



Project Prosper

Assisting recent immigrants through loans, savings and financial education

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WWW.PROJECTPROSPER.ORG

A Day in the Life of a Project Prosper Mentor

I am a mentor to one of Project Prosper's borrowers. Trang is a young woman who emigrated from Vietnam. After taking one of our financial literacy courses, Trang applied to Project Prosper for a loan to help pay her tuition at pTEC where she had just enrolled in a program to become a dental assistant. Project Prosper granted her loan request and Trang began her classes at pTEC in the fall of 2008.

Every month or two, Trang and I get together for lunch. She practices her English with me and tells me how she is doing in school. Our first lunch was at Skyway Jack's, where Trang tried pancakes for the first time. At our second lunch together, she ordered a grilled cheese sandwich, also a first for her. We also met at Vietnamese restaurants, where she introduced me to Vietnamese dishes. Every time we met for lunch, Trang offered to pay. I always told her that lunch was my treat but that she could treat me once she had landed a job as a dental assistant.

In December, Trang completed her program at pTEC. That month she was also sworn in as a U.S. citizen. Here's what she wrote to me about her graduation:

Hi Robin,

Today I graduate the program, so I am looking for a job. If I get a job, I'll let you know. And I am apologize because I forgot about sending you an email for citizenship ceremony.

Last week I finished my 5 weeks internship. I am so excited and worry, too. Because it is hard to find a job now, I am still hope I'll get it soon. So I can treat you like you treated me many times.

Actually, you are the first American person treat me in America. I am always remember that. And I learned a lot from you, Robin. Anyway, thank you so much Robin. I appreciated.

In January, Trang contacted me to let me know she would soon begin a new job as a dental assistant. We met for lunch at a Greek restaurant to celebrate. We both had gyros – Trang's first. Trang treated.

- Robin Warren
Co-Founder and Secretary

Did you know?

Project Prosper's Financial Education program taught a total of **32 hours** of Financial Literacy to **68 immigrants** from **28 different countries** in 2009.

Find out more interesting facts in the Project Prosper 2009 Annual Report

Interested in Becoming a Mentor?

If you have been thinking of becoming a mentor, here are answers to some questions you may have:

Q What would my responsibilities include?

A The mentor serves as advisor to the borrower through the life of the loan; and keeps the Loan Committee apprised of the borrower's progress including loan repayments and savings deposits, as well as financial literacy arrangements.

Q How much of a time commitment would I need to make?

A Calls/meets borrower at least quarterly to establish rapport and check on status of financial well-being. Provides borrower updates to the Loan Committee every other month.

Q What topics would I be mentoring on?

A Topics could include skills for successful borrowing, opening a no-fee checking account, making deposits to write monthly repayment checks. Discuss timing of first payment and all future payments.

Q Where would I get resources?

A Resources are available from Project Prosper's financial literacy courses which employ the FDIC Money Smart program.

Q What if the borrower doesn't speak English?

A Project Prosper tries to match the borrower with a mentor that speaks his or her language or will arrange for a translator.

Q How do I get started?

A Easy. Contact us at info@projectprosper.com or call us at (727)-391-8213 to get involved or request more information.



Introducing the 2010 Board Members

Molly Auld, First Vice President and Financial Literacy Coordinator



Molly received a BA in Latin American Studies from UCLA and later a Master's in Urban Planning (MUP) at New York University where she focused on workforce development and community development.

For the past 10 years she has been involved with a number of non-profit organizations focusing on educating and assisting immigrants throughout Colorado, Los Angeles and Pinellas County. Additionally, Molly has also spent extensive time in Central and South America working in education and teaching English.

David Schanzer, Treasurer



David earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in Business from Eckerd College. He has been in the hospitality and tourism industry for almost forty years, owned his own travel agency, worked for two international travel organizations, conducted

business planning and budget seminars, and is now employed by the Walt Disney Travel Company in e-commerce. He is a lifetime member of the American Cancer Society and lives with his wife Hermine in Land O' Lakes.

Robin Warren, Secretary and Co-Founder



Robin is Executive Director of the Florida Council on Economic Education. Previously, she spent 21 years with Bank of America and its predecessor banks in various roles

including Associate General Counsel, Public Policy Executive and Compliance Risk Management Executive

Stuart Berger, Loan Committee Chairperson



Stuart, a Clearwater resident since 1991, received his BA in American Studies from Eckerd College. Since 2005, he has been the Director of Development for a major non-profit organization serving

Pinellas and Pasco Counties. He has created programs to educate the public about the genocide in Darfur and took the lead in establishing the "Pinellas County Interfaith Environmental Coalition". Stuart is an active member of several non-profits, and in January of this year, he was elected to serve as Loan Committee chair of Project Prosper.

Lola Walker CFRE, Vice President of Development



Lola has been a Realtor for 5 years and is now with Keller Williams Realty's St Petersburg office. She has a BS from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and an MA from Regis

University in Community Service and Administration. For 20 years she served the community as executive director of St Vincent de Paul Society, A Brighter Day, and development director of the Dali Museum and Poynter Institute. She is a CFRE and has served 5 years on the board of the Suncoast Chapter of Association of Fund Raising Professionals.

Kitty Pelster Rawson, Development



Kitty has spent her entire professional career with nonprofit organizations. A graduate of Eckerd College, she recently joined the staff of Academy Prep St Petersburg as the development coordinator.

Before joining the board, she coordinated financial literacy classes for Project Prosper and continues to be a volunteer instructor. She also volunteers with Business and Professional Women (BPW), serves on the board of Faith and Action for Strength Together (FAST) and is an active elder at Lakeview Presbyterian Church.

Miksi McNulty, Communications Coordinator



Miksi has spent 9 years in the marketing field in various facets from promotion and pricing analysis to account management. She received her Master's in Marketing Strategy and MIS at University of South Florida.

She has been involved in church youth programs for the past 15 years along with volunteering her graphic design and website skills to various non-profit organizations. Currently, she is a manager of business development at the Catalina Marketing Corporation.

We Are Always in Need of Volunteers

There are two easy ways you can also help Project Prosper keep assisting recent immigrants with financial education and loans.

1. Go to www.projectprosper.org and click [DONATE NOW](#) to make your tax-deductible contribution to Project Pro\$per. Or mail your contribution to Project Pro\$per, PO Box 8411, Madeira Beach, FL 33738.
2. Email us at info@projectprosper.com to get involved in a number of unique activities from mentoring a borrower to teaching financial literacy classes. We are always in need of volunteers!

Project Pro\$per is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions to Project Pro\$per are tax-deductible as allowable by the law.

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