

# CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL

## FALL 2022

### Crossroads Conversation School:

**Face to face:** After two years of online classes during the pandemic, we were thrilled to get back to in-person classes at the Church of the Good Samaritan in spring. This fall, we are back to having 3 in-person levels after having 2 levels last year. We also have an online class for students who can't come in person or are joining us from their home countries. This class includes students Zooming in from Brazil and Mexico, as well as Corvallis.

**Volunteer teachers:** We are grateful for the new teachers who joined us: Sharon Strong, Cynthia Cole, Lois Knutson, Kristi McMorrان and Melinda Winograd, in addition to former CCS director Sandy Riverman, who taught during spring term. We are also thankful for the service of Marie Long, who stepped down this spring after 3 years of teaching, and for Sharon Kavanagh, Janet Swinyard, and Marie Mingo, who continue to teach. They were all incredibly flexible and creative during the crazy pandemic months.



For more info:

[CrossroadsConversationSchool@gmail.com](mailto:CrossroadsConversationSchool@gmail.com)

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**15 countries:** This fall we had many new students join us and currently have students from 15 countries: South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, China, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Iran, Turkey, Russia, and France.

**Potluck:** We were delighted to be able to meet again for an end-of-term potluck in June, held outside in the courtyard of the Church of the Good Samaritan. Recent highlights include a tour of the public library, and a gathering at Marie Mingo's home for her students and their children.

**New learners:** It has been wonderful to observe the growing sense of community in our classes, especially in our beginning class where most students are new arrivals and their emerging English skills can make it hard to connect with others.

**Library trip and lunch:** After our recent library tour, the beginning group spontaneously decided to go out for lunch together. After being starved for community during the pandemic, I think that we are all more aware that it is truly a gift to be together.

#### Online donation site

We've partnered with Square to receive online credit card donations. [CLICK HERE for online donations:](https://crossroadsosu.square.site/)  
<https://crossroadsosu.square.site/>

Checks can be mailed to  
PO Box 2005, Corvallis OR 97339

As always, your gift to Crossroads International is very much appreciated and tax deductible.

## Crossroads Student Profile – Maggie

My name is Maggie Zhang, a mom of a 2 year old boy who has come from China in November 2021.



**Separated:** Because of Covid, I was separated from my husband for about 2 years. He was here and I was in China. That was really tough for both of us.

My husband couldn't physically be with me throughout my pregnancy or during delivery. We could only communicate online and my husband was practically absent the first year of my son's early development. No words can describe how much we wanted to be reunited.

**Language barriers:** For me it's especially a big step living in U.S., due to the language barrier and culture differences. My son being as young as he is has adjusted quickly. In my case, it's a lot more challenging. Although I learned English for quite a few years, speaking English still proves to be the weakest link. At the very beginning, I could barely understand what native speakers were saying.

By chance, Crossroads Conversation School was recommended to me by a nice lady I met at the playground; and now I am a student in the intermediate class.

**Enthusiasm:** The volunteers are enthusiastic about helping students, introducing them to life in America, encouraging us speak out without fear of making mistakes. I also have learned a great deal from my classmates. They all came from different countries, and it's super interesting to learn each other's viewpoints on various topics discussed in class. Over time, I've improved a lot, and I can now talk more comfortably with native speakers.

I really hope Crossroad Conversation School will prosper. More international students can benefit from and give back to the school program.

Contact our programs to volunteer:

### **Homestays**

email to [Crossroads.Homestay@gmail.com](mailto:Crossroads.Homestay@gmail.com)

### **International Scholar Coffee**

email to [CrossroadsOSU@gmail.com](mailto:CrossroadsOSU@gmail.com)

### **International Scholars Coffee: January 13**

**Back in person:** We are serving coffee, tea, and snacks on the second Friday of the month from 10:30-12:00 at Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center (CMLC) 2638 NW Jackson Ave, Corvallis.

You are warmly invited to join us. Co-sponsored by The Office of International Services, Crossroads International, OSU Folk Club, and the Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center.



**Homestays:** Fall term saw the relaunch of 3 day homestays for a small number of newly arriving students and their Crossroads host families.

Hosts helped students navigate the tight OSU/Corvallis housing market. This continues to be challenging for new international students who are looking for affordable housing choices.

For more information: <https://internationalservices.oregonstate.edu/crossroads>

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