ONE TO ONE IS A SPONSORED MINISTRY OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPARKILL

Language Empowers. Language Unites.
one2one-learning.org

2024 Hands of Hope Gala
CELEBRATING 27 YEARS OF OUR MISSION OF EMPOWERMENT
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Phyllis and Bruce Schweizer  
Quality Graphics Tristate, Inc  
Artistic presentation and production of booklet, invitation, raffle, award certificates and virtual journal

Darryl Ppkave and Thomas Mellia  
Multimedia Group USA  
Providing equipment and Management for viewing Journal

Edith Nova  
Preparation of corsages and boutonnieres for our Honorees

Alex and Geny Aguilar  
Donation of Table Centerpieces

Michael Davidson  
MC

Alex Flores  
DJ

Sister Jeanne Shary  
Photographer

Angelo Rubino and Staff, Nyack Seaport  
for their excellent service

EVENTS

Students’ Service Award  
Monday, June 10 and Wednesday June 12 2004  
7:00 PM

100th Anniversary  
Marydell Faith and Life Center  
June 15, 2024

Star-Fest XV  
JPSchutz/ Sue Matzuki and many great entertainers  
Mini Taste of Rockland  
Sunday, September 15, 2024  
3:30 PM
Hands of Hope Gala

CELEBRATING 27 YEARS OF OUR MISSION OF EMPOWERMENT

Friday, May 3, 2024 at 6:30
COCKTAIL HOUR AND DINNER

Nyack Seaport
21 BURD STREET, NYACK, NEW YORK 10960
(VALET PARKING AVAILABLE)

Honoring

Bob Stein and Enid Weishaus
2024 ADVOCATE AWARD

Father Tom Kunnel
2024 HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Sister Margaret Mary O’Doherty
2024 FOUNDERS AWARD

Charlotte and Tom Murray
2024 BOARD SERVICE AWARD

Barbara Bedway
2024 TEACHER SERVICE AWARD

Jacinto Tenezaca • Rilma Mazariego
2024 STUDENT SERVICE AWARD

Pedro Aguilar
2024 YOUTH AWARD
Dear Friends,

“I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full”

John 10:10

This quote comes to me, during this Easter season, and as I contemplate the activities and experiences of our Honorees, all full of the promise of life and all sharing life with others, I feel a tremendous amount of hope. Hands reaching out to Hands continues to be the call from our banner of giving and receiving life, and the circle continues. You can read their stories in the booklet and will hear about their commitment to life.

This year, as no other before, we have come to our maximum registration, with students, coming as before, recommended by present students, the numbers over 300. We have had to expand into more buildings on the Marydell property, extending the parking lot with more gravel, and providing alumni and student volunteers to manage the parking. We have had to place newcomers on a waiting list until a new teacher became available to start a class. Presently all beginners have been placed with other class levels open as well. This year we expanded our Haitian student population with thirty students, many young people escaping from the unrest in Haiti. Most students are coming from Ecuador with a variety from Central and South America and some from Ukraine.

How about being a member of the “One to One” Family as a teacher, child care guide, board member or benefactor. From the beginning, 27 years ago, I knew that it would work only if the Community would own it and accept it as its own. And you have, whole heartedly. As we move into the future, we need your continued support, as well as new, energized life.

Be a part of the success stories of our students and Alumni. So many continue from beginner, to intermediate, to advanced, and to preparation for GED and citizenship. Many have their own businesses, hiring other newcomers. Their children are nurses, accountants, and computer technicians and many helping their parents attain citizenship. Some children of Alumni are teachers at One to One, thus paying it forward.

The sustainability into the future of “One to One Learning requires a new form of administration with a Program Coordinator for internal management to free me to focus on mission advancement as the Executive Director. Presently, the board has hired Lizzette Ruiz for this position.

Be part of our story is we move into the future of our mission, “Language empowers; Language unites”. Use the QR code to enter our Website to join the family and to make a donation.

Peace, Sister Cecilia
Program

27 YEARS OF COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Friday, May 3, 2024 – Nyack Seaport
300 Limited Raffle

Welcome
Blessing

First Course
Music/Dancing
Raffle Sale

Second Course
Entertainment
Music/Dancing
Dessert/Coffee
Raffle Drawing

Thank you for your support!
One to One Learning is honoring Bob Stein and Enid Weishaus with the 2024 Advocate Award. An advocate is one who supports a cause through his or her action and way of life. Both Bob and Enid promote the cause of peace, justice, and equality through their lifestyle and the time and energy that they put into the organizations to which they belong.

Bob is passionate about the great outdoors. He is on the Board of the Friends of Rockland Lake and Hook Mountain where he works to preserve land, develop and maintain trails, focus on environmental education and more. As an environmental educator, Bob is committed to inspiring others to respect and appreciate all that is found in natural settings. He has run programs for the 92nd Street Y, New Settlement Apartments, and other organizations promoting Earth Justice. Both he and Enid enjoy hiking and share this love with others. Every year in March, you will see Bob beginning the process of tapping the Maple trees on the property of Marydell Faith and Life Center in Nyack. Everyone looks forward to the program, sponsored by the Friends of Rockland Lake and Hook Mountain, that Bob leads and Enid assists, on demonstrating the process of making maple syrup. Adults and children have hands on experiences of drinking the sap, which is made of very healthy nutrients, tasting the sap as it drips from the tree, and seeing the sap boiling, leaving the maple syrup. Their love of the Earth and particularly the environs around their home and Marydell, moved them to be board members of Marydell Faith and Life Center.

Both Bob and Enid bring their advocacy into the lives of people through education and experiential learning. Enid leads workshops on women and aging, “Aging reimagined” and previously “Smarter, Bolder, Older” where women have an opportunity to explore the challenges and gifts of living longer. As a life coach, she focused on guiding women through life and work changes. She designed and facilitated the Women in Business Mentorship programs for the Rockland Business Association. Enid previously worked for American Express Foundation, guiding the distribution of funds to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States. Enid was a founding member of “Women Dine on Wednesdays”, which raises funds for programs that serve women and children in need in Rockland County.

As the cofounder of the New York Fathering Conference, Bob, initiated the First Conference which was held at The Westchester County Center in 2015 with 21 workshops and had 350 attendees from 7 states. The 9th annual New York Fathering Conference was recently held on April 16. The importance of the father in the life of the children is stressed as fundamental to the health of the family and to the health of society in general. Bob has lead programs for Fathers for the 92nd Street Y in New York City and he ran ‘For Dads only’ programs in Rockland County for over 15 years. Bob also was involved in Father-Son programs for the Men’s Leadership Alliance in Colorado and was on the board of a national non-profit, ‘Dads and Daughters’.

Bob owns the Acme Exterminating Company in New York City. He is the proud father of Gabriella (partner of Bob Gruber), Grandfather of Elio, and Celina (partner of Hector Figarella) and Enid shares in their love as a devoted step-mom. Bob is the grandson of immigrants from Ukraine and Romania and Enid’s parents immigrated to Chicago from Hungary in 1937. This may be one reason why they so sincerely support the mission of “One to One Learning”.

One to One Learning proudly honors Bob Stein and Enid Weishaus with the 2024 Advocate Award for their promotion of the cause of peace, justice, and equality through their lifestyle and energy of purpose.
The dictionary definition of “humanitarian” is a person who is devoted to the welfare of all human beings. Fr. Tom Kunnel certainly fits this description. Not only does Fr. Tom care for the spiritual needs of his flock but he also cares for their physical and emotional well-being. Fr. Tom also reaches out beyond the parish, and is inclusive of so many more people with a multitude of needs.

Born in Kerala in South India, Fr. Tom has recently celebrated his 40th year Anniversary as a priest and has served God’s people in various ways. During his first 15 years of priesthood, Fr. Tom served as a missionary in North East India. For the next 12 years, he was in East Africa and set up centers of Media Production and Youth Encounter for the Salesians of Don Bosco.

In 2010 Fr. Tom joined the Oratory of St. Philip Neri and this brought him to St. John the Baptist Parish and then, with the consolidation with Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church, Fr. Tom was appointed Administrator of St. John Neuman Parish. Father Tom has brought his expertise in the area of media productions to broaden the outreach that the Church has with the community. He has brought out the cultural aspects of his parishioners through musical productions. Someone has once said that “Singing is praying twice” and the joy and comradery that brings folks together is remarkable. Fr. Tom depends on the “Servidores” of St. John’s, supports them in their ministry with the Spanish-speaking parishioners and promotes an inclusive sharing in all activities in the church. St. Dominic was known as the “Joyful Friar” and we can say that about Fr. Tom spreading good news wherever he goes.

Students of "One to One Learning" are also fortunate in our connection with Fr. Tom since he has included us in his outreach activities. Fr. Tom introduced us to M&T bank whose staff came to our classes to set up free Checking Accounts for interested students and in the future will provide budgeting classes to students who are interested. In addition, Fr. Tom has connected us with a day clinic whose staff will come to One to One during evening classes to do blood pressure screening. If there is a problem, the person will be given an appointment to the clinic for further testing. Fr. Tom has also provided non-perishable items for our babies.

One to One Learning proudly honors Father Thomas Kunnel with the 2024 Humanitarian Award for his all-encompassing ministry to his parishioners and to those beyond, caring for their spiritual, physical and emotional well-being.
Sister Margaret Mary O’Doherty is the daughter of Mary and Norbert who immigrated from Donegal in 1925. She is one of three siblings, Daniel Norbert RIP and Ann who lives in Florida. She began her life in Queens and then the Bronx and attended Aquinas High School where she met the Dominican Sisters and that is when Margaret Mary, Margie’s life changed as she became a Sparkill Dominican Sister. She attended St. Thomas Aquinas College and later attended St. Louis University receiving her Master’s in Theology. Sister Margaret Mary taught for several years in elementary schools and then taught Religion at Aquinas High School for nine years.

Sister Margie had a desire to join our sisters in Pakistan but when her visa was denied, her spirit directed her to Montana and in 1983 she headed to Hays and Great Falls where our sisters ministered and then to Rocky Boy to a parish whose pastor, Fr. Pete Guthneck, had requested a Pastoral Associate. For 38 years Sister Margie ministered with the Native Americans of that region. During that time, she went through the program to learn the Montessori method of teaching religion, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Sister Margie took on the culture of the people she served, including their ritual of smudging into the liturgies. She visited their homes, took part in their native rituals and was given a native name.

Sister Margie’s life was in, with and for the people, much like our Founder, Alice Mary Thorpe who immigrated from England to the United States, to follow her spirit and find her way around New York City.

Then in 2021 in the midst of the Pandemic, Sister Margie left Rocky Boy, moving back to Dominican Convent in Sparkill. She had to be quarantined and that was a blow to her free spirit that hiked mountains and lived so close to nature. Sister Margie didn’t stay closed in for long. When a request for sisters to go to the border to assist immigrants, the spirit beckoned and Sister Margie responded. Later she met up with Sister Veronica at Marydell Faith and Life Center who had also been at the Border. On Sister Veronica’s return, some women she met at the border ended up in Spring Valley and contacted Sister Veronica. Sister Margie got involved with outreach to these families and later began the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with their children. The spirit was moving and Sister Margie responded, delighted with reaching out to these parents and children in many ways. She is always looking for more ways to respond to the needs of the people.

Sister Margie has also been in contact with the Native American tribe that lives in this part of New York and once lived on the lands around Dominican Convent.

One to One Learning proudly honors Sister Margaret Mary O’Doherty with the Founder’s Award as she has listened to the spirit within, as did Alice Mary Thorpe, responding wholeheartedly to the needs of God’s people.
One to One Learning is honoring Charlotte and Thomas Murray with the 2024 Board Service Award. Charlotte will be completing six years on the board for 2 terms. However, Charlotte served on the Development Committee for 4 years before joining the board. Tom has been her faithful companion in supporting our work and mission. Charlotte attended Hunter College and she received a BS degree, an MS in Education and a Masters of Arts in Teaching ESL. She taught ESL or ENL for over 45 years in the Bronx and Manhattan for the NYC Board of Education. Because of this background, Charlotte provided information and materials that we were able to use in our classes at “One to One Learning”. Charlotte also actively served on the Juvenile Diabetes Board as Educational Chair and chaired several fundraising events.

Thomas attended Manhattan College and graduated to do work in accounting. He taught mathematics for the NYC Board of Education. He was a bar proprietor for several years and was always involved with charitable causes along with Charlotte. He worked for ARC and for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Tom also chaired several events for a number of different charities. Tom is also an active member of the Golf Committee of the Sparkill Dominicans.

The common denominator for their support of Sparkill Dominicans and One to One Learning is Sister Margaret Murphy, a Dominican Sister of Sparkill and Charlotte’s youngest sister who was a member of the Board of One to One and the Leadership Team of the Sparkill Dominican Congregation and who died prematurely in_______.

As a member of the Development Committee, Charlotte was invaluable in her efforts to publicize all our events, by writing articles and sending them to local newspapers, magazines, parish bulletins, senior centers and to Internet sources or by posting flyers in locations throughout Nyack. Both Charlotte and Tom took an active part in our fund raisers, Star-Fest, Peace and Light, and the Gala, in preparation and participation in them.

One to One Learning proudly honors Charlotte and Tom Murray with the 2024 Board Service Award for their dedication to our mission of empowerment of immigrants and Charlotte’s active promotion of our events as a member of the Development Committee.

Sis - need info here
Barbara Bedway, originally from Ohio, is supported in her teaching at "One to One Learning" by her siblings in Ohio, who have caught her enthusiasm and are benefactors of our mission. Barbara and her husband Greg have a son in California and a daughter in England. So, trips to Ohio, California and England have been on their travel agenda, leaving their sleeping cat behind to mind the house.

Barbara is a longtime freelance journalist and writer, whose first published essay was about trying to teach English to her grandmother, an immigrant from Lebanon. Since coming to New York for graduate school in 1975, Babara has worked at various magazines and taught college writing classes. However, her longest sojourn at any position—paid or unpaid—has been for twelve years at "One to One Learning" as a volunteer teacher.

Barbara began as an in-person teacher, enjoying connecting with teaching colleagues, especially Sisters Maureen and Nancy. Then on March 11, 2020, classes ended because of COVID. Barbara continued to connect with her students as most teachers did and during the summer they all learned Zoom and were on their way to on-line learning. As the years moved on it became more convenient for her students to continue on-line, with the ability to include students at a distance.

Barbara does Pre-GED preparation, mostly focusing on essay writing. Her freelance posture and her unique interest in people, helps her students to be relaxed in sharing their life encounters, as Barbara shares her story. This leads to excellent writing. Barbara also uses articles that capture the varied experiences of her students’ diverse backgrounds. This has led to many “Then and Now” life stories that we have featured in our newsletters with former and present pictures.

Barbara is thoughtful and compassionate and her students find in her a person who really cares for them and will go “the mile” to help them.

One to One Learning proudly presents the 2024 Teacher Service Award to Barbara Bedway for her dedication to her students and her faithfulness to the mission.
Jacinto Tenezaca came to the United States in 2000 when he was 16 years old with his older brother. They left their mother and other family members in Ecuador. They came to lead a better life and to support their family in Ecuador. Jacinto’s mother is coming to visit very soon and he looks forward to her coming.

When Jacinto first came, he worked in construction but later in 2007 he started driving a taxi. At the same time that Jacinto has been studying at “One to One Learning”, he has also been studying during the week and on Saturday at BOCES. Jacinto is conscientious and knows that getting ahead means studying English. Jacinto began at “One to One” last year and has progressed into the Intermediate level of English.

This year, Jacinto has assisted at “One to One Learning” by checking cars at the entrance to allow only teachers to park at Gate 1, all other students would continue to Gate 3. He would be at his post in the cold and the rain, whatever conditions, dressed in his warm jacket.

For his achievement in intermediate ESOL and his commitment to service, One to One Learning proudly honors Jacinto Tenezaca with the 2024 Student Service Award.
Rilma Gomez came to the United States from El Salvador at the age of 13 in 1997. She attended Nyack Middle School for one year and Nyack High School, grades 9 and 10. She married Rafael Mazariego on July 17, 2000 in a civil ceremony and married in the church of St. John the Baptist on July 17, 2006. They have four children, three girls and the youngest, a boy. Her goal, since she did not finish high school, has been to get her GED. She started class around the time of COVID, so she was and has continued to be on-line. She and her sister are in class with their teacher, Robert Sbordone, who works in GED material with ESOL learning. Recently, Rilma has received the opportunity to apply for citizenship and has begun to prepare for that reality.

Rilma is also very active in her Church, St. John the Baptist. She is a Servidora, involved in leadership activities as lectoring and serving on the Altar. With all that she has to do with work, her children, and Church ministry, Rilma also finds time to volunteer in the children program at One to One Learning. She comes on Wednesday evenings and is a great asset because she knows Spanish and is there for the younger children who don’t know English.

One to One Learning proudly honors Rilma Mazariego with the 2024 Student Service Award for her achievement in GED and Citizenship and for her commitment to service.
Pedro Aguilar is the son of Alex and Geny, the brother of Hellen and Emmanuel and the nephew of many alumni of One to One Learning. He follows in their tradition and is paying it forward for all that his relatives have achieved through learning English at One to One Learning.

Pedro first came to volunteer at One to One Learning when he was in elementary school at the age of ten. He came with his sister, Hellen who had come to teach at One to One. Pedro helped in the children’s program, with homework, played games and made crafts with the children.

As a Junior in High School, Pedro returned as a teacher and has continued into his Senior year. As a Senior, Pedro has a heavy program but committed to two days a week at One to One. Pedro is in the National and Tri M Music honor societies and has appeared in many school productions. He is an all around student and involved in many clubs. Pedro has also received the 2022 and 2024 RCC Black and Latinx student achievement award and was an award recipient at the CHSN Academic Banquet for three years.

Pedro has been an excellent teacher, very professional, punctual, and aware of his students’ progress. He has an encouraging manner that supports his students’ success.

One to One Learning proudly honors Pedro Aguilar with the 2024 Youth Service Award for his commitment as teacher.
PAST HONOREES

ADVOCATE AWARD
2005 Lea Rea of Rockland Journal News
2006 Fearick, Lynch, MacCartney
2009 Sisters of Our Lady of Christian Doctrine
2010 Dorfman, Knoebel, Conway, Furey
2011 Martha Robles
2012 Sister Fran Gorsuch
2013 Rockland Immigration Coalition
2014 Rockland 21st Collaborative For Children and Youth
2015 Monsignor Kevin Sullivan
2016 John Patrick Schutz
2018 Stony Point Center, “Proyecto Faro”
2019 Center for Safety & Change
2021 Alica Coulomb
2023 Michael Patrick Davidson

HUMANITARIAN AWARD
2002 Senator Thomas Morahan
2005 Msgr. John T. Mulligan
2006 Detective Sgt. Timothy O’Neill
2009 Anna Luz and Humberto Nazario
2010 Mary Loftus
2011 Gregory Family
2012 Catholic Daughters
2013 Outreach Ministry of St. John the Baptist Church
2014 Romanesque Lodge #2198
2015 Rotary Of Nyack
2016 HRHcare Community Health
2018 Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Reverend Robert McKeon
2019 Deacon Robert Pang And May Pang
2021 Parenting Group From Mental Health Association
2023 Cindy’s Pais Karen De Mateo

FOUNDER’S AWARD
2002 Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
2004 Sister Nancy Richter
2005 Sister Diane McSherry
2007 Sister Cecilia La Pietra
2006 Sister Patricia Ann Reilly
2010 Sister Catherine Moran
2011 Sisters Daniel Catherine and Barbara Jane
2012 Sister Jeanine Nolan
2013 Cell and Ugo Volpati
2014 Sister Margaret Murphy
2015 Sister Patricia Hogan
2016 Haiti Circle of Support
2017 Sister Cecilia La Pietra OP
2018 Sister Joan Bearisto OP
2019 Sister Peggy Scarano OP
2021 Maureen Conway OP
2023 Sparkill Dominican Associates

CORPORATE SPONSOR
2004 Joseph Lagana, Peter Kelly, Hector May
2005 Gerard and Georgia Knueven
2006 RBC Dain Rauscher
2009 Liz and Bill Falkenstein
2010 St. Thomas Aquinas College
2011 Orange and Rockland Community Investment Program
2012 Nyack Seaport –Angela Rubin
2013 Rockland Country Club Foundation
2014 Carmen Castro JPMorgan Employee
2016 Wells Fargo
2018 Union Restaurant, Paulo Feteira, Jose David Martinez
2019 State Line, City Line, And Terrace On The Hudson
2021 Katherine Lacombe Benezra

BOARD/TEACHER SERVICE AWARD
2002 Judith plott
2004 Peter Lacombe
2005 Terry Siracusano
2006 Valerie Wolzien
2009 Alex Aguilar
2010 Gino and Flavia Silvestri
2011 Betty Keyes, Joyce Gavin
2012 Carol Davide, Eileen and John Lawler, Larry McKeaney
2013 Lucille Levine & John McCoy
2014 Frank Cappadona and Mary Anne Sgroi
2015 Paul Piperto
2016 Gerard Geisinger and Jessica Carchichabla
2023 Sabrina Greco, Steve Wilson (Posthumously)
2023 Terrence Amonica, Martha Patterson, Jessica Reck

SPECIAL TRIBUTE
2017 Sister Jeanine Nolan OP
2018 Dr. Theresa Lewis
2019 David And Judy Englander
2019 Johanna Maye
2021 Ira Lipson
2023 William Martinez

STUDENT SERVICE AWARD
2002 Lazaro Zepeda
2004 Yolanda Aguilar
2005 Danilo Chacon
2006 Geny Perez Aguilar, Marleni Sanabria Lemus
2009 Janette Sosa Elias
2010 Epifania Aguilar, Jose Alvarado
2011 Mayra Castro, Rafael Lemus
2012 Efrain Aguilar, Edith Nova
2013 Elsy Guadalupe Zamora & Jose Armando Figueroa
2014 Ms. Roxana Sanchez and Mr. Alex Flores
2015 Sonia Garcia and Henry Ramirez
2016 Irma Vasquez and Elias Mayllahzungo
2018 Manual Martinez / Marvin Vivar
2019 Rudy Felipe/Hector Esquivel
2021 Maira,Vilma,Magaly Mazariego/Emilia Andrade
2023 Elvia Mazariazioe Stuart

YOUTH AWARD
2011 Yamaeleth Castro
2013 Albertus Magnus High School
2014 Chang Seob Lim and Ryan Zohar
2015 Sharon Mullin
2016 Nyack High School English Honor Society
2018 Caitlin Crowley/Quinn Coughlin
2021 Adam Schinder
2023 Duong Nguyen

ONE TO ONE LEARNING, INC.
ONE TO ONE IS A SPONSORED MINISTRY OF THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SPARKILL
640 N. Midland Avenue, Upper Nyack, NY 10960
Tel 845.512.8176 Fax 845.512.8178
clpangel59@gmail.com or
sr.cecilia@one2one-learning.org
TABLE SPONSORS

$5000
LANGUAGE EMPOWERS
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York

$1250
LOVING COMMUNITY
Michael Davidson

$1250
LOVING COMMUNITY
Karen Ellis

DINNER SPONSORS

Dinner Sponsor
Dennis and Marcia Lynch

COCKTAIL AND DESSERT SPONSOR
Dr. Mary Anne Evangelist

COCKTAIL SPONSOR
The Badinelli Family

Dessert Sponsor
Father Tom Kunnel

DONATIONS

Al Birkmaier
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Andy Mitchell
Nydia Prishker and Jose Pagan

Katherine Lacombe Benezra
Jen Feerick
Erin Feerick
Sister Peggy McGirl
Adriana Ocanaz
Phyllis and Bruce Schweizer
Pat Solicito
Jacklyn Spring

Angela Bernhardt
Mauricio Garcia
Karín Lacelloti
Maureen Lambe
Sister Diane McSherry
Justin Miller
Anne Nissen and David Platt
Sister Barbara Paul
Loraine Peek
Sister Dolores Shortal
2024 Hands of Hope Gala

With genuine thankfulness, your support, kindness, and commitment throughout the past 27 years has embraced the One to One community.

Sr. Cecilia