1, 965
Children's Program	533
Petty Cash	298
TOTAL	\$131, 365
NET	(\$24,502)

field of child and adolescent psychology, was well attended by twelve couples. The students were able to bring situations to the class to be discussed by the group and Dr. Najafi.

COMPUTER PROGRAM

We continued classes in general knowledge of the computer, keyboarding, Internet access, word processing and Excel with a class of ten students, taught by **Gino Silvestri** in February and a smaller group taught by **Terry Siracusano** during the summer.

KNITTING AND CROCHETING

Several students and their children took advantage of learning knitting taught by members of **Catholic Daughters**, coordinated by *Mary Loftus*. Students made hats and scarves. One student was very faithful to the crocheting class, taught by *Edna Swanson*. She made several hand towel hangers.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Directors of One to One Learning continued their work of managing the business of the corporation. They represent the Members or Trustees of the corporation of One to One Learning, the Executive Team of the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill, who are the sponsors of One to One Learning.

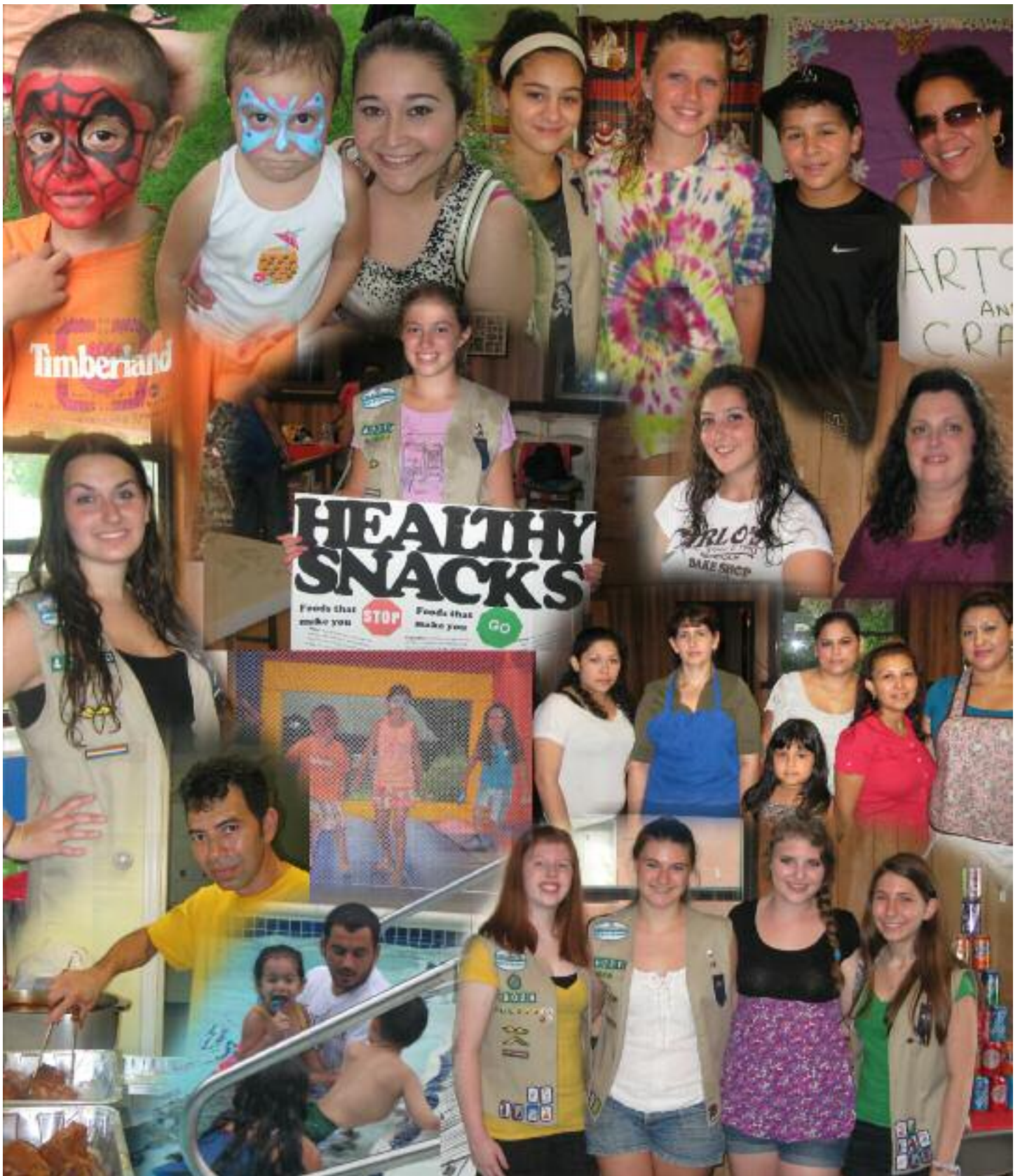
This year the directors looked at the long range planning process that they had developed in 2007-2008. It was noted at that time that with the growth of the organization and its new location, additional development work would have to be initiated. In addition to this, the directors have been challenged by the economic times with the loss in grants and state funds.

The Executive Director works with each of the committees of the Board. The development committee introduced some new programs for fund raising, including the partnership program and the sale of One to One Learning decals. Some new events, such as Star-Fest, picnics, parties, and a soccer tournament (the later three coordinated by alumni and students) were also initiated to develop relationships with the public and with our students and to raise money. The finance committee with the assistance of Sister Jeanine Nolan have prepared excellent financial reports to develop the budget and 990 forms. The program committee developed a handbook for our teacher volunteers.

In 2011-2012 our present Board membership will remain the same. However, the second of the three year term of five of our directors will be completed and we will develop a process to surface competencies and names of persons to replace Alex Aguilar, Carol Davide, Paul Fitzpatrick, John Lawler, and Sister Nancy Richter for 2012-2013. During this year they will assist in surfacing and orienting new members.



Summer Activities



CARNIVAL PICNIC ON AUGUST 21

Adults and children alike had a wonderful time. The carnival was the brainchild of a group of Girl Scouts who organized it for their Gold Medal Award. There were activities set up in different cabins and grassy areas of Marydell. **Elizabeth Aaron** coordinated the recreational games such as volleyball, swimming and the "Bouncin'Around Town" house and provided healthy snacks and water. **Catherine Morrone** had arts and crafts activities. Children made book marks and pencil cases. All the children received back packs and school supplies. **Jessica Risolo** organized the face painting and had skits going on in her cabin. The

children were thrilled coming out painted as angels, butterflies, spider men, etc. **Shannon Russo** organized lots of fun recycle games and a fishing pond. She had lots of prizes. Everyone won.

Our alumni, teachers and students cooked the food that was sold for a fund raiser for One to One Learning. **Efrain Aguilar**, our master cook, made a delicious pot roast. It was featured with rice and a broccoli. Of course there were hot dogs and hamburgers, pupusas, watermelon, choco bananas, snow cones, and milk ice.

Selling food netted \$2370.

STAR-FEST II ON SEPTEMBER 18

The weather cooperated for this event. It was a lovely autumn-like day. The hills, Hook Mountain, were alive with music. **John Patrick Schutz** hosted the evening and provided us with some charming songs, some brought tears, others brought laughs.

Rita Harvey, a new performer this year, enchanted us with her beautiful crystal clear soprano voice. **Robert Mattern** returned this year with his booming tenor voice. We were treated with Rita and Robert singing *Con Te Partiro – Time to Say Goodbye*.



Sue Matsuki returned to bring her jazz renditions of some familiar songs. **Jan Lynch**, our pop sensation from last year, returned bringing with her **Tommy Dunn**, her husband. They entertained with some Country and Irish renditions. **Brian Walter**, the accompanist, also brought some of his own pieces, to our great enjoyment. **JP Schutz** and **Suzanne Ducharme**, a dramatic actress and new this year, brought several short "Moments and Meditations on 'Coming to America'". These readings were so appropriate to our mission of accompanying our students on their journey here. They brought many tears as members of the audience recalled the passages of their ancestors.

We are so grateful to these performers for their time to share their talent and to provide such a wonderful repertoire and hope that next year we will have a **Star-Fest III**.

Our audience was also treated to a Mini-Taste of Rockland. Delicious tastes were provided by **DeArte**, Orangeburg, **World of Food**, Valley Cottage, **Nyack Seaport**, Nyack, **Turiellos's**, Nyack, **Mia Cucina**, Blauvelt, **Rocco's**, New City, **Gino's**, Orangeburg, **Pasta Cucina**, Stony Point, **State Line**, Tappan, **City Line**, New City, and **Union**, Haverstraw. **Restaurant X**, Congers provided us with six trays of delicious sweets. The event was a great success socially and financially, netting \$4000.



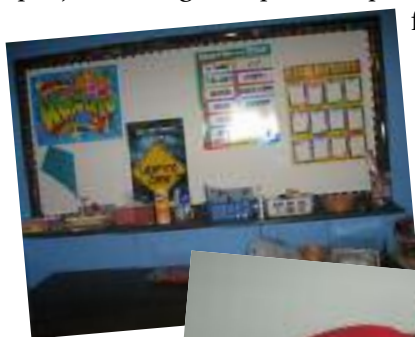
SOCCKER TOURNAMENT

Everyone was ready for this annual event. The Orangetown League had arranged for 16 teams. Our alumni, teachers, and students were ready with the food. Hurricane Irene came. Subsequent Sundays had rain or field conditions were water logged. So we never had our soccer tournament. On October 2nd we sold food, after the one o'clock Mass at St. John the Baptist Church to make up for some of our loss. The aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers cooking brought everyone down to enjoy the food. We raised \$930.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD MEDAL AWARD

We are grateful to **Devona Paul** and her family for their time and effort in transforming our children's cabin. They painted the walls, put in new shelves, a bulletin board, a black board wall, new alphabet, and bright, happy, welcoming signs. Devona set up a new lending library that will encourage our children to take out books to read at home. It really was a family project with grand parents, parents, siblings, and friends cooperating.

Devona raised all the funds for the project through donations. Thank you to all.



PARTNERING WITH ONE TO ONE LEARNING

In the summer of 2010 we introduced a new program, inviting our friends to partner with us in the mission of One to One Learning. It was explained that because of the in-kind donation of our volunteer teachers, we are able to educate a student for approximately \$400 a year-taking our program cost and dividing it by the number of students. Twenty two friends partnered in 2010-2011. We ask for a gift yearly, bi-annually, quarterly, or monthly and this can be arranged with your bank for automatic sending. We received \$6110 in gifts in 2010-2011.

During this summer we invited our friends to continue to partner with us. So far, we have heard from the following:



Sano Foundation-Terry and Lou Siracusano
Barbara and Thomas Napolitano
Dolores Fontana



Bob De Staso
John and Ilse Lang
Mauren and Tom Leahy



Charles Di Giorgio

DECAL PROJECT

Many of you now proudly show that your are a Friend of One to One Learning with a decal on your car window or another spot. Thank you for your support. You are in our prayers. So far we have raised \$8536, 28.5% of our goal of \$30,000. Our students raised \$1072 to this amount. We continue our campaign and hope that you will join us by filling in the form included.



Karen and Tom Tagliente

In Gratitude for your Continued Support

Since our July 2001 Newsletter we have received gifts from many benefactors. Without your continuous support we could not accomplish the mission of One to One Learning, "Language empowers; language unites". We pray for you each day.



Therese Mc Sherry
Catholic Daughters/
Court St. Anne #866



Sister Pauline Blandina
Danilo, Diana, Melanie Chacon
Mary P. Lenney
Paul and Jody Richards
Regina and Rocco Stanco
Maryann and Peter Turrise



Maurice Bibeau
Sisters Anne Connelly and Marie Jean Dempsey
Carlos and Vera Guzman
Sisters Elizabeth Hasselt and Lillian McNamara
John and Lynn Scileppi



Hilda Alarcon
Sister Alberta Blase
Bartolomé Family
Sr. Mary Casey
Sisters Eileen Clifford and Sheila Gorham
Margaret Concannon
Fran Dryden- Frankie Blackmore Rosena Bradshaw
Marie Angelique Dryden
Sisters John Rose Hartling, Catherine McKillop
Sister Grace Anne Hogan
Mary Lacombe
Jean Looney
Pat McKillop
Martha Monitto
Alice and Ken Parchinski
Sister Barbara Paul
Sisters Eileen and Patricia Anne Reilly
Sister Dolores Shortal
Mrs Gerri Zabuski

THANK YOU TO

RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS BANK OF RIDGEWOOD

FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION OF \$7,500, REQUESTED BY A TRUSTEE OF THE BANK, PAUL FITZPATRICK.

We are grateful to Paul, a board member of One to One Learning, for his part in arranging this grant.

Friends of One To One Learning, Inc.

Name _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

Donation for one decal \$ _____

I would like _____ more decals and cards to tell others about One to One.

I would like to partner with One to One Learning. Cost per student per year is \$400. I would like to pay part or all of this amount either in one sum or in installments. You will receive a decal as a thank you. Donation \$ _____

I would like to make a general donation to the work of One to One Learning. Donation \$ _____

If you prefer to use Pay Pal please go to www.one2one-learning.org

Please make your check payable to: One to One Learning, Inc., 640 North Midland Avenue • Upper Nyack, New York 10960





One to One is a sponsored ministry of The Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

ONE2ONE

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Learning, Inc.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar of Events

- *January 4, 2012 8pm
Fiesta de Los Reyes*
- *Look for Special Events in
February and May celebrating
our 15th Anniversary*

Congratulations TO OUR NEW CITIZENS



During the summer, three of our students, **Gladys Aquirre**, **Hilda Alarcon**, and **Gloria Barrera** passed their citizenship test. They studied diligently all year with the assistance of their teachers, **Peggy Concannon** and **Joe Vogler**. They focused on United States history and writing clear sentences in English. We have a new group of students preparing for the test in 2011-2012.

GOODSEARCH AND GOODSHOP



Here's a simple way for you to help support **One to One Learning** or any other cause that you care about.

Each time you search the web with **GoodSearch's** Yahoo-powered search engine, about a penny will go your charity or school.

Also, every time you shop online at 2,000 participating stores including Target, Apple, Staples, Expedia, etc., a percentage of your purchase will be donated for free! The site also has thousands of money-saving coupons!



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