

ALLI Workshop

By Maryam N.

When I went to the ALLI workshop I was all nerves, but when I met the group I felt better. There were people of different ages and all of them were friendly. What an inspiring program it was! ALLI means Adult Learner Leadership Institute and Project Second Chance students have the opportunity to contribute to it. The whole workshop lasts three days. It includes new students and also former students who have become facilitators. All of us were led by a coordinator, Rosie, and some PSC employees.

The program is designed for adult learners to improve their leadership, self-esteem, self-confidence, networking and advocacy skills. The main task is to specify our short-term and long-term goals. For example, to improve our leadership skills, we should write down our goals and how to pursue them. A good leader is a person who accomplishes a goal, but how? He/she should be a good listener, be able to compromise, make decisions, be patient, a good role-model and non-judgmental. And also he/she should be a motivator, positive, outgoing, willing to take action, speak up, believe in others, and willing to sacrifice in order to make a lasting impact on others.

I was expecting that a person would come and teach us different subjects, but it was more interesting than that. Everybody shared their own experience and contributed in different groups. We even had to change our places each day and talk with a different person. One was a teacher in a pre-school, others were a housewife, a grandma, a math teacher, a student at San Francisco State, a writer who wanted to pass the GED, a contractor and father, etc. I admired all of them because all of them had a touching story of their literacy progress. Some life stories made me cry and all of them inspired me. I know I'm not the only one who has room for improvement in her new language but I'm not one of those people who are going to give up. I have a lovely family. My baby will learn so many things from her mommy, so I do my best to be an excellent role-model. I wrote down my goals and will get started. For sure, I'll do remodeling and restoring again. I'm the one who can make it and of course we all can make our goals come true. I'll promote PSC and ALLI to anyone who might need it. Wow! What an inspiring program it is.