

The Faces of Adult Learners: 25 Years in the Making



Age: 54

Immigrated from Nigeria

Adult Education Program:

ABCD Mattapan Family Service Center

Adult Education Coalition:

Mattapan Adult Education and Literacy Coalition

Herbert Uzochukwu

"Education is the most powerful tool I need to live a comfortable and fulfilled life in this fast developing world.

Going back to school is my first step toward making good use of the opportunity this great country of ours has offered me. I hope to receive the quality of education that will enable me to follow the trend of events in the world.

The desire to run a non-profit organization has been burning like a wild fire in my mind. The purpose of this organization will be to assist the widows and the fatherless in their problems.

I am going to hire the services of some lawyers whose responsibilities will include counseling these widows about their legal rights, and assisting them to recover their rightful possessions. It will be necessary to communicate my ideas to the proper government agencies, and cooperate with business owners for assistance in achieving this noble project.

My experiences so far as an adult learner have convinced me that going back to school is one of the best decisions of my life, and I am looking forward to the day when I will proceed to college to acquire more quality education to achieve my goals."

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Boston Adult Literacy Initiative. (ALI)

What is ALI?

We are Boston adult basic education providers that receive funding from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or/and the City of Boston.

What do we do?

We provide services that help adult learners reach their educational and career goals as workers, parents, and community members:

- ◆ **GED preparation**
- ◆ **English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**
- ◆ **Adult Basic Education: literacy and numeracy**
- ◆ **Transition to college and job training programs**
- ◆ **Adult Diploma**

These profiles highlight the accomplishments and challenges of just a few of Boston's 6,500+ enrolled adult learners; another 5,500 are waiting to enroll.

Education: Improving Lives and Creating Opportunities!

For more info: Brunir O. Shackleton, Mayor's Office of Jobs and Community Services, (617) 918-5244 or brunir.shackleton.jcs@cityofboston.gov

Nguyet Pham

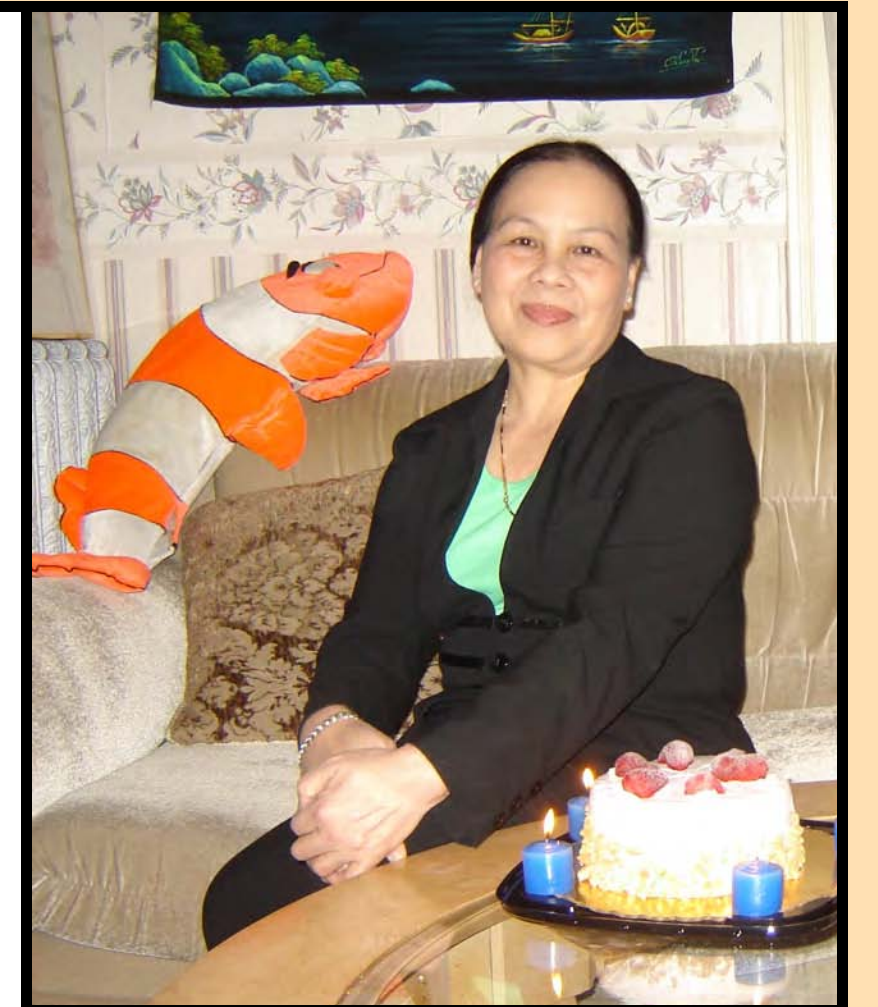
Nguyet, a middle school Math teacher, left Vietnam in 2004 with her 16 year old daughter. For Nguyet and her daughter, the first year was the hardest.

"We did not know anything about life in Boston. We didn't know English and I didn't know how to get a job or how to find a school for my daughter. We didn't have enough money for monthly bills, to buy food. I told myself I needed to feel confident and encourage my daughter..."

Nguyet was eligible for funding to learn English and attend skills training. She attended the YMCA International Learning Center's English for Speakers of Other Languages, Basic Computer and Job Readiness course for 3 months.

Next she entered the YMCA Training, Inc Computerized Office Skills training program. After completion, Nguyet took a temporary assignment through an agency, and her employer was so pleased she was hired full time as a Human Resource Coordinator!

Currently, Nguyet is taking a college prep course with the goal of getting a degree in Human Resource Management. In addition to working at Tufts Medical Center, she has a part time job to cover the cost of her college expenses.



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Adult Education Program:

YMCA International Learning Center

Adult Education Coalition:

Partnership for Adult Learning Services