



# Help Waltham Family School Prepare Families For Kindergarten... AND COLLEGE!



Nery and his daughter, Melanie in 2003. Melanie started college this September.



Nery and his wife Loyda at the "Fiesta for WFS" in 2016. Melanie was busy working.

Dear Friend,

Your annual support is working! Waltham Family School is making progress helping English Language Learner families prepare for kindergarten and life. This year we have exciting news to share about the founding families from the first year of Waltham Family School. We are writing to ask you to donate today to support this educational program that continue to strengthen our community!

## How do you Measure Success?

For the first time in Waltham Family School's 13-year history, five students from the first WFS preschool class began college this September. We are extremely proud of these first five Waltham High School graduates and their families who supported them along the way.

## Meet one of Waltham Family School's Founding Families

Nery was one of the first parents to enroll in Waltham Family School in 2003. Although he worked late, he still got up each morning to take his daughter, Melanie to preschool. At the Fiesta in March, Nery shared his story:

*I worked second shift, because I wanted to care for my daughter. The program was early and sometimes I worked overtime to 3 AM in the morning, but Melanie woke me. It wasn't always easy for me. But I went with her, because it helped her.*

*When we came to Waltham Family School she was very shy. She didn't talk too much. The program helped her to be more open. This year she will finish high school and she will go to Salem State University. - Nery*

## Waltham Family School Today

Fast forward to 2016. Nery's family is one of over 500 parents and children, in a multi-year program, who have entered the Waltham Family School doors over the past 13 years. Although our location has changed over the years, the core mission of Waltham Family School remains:

Waltham Family School works to empower English Language Learner families to be literate, self-sufficient and connected to the community.

Now, just as in the beginning years of Waltham Family School, parents stress the importance of being able to help their children succeed by strengthening their English skills:

*I like this program because it is serious and comfortable. I learn English four days a week and it helped me with my children. I am proud because I speak more comfortably with different people. - Gladys*

## CONTACT

Waltham Family School  
510 Moody Street  
Waltham, MA 02453

781-314-5696  
friendsoftheWFS@gmail.com

## CONNECT

walthamfamilyschool.org  
WalthamFamilySchool  
@Wal\_Fam\_School

## English Language Learner Families Improve Their Lives

Waltham Family School is much more than an ESL program or a preschool. The parents in Waltham Family School work hard to help their children have the best start in school and improve their lives. Sandra, a Waltham Family School parent, wrote why English is important in her life:

*Waltham Family School makes us more independent for work, school and stores. English helps me in appointments, to speak with doctors, in the hospital and in my child's school. I want to be able to communicate everywhere.*  
- Sandra

Waltham Family School continues to work with English Language Learner families to feel confident, safe and connected. As Nery also shared at the Fiesta:

*This program helps families like me. People from other countries who don't speak a lot of English. Waltham Family School helps us speak more English, they open our eyes. How things are here. It helps people to be better and helps Waltham to be a better city. It helps United States to be strong. If we have more students with a higher level [of education], we have better citizens. I believe that! - Nery*

## Support the Nery's and Melanie's of the Future. Give today!

The work at Waltham Family School would not be possible without many people and community partners behind the scenes. Lots of supportive donors and volunteers, who give hundreds of hours of their time, and a dedicated staff make it possible to open our doors week after week and year after year. Be a friend of Waltham Family School so we can continue to achieve the Waltham Family School motto:

### Together we succeed!

Please give to Waltham Family School to sustain the work to empower English Language Learner families.

### Thank you,



Tom Maehl  
Friends of Waltham Family School, Inc.



Britta McNemar  
Waltham Family School



*Rotzana reading with her boys.  
WFS encourages interactive literacy in school and at home.*

PS. To make it easy for you to make **your tax-deductible gift**, please use the return envelope enclosed or donate online at [www.walthamfamilyschool.org](http://www.walthamfamilyschool.org)

PPS. Join us for the **FWFS Second Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 25 @ 7:00 PM**. Come learn about the work of the Friends of the Waltham Family School. Contribute your ideas for the future of WFS.

PPPS. **Coffee & Conversation** is your chance to see Waltham Family School in action in an informal setting. Please RSVP for either November 3 or December 8 @ 9:30 AM – 11 AM at [friendsofthewfs@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthewfs@gmail.com)