

Winn Winn Htun's Success Story



Three years ago, Winn Winn Htun left Myanmar, her son, family, and friends to come to the United States in search of a better life for her family. In order to achieve her goals, she knew she needed to become fluent in English. She enrolled in the Monroe County Adult ESOL program. When she entered the classroom, she was excited when she saw this, “You have a chance to change. Rise to the challenge. To a future with endless possibilities. It begins here.” It would be a year and a half before she would be reunited with her son.

In 2021, she was diagnosed with cancer. That took her away from attending the English class temporarily. Through faith and medical procedures, she overcame it victoriously. She returned to class with new strength and determination to complete her coursework. In May 2024, Winn Winn graduated from the ESOL program. She was the student speaker on Graduation and Recognition Day. She is the author of three essays published in the Adult Learners collection of essay books: *New Beginnings*, *Pathways*, and *Live Inspired*.

Winn Winn is a member of the International Toastmasters in Key West. Because of her interest in public speaking, she is present in their meetings and is an active participant. She has won Ice Breaker and Table Talk ribbons and a Shooting Star Award. Also an artist, she painted three pieces for three consecutive years to raise funds for an annual event of the Florida Keys Council of the Arts in Key West.

She has a heart of gold and will help anyone who needs it. She assists students in class and people in the community. Be it cooking, substituting for a worker, caring for someone at the hospital, or driving someone to a destination, she is never too busy to help. But most importantly, she is a good mother to her 9-year-old son, Owise. Besides the normal school activities, she keeps him busy with sports and music. She is always there to give her support.

Winn Winn became a naturalized U.S. citizen recently. Her dream is to be a successful international businesswoman in jewelry. She aims to use English as the primary language for business communication. Her advice is “We are in this country that gives us the opportunity to grow with the help of Adult Education. I hope all of you adjust yourselves in this environment confidently. Always look forward and never give up. Keep going. You can do it.”