

CHRISTINA'S STORY

It's My Time

After relocating to the United States as a teenager in 2004, instead of enrolling in school herself, Vista Adult School student Cristina had to take on the task of helping her sister raise her children. A non-English speaker, Cristina got by the best she could as she attempted to communicate with others in her community.

Unfortunately for Cristina, education had never been a priority in her life while she was growing up. Her parents separated at an early age, and her mother was unable to care for her or her siblings, so Cristina had to step up and help raise her younger brothers and sisters while bouncing around to live with different family members.

One day, while Cristina was dropping off her nieces and nephews for school, she learned about Vista Adult School and decided to learn more about the English as a Second Language program. In her mid-20's at the time, Cristina felt that learning a new language would be challenging in this phase of her life, but she knew how important it would be for her to be successful in her new country.

She enrolled in the ESL classes and was relieved when she met her teacher who was incredibly knowledgeable, helpful and supportive to she and her classmates.

Cristina worked hard to successfully complete the beginning ESL courses and has now advanced to Level 4 classes. Her reading has improved significantly, and she is now able to communicate with her children's teachers and others in the community – something that she has wanted for so long.

After learning about Vista's Citizenship program, Cristina decided to continue on with her learning and enroll in the classes to make her presence here "official." As of January 2021, Cristina passed the exam and is now a U.S. citizen. "I am so proud of my accomplishments," says Cristina. "I now feel more confident and have new goals of my own that I can't wait to achieve."

For more information about Vista Adult School's ESL and Citizenship courses, [click here](#).

