



1 Old Westbury Road  
Old Westbury, NY 11590  
Phone 516.333.3355

## News Release

Contact: Ginny DeMille  
Phone: 516.741.1529

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **SATURDAYS AT THE LIFE: THE ESL STORY**

by Paulina Janssen

OLD WESTBURY, NY – The ESL (English as a Second Language) classes began this past September as an outreach program of the Hispanic Ministry at THE LIFE Church, in Old Westbury, NY, thanks to a grant received from the Wheat Ridge Foundation. The final curriculum and format was then established, the staff assembled, we partnered with Literacy Nassau in Freeport for their expertise, resources, and helpful advice ... and the journey began.

On Nov. 20, after two short months of classes, we celebrated an important milestone and recognized the commitment and dedication of our first class of 15 students. Together in the Sanctuary at THE LIFE, we thanked God for all his blessing. We recognized our “Team-ESL,” staff, volunteers, Pastors, and the congregation of Resurrection and the LIFE, for their commitment to mission and specifically to the Hispanic community at THE LIFE. We sang and prayed to God in Spanish and English, and presented the students with a certificate of recognition and a bilingual Bible. Pastor Vetrano preached his message ... in Spanish!

After the service, we enjoyed fellowship with our students and their families, and we savored delicious foods the students brought as a way to say thank you to the LIFE church for all the blessings received.

Every Saturday is a new and exciting day for the students. They arrive ready to learn; many of them come with their children so as not to leave them home alone. Their stories are as unique as they are. Their children, some from our Homework Help program, some from the bilingual VBS, some younger, all seem to share a love for their Saturdays at THE LIFE, playing board games and singing with Pastor Vetrano, Sydney, and Kassie who have stepped up as babysitters.

For all of us, Saturdays are times for giving and caring for others. The teachers bring snacks to share with the students. Together we discuss creative ways to meet the needs of each student and work towards their goals, while, at the end of the day, Pastor Vetrano sweeps (with a broom way too small for him!) where the children have been playing to make sure everything is clean and in its right place for Monday.

As a Minister for the Hispanic Community at THE LIFE, it has been so exciting to work with the Pastors and an amazing group of dedicated volunteers, staff and students, to develop the programs to reach out to this community. Thanks be to God for all His blessings and especially for the joy He gives us in the work we do for His Kingdom.

As we look to the future, we reflect on the Homework Help and bilingual VBS programs that have been, and still are, instrumental for the ongoing development of the Hispanic Ministry at THE LIFE. In January, we will be enrolling another class of 15 students, already on a waiting list, and, later on next year we will be offering citizenship classes. Please continue to pray for this ministry and consider joining us on this amazing journey.

THE LIFE Church & Day School is a community of faith, located at 1 Old Westbury Rd. (at Jericho Tpke.), Old Westbury. All are invited to our Homestyle Family Dinner every Thursday at 6 p.m., with Communion Service open to all at 7 p.m. For more information, please visit [thelifeny.org](http://thelifeny.org) or phone 516.333.3355.

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