Spanish students at Hope are helping transform lives.

As a complement to their time in class, the dozens of students enrolled in Spanish IV each semester serve as tutors with the English as a Second Language (ESL) program coordinated by Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP), a community organization based in Hope’s hometown of Holland, Mich. Along with other Hope students involved with the program simply because they value what it does, they work with émigrés to the area, most of whom are older than the students, who are seeking to work with émigrés to the area, most of whom simply because they value what it does, they Hope students involved with the program.

The Hope students’ commitment is technically one evening per week, but in the end that mattered far less than the outcome. “One of the students took extra time to practice with the ESL student and to speed up the process,” Hernandez said.

LAUP has coordinated ESL classes for several years, and Hope students have been involved as volunteers for much of that time, many through their participation in the Tulips Scholars Program. The relationship became more formal, however, a few years ago, when dozens of students enrolled in Spanish IV each evening, for beginning, intermediate and advanced English-speakers. The Spanish IV class spend one evening each week tutoring, their work on the three nightly sessions.

In addition to the time that they spend in Spanish IV itself, every student in the class signs on as a tutor for one of the three nights each week that LAUP offers its ESL program. Hope contributes the space for the sessions, which are held at the Martha Miller Center for Global Communications.

Typically, three ESL classes meet each evening, for beginning, intermediate and advanced English-speakers. The Spanish IV students work with the community members individually, while other students, volunteering independently, serve as classroom instructors/leaders. Not all of the community members in the classes are from Spanish-speaking countries, but most are, with the majority from Mexico. Each evening features an hour of instruction and an hour of dialogue, with the students and community members working through lesson packets together, using Spanish and English in combination. Many of the community members attend all three nights. Community member Jose Arrendondo, who moved to the area from Mexico, has appreciated not only the program that he’s made in learning English, but also the students’ he’s had a chance to meet. “I’ve been coming for a couple years,” Arrendondo said. “They’re awesome people to be around.”

The Hope students, Hernandez noted, are not only helpful but essential, since the program literally could not exist without them. “It’s been a perfect union as far as we’re concerned,” Hernandez said. “We’re glad it’s there, and we’re very thankful because without Hope College we couldn’t do it.”

Dr. Woolsey connects the tutoring back to his Spanish IV class by having the students write about their experience; for example, reporting shortly after starting on the story of a community member they met through the program, and reflecting at the end of the semester on how they felt about their participation. “Some of the instructors find out that they want to be teachers or serve the community in this way,” Dr. Woolsey said.

Jenifer Zuc Jalo of Holland, Mich., became involved with the program through Spanish IV as a freshman, and appreciated it so much that she has stayed involved. She is now the site coordinator for the entire program, making certain that everything runs smoothly during the three nightly sessions. Because of her additional level of responsibility she is now paid for her part-time work with the program, but that’s not why she does it. “We’re very thankful because without Hope College we couldn’t do it.” - Larry Hernandez, project coordinator with Latin Americans United for Progress, regarding LAUP’s ESL program based at Hope

Hope students are making a lasting difference in the lives of Holland-area community members by serving as tutors and instructors in the English as a Second Language program coordinated by Latin Americans United for Progress. Students in the college’s Spanish IV class spend one evening each week tutoring, their work on behalf of others also enriching their own understanding of the language and cultures of those they are helping. The西班牙 students at Hope are helping transform lives. As a complement to their time in class, the dozens of students enrolled in Spanish IV each semester serve as tutors with the English as a Second Language (ESL) program coordinated by Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP), a community organization based in Hope’s hometown of Holland, Mich. Along with other Hope students involved with the program simply because they value what it does, they work with émigrés to the area, most of whom simply because they value what it does, they Hope students involved with the program.

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