Giving Gratitude to Charlie, Our Newest English Conversation Facilitator

December 6, 2021

Our gratitude continues this week for our English Conversation Facilitators. This week, meet Charlie Mayock-Bradley, the newest addition to our facilitator team! Charlie has been an excellent addition to our conversation groups and we are so thankful that he fit this into his busy schedule. Thank you Charlie!

Tell us a bit about yourself, and what led you to volunteering with OISS?
Hi, everyone! My name is Charlie, and I am a junior in Yale College studying Spanish and Political Science. Ever since I got to Yale, I have been an English tutor for Bridges ESL [1], a student group that teaches weekly English lessons, which not only has been a wonderful experience but also introduced me to OISS conversation groups. I’m so grateful to be part of these communities of language learners!

What have you enjoyed the most about being an ECG facilitator?
Being an ECG facilitator has been wonderful so far, and I have especially loved getting to meet so many new folks and hear about their experiences in New Haven. I still consider myself a relatively new resident of the city, so it's fun to compare notes and share recommendations for fun things to do and see!

What is one thing you’ve learned about our international community since you’ve been volunteering with OISS?
During my time as a facilitator, I've certainly learned a lot more about the difficulties of travelling and moving internationally during the Covid-19 pandemic. I know many of my own plans have been disrupted over the past year, and the logistics of moving to or from the United States seem even more challenging. I’ve appreciated hearing about participants’ experiences, and I am thankful that we can support each other and connect through this program.

[1] Bridges ESL: [Link to Bridges ESL website]
Can you think of a specific conversation or experience that stands out while you’ve been volunteering?
I recall one long conversation about the United States’ transportation system and how it compares to those in other countries. Each of us shared our experiences with the bus and train lines, and we also talked about the process of getting our drivers’ licenses. It was helpful to share tips with each other on how best to get around!

What would you say to someone who is considering joining our English Conversation Groups as a participant?
English Conversation Groups are not only a fantastic way to practice your English in a low-stress setting but are also great opportunities to meet people. Some participants and I have already begun to send postcards to each other and have plans to eventually meet up in person. Whether you're looking to learn English or make friends, ECG is a wonderful program!

Source URL: https://oiss.yale.edu/news/giving-gratitude-to-charlie-our-newest-english-conversation-facilitator

Links
[1] https://campuspress.yale.edu/bridges/