

KINSHIP

KINGCREST INTERNATIONAL NEIGHBOURS

Winter Term 2021



4th year of Valentine's fundraiser



For the fourth consecutive year, Kingcrest International Neighbours solved our donors' Valentine's Day gifting issues with the seasonal flower fundraiser. This time, the Orchids were delivered to some donors' homes or picked up on Saturday February 13th at Peace Church on 52nd. We are grateful for your support!

Upcoming Term

Spring Term 2021

Registration

April 6 & 8 / 6:00—8:00 pm

Classes

April 13 to June 17 Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:00 – 9:00 pm

Registration Fee... **\$80** Text Book..... **\$40**

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, a **Hybrid learning** method may be implemented.



Teaching in our English school can be a life-changing experience. It will enrich your life and expand your horizons.

Please let us know if you are available to volunteer as an online teacher

Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm

And Saturdays from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

More information: robertoenrique899@gmail.com

Behind the scenes: Meet Kingcrest International Neighbours' leadership

Kingcrest International Neighbours has been providing English Language Learning to immigrants for over 30 years. In this time, we have seen dozens of volunteer teachers gifting their time and passion to help the students achieve their language goal. In almost every edition of this newsletter we have introduced new volunteers and, in this edition, we would like to

introduce KIN's board members, in their essential roles of providing leadership over the years.

Several of our board members represent our Partner Churches in SE Vancouver, key to our ministry's structure. Others serve "At-Large" also facilitating the operation of the school. The board meets every six weeks (via Zoom right now), with the Annual General Meeting in early Decem-

ber each year.

The board focuses in three important areas:

- Supporting KIN's Coordinator, Roberto Galdamez, as he facilitates the ELL classes and many of the fundraising efforts.
- Being accountable for the organizational and financial needs of KIN, via Partner Churches, personal contributors and community events.
- Providing prayer and spiritual support for KIN in all of

its facets.

There are board member openings for anyone led to serve the Lord through KIN's team ministry in this way – from among our Partner Churches, our teachers & volunteers, and the Vancouver area community. This is also an invitation to contact Roberto or Christine Collison for this opportunity of service or other aspect of supporting Kingcrest.

Christine Collison



Hello! I am Christine Collison

– and delighted to share in Kingcrest as a KIN Board member! My connection began when my (now) husband, Michael, introduced me to Friday Fellowship (KIN's prayer support group then). But the groundwork was laid much earlier. My involvement in cross-cultural ministry in Seattle and Hawaii influenced my coming to Regent College in 1997 and assisting in student outreach at a local

Vancouver church. Following our return from ministry in New Zealand, in 2002 I joined KIN's Board as a teacher, and later accepted the role of Treasurer. Realizing the challenges of a new country and culture for our students, often in difficult circumstances, the importance of KIN's ELL classes and Christian support for these newcomers to Canada is what inspires my participation – it's just that simple!

Lydia Cruttwell



My name is Lydia Cruttwell, and I am one of the pastors at Peace Church on 52nd, the church which provides the building Kingcrest uses. After becoming pastor in 2012, I wanted to join the board of Kingcrest both because I have a keen interest in ELL (I spent a year teaching English in Japan back in 2007) and because I wanted to strengthen the connection between this ministry and our church. I love being part of this board, because we are all committed to helping newcomers, refugees and temporary workers find community and gain language skills to help them in their life in Canada.

Armando Fernandez

My name is Armando Fernandez and I have served with First United Mennonite Church (FUSMC) for just over 19 years. I was originally born in Santiago, Chile and came to Canada in the late 70's. I now call the Fraser Valley my home, with my lovely family. In 2019, I joined the council for First United Spanish Mennonite Church and was given

the opportunity to join and sit on the board for Kingcrest. This has given me the opportunity to see how the program works and how it helps people from all diversities cope with starting life in a new country, just as my family did when we arrived in Canada. The Kingcrest board is an absolute pleasure to work with and I hope to continue to serve, so that this ministry flourishes for



many years to come. God bless you.

Amos Bohoussou



Greetings to you all!

My name is Amos Bohoussou. I was born in Côte d'Ivoire, grew up in the U.S.A. and became a citizen of Canada in 2011. Before moving to British Columbia in De-

cember of 2018, I lived in Quebec for fourteen years. I moved to Vancouver to study at Regent College (Christian graduate college affiliated to UBC) and work. In 2019 I worked as a youth and family ministries coordinator at Ebenezer Baptist church and was introduced through a former elder of the church to Roberto from Kingcrest International Neighbors. Roberto later invited me to be part of the board. After a year on being on the board, building a friendship with the members has been greatly beneficial.

Sonja Everson

My name is Sonja Everson and I have a love of travel, meeting folks from various countries and learning about different cultures and traditions. This drew me to join the board of Kingcrest and supporting the work with newcomers and ESL students. KIN represents the unique possibility of bridging the gulfs that separate due to language barriers. This unique work is what excites me and makes it a joy to be on the board and working towards reaching more people, building relationships, teaching English and welcoming new-



comers to Canada in the most hospitable way possible. Being a community of diverse races, languages, cultures, and experiences brings a depth and richness to life, and that's worth the commitment and effort in working for and with KIN.

There are board member openings for anyone led to serve the Lord through KIN's team ministry in this way – from among our Partner Churches, our teachers & volunteers, and the Vancouver area community. Please contact Roberto at info@kingcrest.ca or Christine Collison at micollis@telus.net.

Volunteering from another province

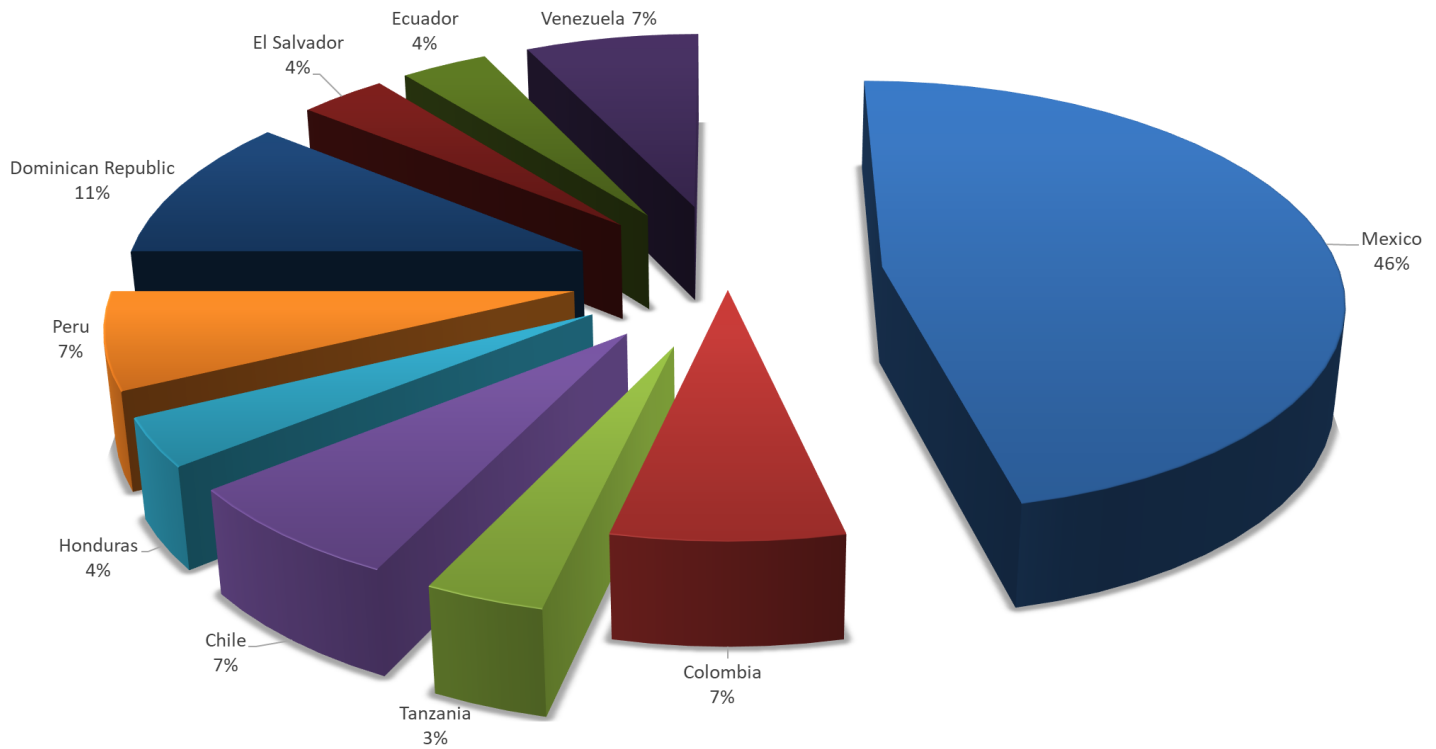
Florencia Araneda, started volunteering Level 3 with KIN since Fall term 2020. Currently she is teaching Level 4.



My name is Florencia, and I came to Canada in 2019 with the Work and Holiday program. I was born in Chile, so my first language is Spanish. Since I was very little, I started learning English because I went to a bilingual school and I ended up studying English Pedagogy at the university. When I arrived in Vancouver, I started working at a cafe downtown. Living a totally new experience at my 23 years old. Far from my family but confident enough to enjoy this great opportunity that was only for "6 months". Everything was going pretty well until the lockdown started. Wondering if I should go back home or not, I decided to look for volunteer programs in order to help people as much as I can while we were living through a pandemic situation. That is when a Chilean friend told me that Kingcrest was looking for volunteers to teach

English online. Without hesitation I sent an email and a few days later this wonderful experience started. As I already mentioned, one of my biggest motivations in life is to teach and help people. Even though I moved to Saskatoon and I'm experiencing my first cold and snowy winter I keep doing online classes with such good students that want to learn and improve their English level during the whole class. Trying to make online classes as interesting as I can, demonstrating that with practice everything is possible to achieve. Hoping to meet new students soon as the doors are open for everyone that wants to learn. I can finish saying that 6 months are now more than a year abroad and I'm grateful for the opportunity that Kingcrest gave to me in this short period of time being able to do what I like and enjoy the most in this great volunteer work.

Immigration Categories, Winter 2021



Kingcrest Vision Statement:

Kingcrest International Neighbours is a Christ-centered Organization that supports and empowers immigrants, refugees, temporary workers and visitors through English Language Learning (ELL) and community-building. All are welcome to come, learn and be loved.

Find Us

Stay up-to-date with KIN, ELL classes, Evening group opportunities and Special Events.

Like us on Facebook: **Welcoming Newcomers Kingcrest**

Read previous editions of Kinship @ www.kingcrest.ca

Join or update our mailing list @ info@kingcrest.ca

660 East 51st Avenue Vancouver BC V5X1C9

Hours of operation:

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays

(604) 327 6262

Contributions to the ministries of Kingcrest International Neighbours may be sent to:

Christine Collison, Treasurer

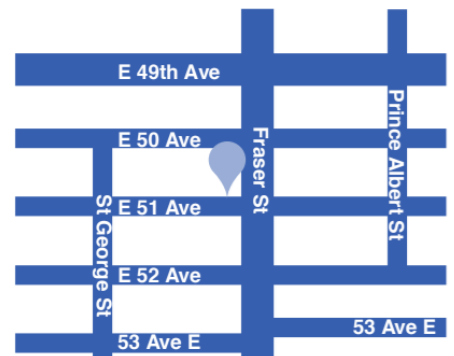
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Check out CHARITABLE IMPACT, an online option to contribute to Kingcrest!