

## A VOICE volunteer reflects on her experience

*"Growing up, my mother always reminded me that by helping others we in turn help ourselves. Throughout my life, I've seen the difference that volunteering efforts can make in people's lives. I know the personal value of service as a local volunteer.*

*"When I responded to the posting for a volunteer ESL teacher for senior Russian immigrants in the Jewish Community Action newsletter last September I had no idea how much my life would be affected. I am now teaching four classes every Monday night.*

*"Every week my students come to class with the desire to learn more about American culture and the English language. They are highly motivated and extremely dedicated to learning more about their new country. I have made so many new friends; I hope to keep them for a long time to come.*

*"As in every teaching experience, there is also a learning experience. My students are teaching me about their culture and language. They are teaching me about friendship and family. Most important they are teaching me that everything we do can have an effect on the lives of people around us.*

*"Working with Lyudmyla Petrenko, VOICE Community Organizer, on developing a variety of lesson plans that my students can use has taught me so much. Lyudmyla is so dedicated to developing a curriculum that our students can use everyday.*

*"My experience volunteering through the VOICE program, teaching ESL has been priceless to me. Each and every week that I spend with my students at the Booth Manor and Nicollet Towers is truly joyful for me. My students have made a long lasting impression on my life. I hope to continue my relationships and come back for a second term next year!*

*"Thank you so much to the **Sabes Jewish Community Center, Jewish Community Action**, and the **Minneapolis Jewish Federation** for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime! I want to thank my students for allowing me to be a part of their lives. And a special thank you to Lyudmyla who has been there for me every step of the way."*

**- Maureen Driscoll**

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VOICE volunteer

Campaign Associate, Community Shares Minnesota