



City of Orange Township

29 North Day Street
Orange, New Jersey 07050

News Release

For Release: Immediate

Contact: Frank Baraff 914-469-3775

Volunteers needed for the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. is urging citizens to help out the English as a Second Language Program sponsored by the Great Commission Learning Center and the Orange Community Service Department. The Volunteers are needed for Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:30pm-7:30 pm for 3 months beginning in March at Orange High School. Speaking a foreign language is not a requirement. For more information call 973 266 4084.

Mayor Hawkins said, "One of the things that makes Orange special is the diversity of our population. It is extremely important that we help immigrants become active members of our community, and the English as a Second Language program is a critical part of that effort. The demand for this service is great, but with existing staffing and volunteers the program is not able to serve all of the people who are asking our help in learning English."

The ESL project was founded by the Reverend Emmanes Doxy and his wife Kettley over 19 years ago and is housed in Orange High School. Rev. Doxy and his wife are former Orange residents and property owners in Orange. Mrs. Doxy is a teacher at the Orange Middle School.

Presently there are approximately two volunteers and thirty students in two classes with about 90% of the students of Haitian background speaking French/Creole. The Instructors are Rev. Doxy, who speaks French and Creole, and Ms. Teresa Davis, who speaks Spanish. In the past there were as many as three classes with a total of more than 75 students combined.

Darrel Holcomb, Director of the Department of Community Service said, "Due to the shortage of volunteers the program is not able to serve all of those asking for help, especially in the Spanish-speaking community. Although speaking Spanish, Creole and/or French is a plus for a volunteer instructor, the instructors are encouraged to speak to their students in English only. Therefore a volunteer does not have to speak another language, although it does help to be bilingual"

The program is funded in part by the Orange Community Service Department's Municipal Alliance.