



Welcoming the Stranger 2019 Annual Report and 20 Year Review

As we celebrated our 20th anniversary year in 2019, we also celebrated our largest year to date! We had **more than 1,000 (1,026 to be exact) students** attend one or more classes for **8,443 hours** of class instruction.

Welcoming the Stranger by the Numbers

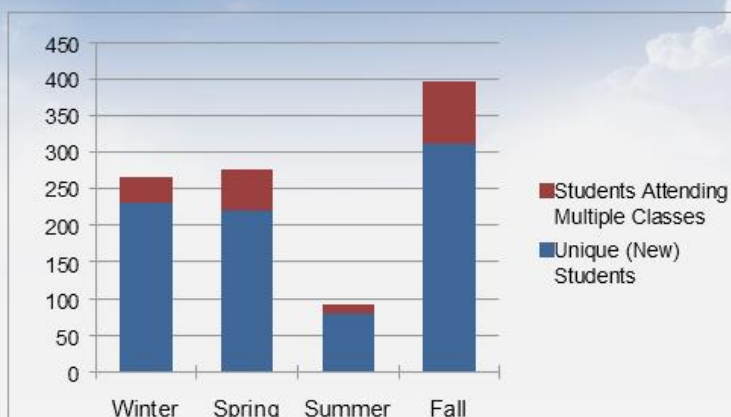
- 452 new students
- 59 new volunteers
- 28 Workshops
- 26 presentations to groups and schools
- 25 press-related mentions
- 22 new US citizens
- 4 awards (1 national and 3 community)
- *Most importantly:* 407 donors

2019

Out of our **1,026** student enrollments, **452** of them were new to the program. Key to our success has been the interest and willingness to help from our volunteers. We had more than **224** volunteers across **62** classes. We also had **96** volunteers participate in training events, resulting in **over 300 hours of scheduled training** (not including many hours that the Executive Director did one on one with new volunteers!). None of this was possible without the **407** donors who funded our program this year!

Student numbers continue to grow with each semester's offering.

Student Enrollment Across 62 Classes



2019

This fall term was our largest term ever in our 20 year history, with **396** students attending classes.

This year, we had **22** students become US Citizens after attending our Citizenship classes!

Volunteers contributed **3,327** hours, of which **2928** hours were in instruction and **399** hours in events, outreach and administrative work.

Welcoming the Stranger hosted **4** events this year with over **500** attendees and also conducted **28** local workshops. Our outreach included **26** presentations to community groups and schools.

We received **3 community and 1 national award** this year. The Renewal Award, sponsored by *The Atlantic* and Allstate, included a grant of \$40,000 that we will receive across two years. There were more than **25** news mentions of Welcoming the Stranger in local and national publications, from the ***Bucks County Courier Times*** and the ***Philadelphia Inquirer***, to **NPR/WHYY** and ***The Atlantic***.



Welcoming the Stranger worked with **73** community partners in 2019 to bring classes and resources to our students. The Immigrant Services Roundtable Group was created in partnership with Immigrant Rights Action Group to share our skills and services. **40** agencies have joined to date.

None of this would be possible without the volunteers and donors who have contributed their time and money to this program! Thank you.

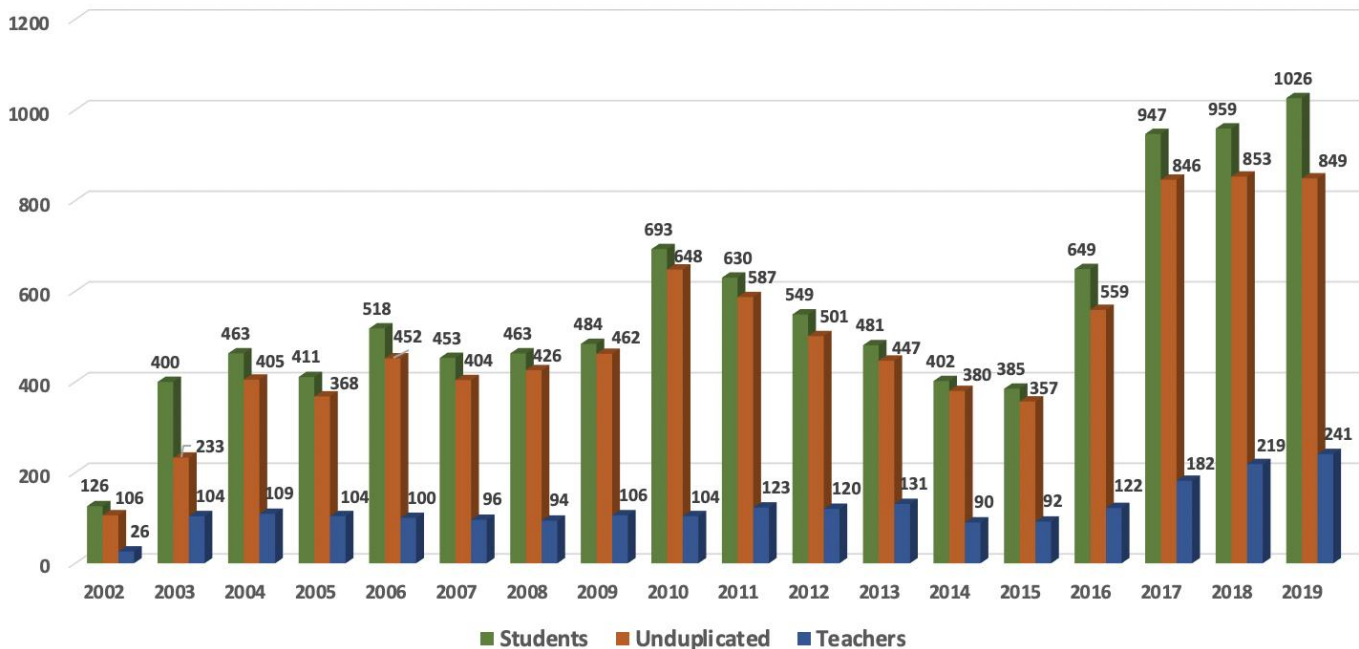


20 Years of Welcoming the Stranger

In 1999, our founder, Rev. Sturgis Poorman, began an ESL class to support immigrants in Lower Bucks County. He felt a calling to help welcome the stranger in a new land. The one class quickly grew into several classes that encompassed ESL (English as a Second Language), Computer Skills, and Citizenship Preparation. What began as a program of academic classes quickly developed into much more than that: they became a global community of people who supported and learned from one another. Sturgis passed away in 2018, but his words live on. In 2009, he wrote, "Classes have become places where helpers and students help each other and learn from each other but also where friendships develop. Not just native born Americans helping immigrants but immigrants helping each other, too. We are all givers and all receivers."

Today, twenty years later, over 4,500 different people from more than 100 different countries have been served by Welcoming the Stranger. Fifteen to twenty classes are offered each term, in about ten different neighborhoods throughout Bucks, Montgomery, and Hunterdon Counties. People have learned the skills they need to survive in a new land, to become self sufficient, and to become productive members of their communities. Beyond teaching academic and survival English skills, Welcoming the Stranger has created a family that lives up to its namesake, the Biblical passage Matthew 25:35, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Our student Elda from Albania says, "I like to come at ESL class, because is a positive environment, with good people, wealthy with human dignity, who help others with kindness and generosity. The other reason is that it helps practice English."

WTS Enrollment Figures 2002 - 2019



*WTS began in 1999 but earliest term records were not kept or were lost.

Welcoming the Stranger

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[Click here to donate online: www.welcomingthestranger.org](http://www.welcomingthestranger.org)

