Take the story of AiZhu Zhen as an example: she arrived from China with no English, no job, and a two year-old daughter in tow. Despite enrolling herself in Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center’s ESOL for Parents and Caregivers class, she was still overwhelmed with the challenges new culture and language brought her. Two veteran students took her under their wing, and with their help, AiZhu learned about resources at the Boston Public Library and began to make frequent trips there to read in English with her daughter.

After making dramatic gains in her Parents ESOL class, she is now enrolled in BCNC’s college and career-focused English classes, on the path to more education and employment, accomplishments that will pave the way for her daughter’s future academic success. This fall, help us support students of all ages like AiZhu who are working to improve their lives through education.