ELS International Education Pathways and Social Responsibility

“Our guiding principle, the principal objective of our daily efforts, resides in the transformative impact we have on students’ lives and perceptions, and in turn, on the world. There are moments when we can reach out and positively impact a person’s life, and happily, ELS has the means to do that.”

–Mark W. Harris, President and CEO, ELS Educational Services, Inc.

In the business of creating global citizens, the responsibility must extend beyond the classroom, and must encompass outward-facing social projects that actively make the world a better place. We cannot simply instruct our students on the mechanics of language and higher education study success skills without also keeping in mind the needs and issues of the world as a whole.

“We teach language, but I think we teach the vocabulary of respect, consideration, tolerance, peace, justice and understanding.”

–Sharyn Moore, Academic Director and Teacher, ELS Language Centers

In particular, as a part of our core values, ELS has aligned itself with multiple social responsibility projects, including:

**Many Languages, One World.** In June 2014, sixty talented university students from 28 countries around the world met in New York at a Global Youth Forum to discuss the role of multilingualism in global citizenship, and to present their powerful ideas at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. These students were the winners of the Many Languages, One World Essay Contest, an event created by ELS Educational Services, Inc. and the United Nations Academic Impact. For more information about this event, please visit ManyLanguagesOneWorld.ELS.edu.

**IIE Scholar Rescue Fund.** The Scholar Rescue Fund was developed in 2002 by the Institute of International Education (IIE) to help professors, researchers, intellectuals and their spouses who are at risk due to war, terrorism, human rights violation or repression in their home countries. Standing behind this important cause, ELS Educational Services provides full English scholarships for these scholars, their spouses and children to obtain their English language proficiency so that they can continue to pursue their academic work in safety at U.S. colleges and universities. Read more about the ELS’s work with the Scholar Rescue Fund here.

**TOMODACHI Fellows.** In March of 2011, a devastating earthquake and tsunami hit Japan, displacing residents and severely impacting the country’s economy. The TOMODACHI Initiative was founded in the wake of this natural disaster to foster cooperation between the United States and Japan, and to create a “TOMODACHI generation” of young global citizens from both countries who will strengthen the bond between the two countries through educational and cultural exchanges. In July 2013, ELS welcomed four TOMODACHI Fellows with full scholarships to its University Prep Program in Malibu, California. Read more about their experience here.
Scholarship for Libyan Students. In 2011, the world watched as a geopolitical crisis took place in Libya. ELS students who originated from Libya found themselves without basic resources and a safe place to call home. In response to our students in need, ELS waived the tuition and provided healthcare for all Libyan students attending an Intensive English program at any ELS Language Center in the United States during this time. Read more about ELS’s response to the crisis in Libya here.

The wellbeing of our students, their families and their home countries is of the utmost importance, which is why ELS has become involved in multiple global causes. ELS Educational Services, Inc. understands how language can act as an instrument to create a more peaceful and globalized world, and the transformative effect international education and global outreach can have.

“The internationalization of education has the power to multiply knowledge and creative energy that will better the quality of life for all mankind.”

—Mark W. Harris, President and CEO, ELS Educational Services, Inc.