

Meet **Reynel**, a Colombian immigrant who decided to come to Boston looking for a better life. Reynel arrived by himself, a tough and brave transition for someone that did not speak English.

“In my travels, I would listen to people speak but I could not reply back as much as I could understand. Thankfully, I moved to a neighborhood where there were several Spanish stores where I could buy things and speak to the people.”

Since moving to the Boston area, Reynel has worked in the hospitality industry, specifically in local restaurants. He worked his way up from dishwasher to sous chef for the famous Tony C’s restaurant. In 2019, ENB partnered with Rebel Restaurants to secure funding and develop English classes for the company’s employees.

ENB’s commitments to helping immigrants realize their dream for freedom, education, and prosperity took us to ground zero during the Covid-19 pandemic. When the city shut down one month into their work schedule, ENB devised a strategy to move all classes from the restaurant dining room to online.

In a true collaborative spirit, ENB secured donated Chromebooks and Wi-Fi hotspots, and the restaurant distributed them to the idled workers with food kits. During this crisis, Reynel and his co-workers continue to learn English at home, while preparing for their return to work.

“Working to improve my English has helped me communicate better with my managers. It has also allowed me to provide better service to the patrons. For example, when someone orders something or makes a modification to a dish, I can handle it myself...no mistakes.”