



He Did It!!!!

I had the pleasure of sitting down with one of our Literacy Students to talk about his experience being in the program for the last 8 years. Below is our discussion:

Mary: So tell me Patrick, why did you join the LVM program when you did?

Patrick: When I first arrived in the U.S., my aunt told me about this program because I really wanted to learn more English. Then you interviewed me and the process began.

Mary: What has motivated you to stick with this program year after year?

Patrick: I don't know, I guess it's because my reading and writing skills have consistently improved, and throughout this process the tutor has always helped me out and still does. The tutors have made it fun, too. When you study alone it can be boring.

Having a tutor pushes you to keep going.

Mary: What have been some of the goals that you and your tutor(s) have worked on together?

Patrick: My first goal was to learn as much English as possible so that I could communicate with people at work. I also wanted to be able to express myself so that I felt more comfortable in my community. Recently my goal has been to get my learner's permit and then finally get a car.

Mary: As you just said, one of your goals was to get your learner's permit. How is studying with someone helpful?

Patrick: I was studying by myself for a while, but found it to be more helpful to study with a tutor. When I am not sure about something, then he can explain it to me. We have also been studying online and that has given me a different way to study.

Mary: So I heard the great news that you did pass the learner's permit exam recently. Congratulations!!!

Patrick: I know. I am so happy about it. I want to drive so I don't have to take the bus, especially in the winter. I will have the freedom to go wherever I want to go.

Mary: Now that you got your learner's permit, do you plan to continue working with your tutor?

Patrick: Yes, definitely. I want to continue to improve my English skills and to focus on learning other things.

Mary: If a new student came on board, what advice would you give them?

Patrick: Well I would tell them that the Literacy Program is a good one. They have amazing teachers that help with your goals. You can focus on what you want to learn. But most importantly, I would tell them to focus on what you need to learn, follow the steps, never give up and also push yourself because at times, it does get hard. I would also tell them to not compare themselves with others and to take your time and work at your own pace.

Mary: You are a very wise person Patrick and we are very, very lucky to have you on our team. I hope you know that:)

Patrick: Sure.