



Project Prosper

Assisting recent immigrants through loans, savings and financial education

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WWW.PROJECTPROSPER.ORG

School is Back in Session

Fall classes are back in session and our students are as eager to learn about the American economic system as ever.

Many of you may not be aware but the state of Florida has mandated that all adult education programs, including English as a Second Language (ESOL) programs, implement new fees for the services they have always offered free of charge. Those students that can prove Florida residency status of more than a year will be charged \$30 a quarter or \$90 a year. Those students, who are considered non-Florida Residents, will have to pay \$120 a quarter or \$360 a year. As you can imagine, many of our Financial Literacy partners experienced an adjustment period for student attendance.

However, Project Prosper is happy to announce that we have two courses in session and going strong!

We were invited to return to the Clearwater Adult Education Center in Clearwater and to the Tomlinson Adult Education Center in St. Petersburg.

Our Financial Literacy program reached more students in the first half of 2011 than we reached in all of 2010, and we are anticipating an even better final quarter!

View our monthly calendar of classes by visiting our website at:

www.projectprosper.org/classcalendar.html



World Refugee Day

If you were anywhere near Jefferson High School in Tampa, FL on June 18, 2011, you would have heard the resonating sounds of Latin drumming, live salsa music, and witnessed Caribbean dancing throughout the halls! It was time for the annual World Refugee Day.

Over 300 refugees attended this celebration, and Project Prosper was proud to participate for a second year. Our volunteers were able to speak with refugees from Cuba, Iraq, Haiti, and Egypt, to name a few, and made wonderful connections within the community.

ABC news anchor Brendan McLaughlin was the MC for the program, Congressman Gus Bilirakis made a well-received appearance, and our own Maxi Wood joined the festivities by singing "America The Beautiful". World Refugee day was a great success, and Project Prosper looks forward to participating next year!

A Toast to Our Volunteers

"There is no "I" in Team, but we sure are glad there is "u" in our volunteers!" - Debbie Weir



Project Prosper's success is possible because of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. We have proven this with our increased numbers of students and classes.

On July 28th, the Board of Directors recognized these volunteers with an appreciation event. Fifteen of our Financial Literacy volunteers attended the festivities. We spent the evening with new and long-standing volunteers highlighting successes within the classroom, troubleshooting classroom challenges, providing updates on our curriculum, and most of all celebrating their diligent efforts.

We look forward to future opportunities to come together and celebrate our volunteer achievements!

Muffins, Eggs, and Bacon ... Oh My!



Have you reserved your seat for our 2nd annual **"Breakfast for Loans and Literacy"** on **Thursday, November 10th, 2011**? It is right around the corner so please don't delay.

Registration will begin at 7:30am and the program will start at 8:00am and end at 9:00am. The [Feathersound Country Club](#) located at 2201 Feather Sound Drive, Clearwater, FL 33762 will host this year's event, and we couldn't be more excited!

Invitations are still being distributed, so if you have not received one, it is en route.

If you have any questions, or would like to RSVP, please email our Project Administrator Maxi Wood at mwood@projectprosper.org.



Our Newest Borrowers

The Project Prosper Loan Program is one of the most innovative financial programs around. We have a dedicated Loan Committee made up of community leaders who volunteer their time to attend outreach presentations, review applications, interview applicants and mentor loan recipients. It is no surprise that we have successfully awarded three loans over the course of this summer. The Loan Committee would like to introduce to you our newest

Pedro and Ibelaine Villa

The Villas and their three children immigrated from Venezuela, and have lived in the United States for over 5 years. Pedro has worked for the same company for 5 years as a shift coordinator, and Ibelaine recently received her CNA certification from the Pinellas Refugee Education Program at PTEC.

The Villas will use this loan to assist Ibelaine in purchasing a vehicle in order to help her find quality employment while affording her the flexibility to drop off and pick up their three children at school. Ibelaine hopes to find an afternoon or evening work shift. Having her own vehicle will allow her to meet that objective.



Left to Right: Lena Rogachevsky (Project Prosper Loan Committee Chair), Pedro and Ibelaine Villa, and Doug Haskitt (PREP Program Administrator).

Luis Rendon and Maximiliano Vasquez

You may wonder why we have listed these two gentlemen together. It is true they were both awarded separate loans, but they put their money together for a common good, and his name is Jorge Rendon.

Jorge is the son of Luis Rendon and nephew of Maximiliano Vasquez. This family emigrated from Ecuador just shy of 10 years ago, and their children have excelled both personally and academically.

Jorge Rendon, is a very accomplished student who was awarded a Bright Futures Scholarship. However due to recent policy changes and serious delays in USCIS processing of permanent residency applications, Jorge was rendered ineligible for his scholarship. The Project Prosper loans will support Jorge Rendon in his first semester at FSU. Jorge, who currently works part-time in Tallahassee while attending school, expects to obtain his permanent residency status from the USCIS in time to reinstate his Bright Futures eligibility in 2012.



Left to Right: Molly Auld (Project Prosper President), Monica and Luis Rendon, Lena Rogachevsky (Project Prosper Loan Committee Chair), Maximiliano Vasquez.

Project Prosper Welcomes Its New Loan Committee Chair



Lena Rogachevsky is Project Prosper's new Loan Committee Chairperson. Ms. Rogachevsky has a master's degree in Business Administration, and she comes to

Project Prosper with a background in the computer industry. She was the national sales manager at Tech Data Corp., and served on the board of directors. Lena later met and married her husband Alex, with whom she started and successfully operated a computer networking business near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Taking time off to raise their two children, Ms. Rogachevsky became a volunteer at their school, Newtown Friends School. She continued that interest by studying for a school counseling degree, and worked as a guidance counselor until her youngest child graduated from high school.

Lena then returned with her husband to Florida, where she continues volunteering. Besides Project Prosper, Ms. Rogachevsky also serves on the board of Hadassah Women's Organization.

Ms. Rogachevsky's husband Alex came to America as a refugee from the former Soviet Union. She has observed firsthand the impact that mentoring and support can have for immigrants, noting that small bits of advice and financial help can make all the difference during a newcomer's difficult first years here. Lena is looking forward to working with Project Prosper.

Join the Project Prosper Family

There are two easy ways you can help Project Prosper continue 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 volunteer 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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