



**FREE!**

All Adults Welcome

**COME AS YOU ARE  
TO GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING**



**2025 Winter/Spring Programs**



# Welcome to Mercy Connections

## Who We Are:

Mercy Connections is an educational and community resource center that offers a wide variety of classes and programs for adults who are looking to advance themselves through education, mentoring, small business development and community.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and talented professional staff who facilitate, coach, mentor and are available to help you reach your goals.

Our beautiful center is for everyone. We welcome you and ask that you participate with a kind heart and take good care of the shared space and community.

## Programs & Services Offered:

- Academic Tutoring
- Community Meal Programs
- English Language Learning
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Justice, Mentoring & Reentry
- Personal Growth Education
- U.S. Citizenship Preparation

## Our Philosophy on Inclusion and Belonging:

Mercy Connections is made up of people from many different backgrounds and lived experiences that include various cultural, religious and language backgrounds. This may also include differing viewpoints, life circumstances and identities. We greatly value the richness that this diversity brings.

We strive to create an environment that is welcoming, safe and inclusive for each person who comes through its doors. One way that we do this is by respecting an individual's identity—whether regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, pronouns, ethnic or racial background, or any other identifying characteristics that people choose to share.

We ask that you contribute to this value of inclusion by treating all those you encounter at Mercy Connections with respect and with kindness.

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# 2025 Winter/Spring Schedule of Programs at Mercy Connections

## Session 1: January 21 – March 27

\* = Program attendance spans both Session 1 and Session 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning Classes	Budgeting Time & Money 10:30 am - 12:00 pm	Tutoring (ELL)* 9:30 am - 11:30 am	Idea to Action (Workshop) 9:00 am - 11:00 am	Tutoring (Citizenship/Academic)* 9:00 am - 10:30 am
	Opening to a Growth Mindset (Workshop) 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Small Business Launch Pad* 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	English Conversation for Int. Level* 11:15 am - 12:30 pm	Mercy Makerspace 9:00 am - 11:00 am
	Beginning English Literacy* 11:15 am - 12:15 pm		Beginning English Literacy* 11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Circle* 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
	Men Moving Forward* 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Vermont Community Leadership Training* 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Intro. to Small Business 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<b>Community Lunch*</b> <b>12:00 pm - 1:00 pm</b>
	Tutoring (Citizenship)* 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Beginning English Level I* 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Public Speaking Concepts & Practice 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Beginning English Level I* 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Afternoon / Evening Classes	Topics in Entrepreneurship for English Language Learning Students 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	English Through History: Movers, Shakers, Headline Makers 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Beginning English Level II* 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Pens & Pages 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
	Beginning English Level II* 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm		Tutoring (All Subjects)* 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	
			Start Up Business Planning* 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm	
			Beginning English Level I* 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	
			VT. Women's Mentoring Training 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	

# 2025 Winter/Spring Schedule of Programs at Mercy Connections

## Session 2: April 07 – June 05

\* = Program attendance spans both Session 1 and Session 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Morning Classes	Developing Self 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Tutoring (ELL)* 9:30 am - 11:30 am		Tutoring (Citizenship/Academic)* 9:00 am - 10:30 am
	Beginning English Literacy* 11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Small Business Launch Pad* 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	English Conversation for Int. Level* 11:15 am - 12:30 pm	Intro. to Small Business  9:00 am - 11:00 am
			Beginning English Literacy* 11:15 am - 12:15 pm	Circle*  11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Afternoon / Evening Classes	Men Moving Forward*  1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Vermont Community Leadership Training* 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Business Owners Wellness Workshop 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	<b>Community Lunch*</b> <b>12:00 pm - 1:00 pm</b>
	Tutoring (Citizenship)*  1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Beginning English Level I* 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Public Speaking Concepts & Practice 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Beginning English Level I* 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
	Beginning English Level II* 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm		Beginning English Level II* 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Pens & Pages  1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
			Tutoring (All Subjects)* 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm	
			Start Up Business Planning* 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm	
			Beginning English Level I* 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	
			VT. Women's Mentoring Support Group 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	

## Personal Growth Education

### Budgeting Time and Money

**Date:** Session 1  
Mondays  
January 27 - March 03

**Time:** 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Heather Gilbert

**Description:** This program aims to equip participants with confidence and basic organizational tools for managing time and money. It will also support the exploration of more in-depth personal finance programs available in the community.

Participants will meet as a group once a week for six weeks to learn about and practice with various planning tools and resources.

**How to Register:** Sign up online or contact Heather

Heather Gilbert  
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7294

**Registration Deadline:** January 20

### Developing Self

**Date:** Session 2  
Mondays  
April 07 - June 02

**Time:** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Heather Gilbert

**Description:** This course facilitates the process of self discovery and is a perfect introduction to Personal Growth programming at Mercy Connections. Participants will build on their life experiences and reframe the impact of their future through guided activities.

The program aims to connect participants to their inner strengths, gain confidence and find a new sense of belonging and community.

**How to Register:** Sign up online or contact Heather

Heather Gilbert  
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7294

**Registration Deadline:** April 01

## Personal Growth Education

### Men Moving Forward

**Dates/** Session 1  
**Times:** Mondays, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
 January 27 - March 24

Session 2  
 Mondays, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
 April 07 - June 02

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections  
**Instructor:** Michael Hechmer  
**Description:** An engaging support group for men and male-identifying persons. Participants will learn from one another as they explore circumstances, experiences and goals over the course of the session.

This program is intended for participants to grow skills in building supportive relationships with other men to challenge and sustain one another, work through personal goals and life transitions, and learn how to show up consistently for themselves and others.

**How to Register:** Sign up online or contact Raquel

Raquel Aronhime  
 raronhime@mercyconnections.org  
 802-846-7162

**Registration Deadlines:**

Session 1 by February 03  
 Session 2 by April 06

### Mercy Connections Signature Program

### Vermont Community Leadership Training

**Date:** Tuesdays  
 January 21 - May 06

**Time:** 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections  
**Instructor:** Heather Gilbert  
**Description:** This one-of-a-kind leadership and civic experience program combines exciting self-designed community-based projects, field trips, and presentations from diverse leaders, as well as leadership and self-awareness activities for all abilities.

Through participation, students will gain confidence, develop a personal leadership style and find a voice in relation to the issues affecting themselves and their community.

This program is considered an advanced-level Personal Growth program and therefore has the below listed requirements to apply.

**Registration Requirements:**

- Successful completion of the “Developing Self” course, or other Personal Growth programs combined with a Mercy Connections’ teacher recommendation.
- Observable ability to manage time and consistently attend classes, participate actively, be organized and prepared for class, communicate in a thoughtful and respectful manner with diverse groups of people.

**How to Register:** Application required. Contact Heather to apply.

Heather Gilbert  
 hgilbert@mercyconnections.org  
 802-846-7294

**Registration Deadline:** January 17



## Personal Growth Education

### Public Speaking: Concepts & Practice

**Dates/  
Times:** Session 1  
Wednesdays, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
January 22 - March 26

Session 2  
Wednesdays, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
April 09 - June 11

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Heather Gilbert

**Description:** In this class, participants will practice public speaking skills in a safe and supportive setting among peers.

Participants will learn about basic concepts and tools to help address nerves, organize a talk and more. Participants will also be expected to prepare brief presentations and apply what they learn.

**How to Register:** Sign up online or contact Heather

Heather Gilbert  
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7294

**Registration Deadline:** January 17

### Mercy Makerspace

**Date:** Session 1  
Thursdays  
January 23 - March 27

**Time:** 9:00 am - 11:00 am

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Heather Gilbert

**Description:** Crafters and makers are supported in a co-working environment to develop and create products to sell at craft and art fairs, including Mercy Connections' "Mercy Marketplace" fair that takes place in November, 2025.

Participants work one-on-one with instructors to design and create products, hone time and project management skills, and set sales goals for vending opportunities that they wish to pursue.

**How to Register:** Sign up online or contact Heather

Heather Gilbert  
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7294

**Registration Deadline:** Ongoing

## Personal Growth Education

### Circle

**Date:** Thursdays  
January 23 - June 05

**Time:** 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Facilitator:** Ann Duhaime, RSM

**Description:** Circle is a supportive experience where people can take time to reflect on peace, hope and healing. Participants may find renewal and gain strength as they listen to and talk about experiences. This is a special time to feel part of a nurturing community and imagine new possibilities. Participants are welcome to stay after and join us for our weekly Community Lunch program and enjoy a free hot meal together.

This program does require registration, but participants are not required to attend every session.

**How to Register:** Sign up online or contact Heather

Heather Gilbert  
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7294

**Registration Deadline:** This is a drop-in program. You may register ahead online, or attend the day of and/or multiple days.

### Opening to a Growth Mindset 3-Day Workshop

**Date:** Session 1  
Mondays  
March 10, 17 and 24

**Time:** 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Heather Gilbert

**Description:** Participants will discover what their own “growth mindset” is, and how to incorporate it into their lives.

Through activities and reflections, participants will explore how to grow towards a desired life balance that includes basic needs, love, power, freedom and fun.

**How to Register:** Register online or contact Heather

Heather Gilbert  
hgilbert@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7294

**Registration Deadline:** March 03

## Personal Growth Education

### Pens & Pages

**Dates/** Session 1  
**Times:** Thursdays, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
 January 23 - March 27

Session 2  
 Thursdays, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm  
 April 10 - June 05

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructors:** Melissa Lang & Peter Burns

**Description:** This class is designed for native English readers, writers and speakers, as well as advanced-level English language learning students. Participants will read *Life of Pi*, by Yann Martel. *Life of Pi* is a fictional novel about a boy from India who survives a shipwreck and travels 227 days on the Pacific Ocean. He is accompanied by a Bengal tiger and other animals.

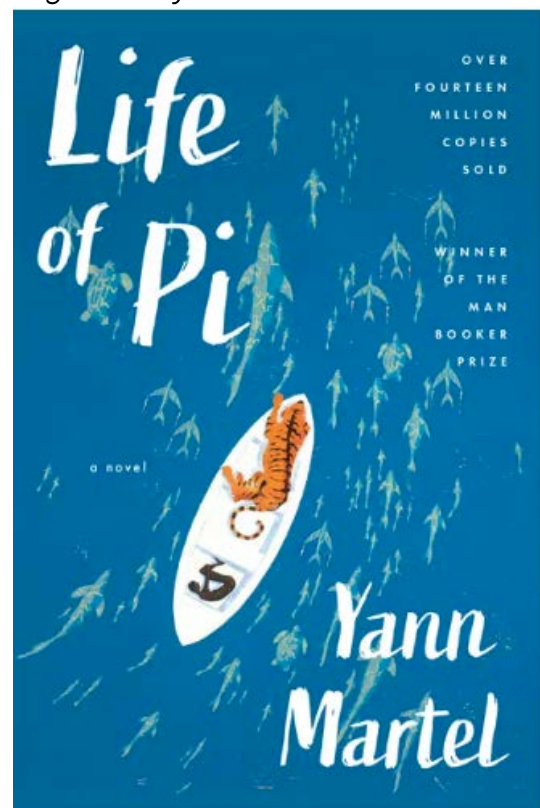
Students will read 25-35 pages per week for homework, and in-class discussions will include the role of spirituality in one's life, resilience, self-reliance and survival. The nature of reality and how stories are told and perceived will also be explored.

Each week, students will be expected to produce one piece of writing chosen from a list of prompts. In class, they will share their writings and provide feedback to peers with a goal of helping one another become stronger writers.

**How to Register:** Contact Melissa  
 Melissa Lang  
 mlang@mercyconnections.org  
 802-846-7084

**Registration Deadlines:**  
 Session 1 by January 16  
 Session 2 by April 03

*Books will be provided free of charge for participants, thanks to the generosity of Vermont Humanities*



## Inclusive Entrepreneurship Programs

### Idea to Action Small Business 3-Day Workshop

**Date:** Session 1  
Wednesdays  
January 22, 29 and February 05

**Time:** 9:00 am - 11:00 am

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Claire Wheeler

**Description:** This is a six-hour workshop that spans over the course of three sessions. Each session is two hours long.

The workshop is designed to introduce aspiring adult entrepreneurs to self-employment and to assist with creating a vision and a plan for a path forward that includes business ownership.

Space is prioritized for new participants.

**Registration:** Register online or contact Claire

Claire Wheeler  
cwheeler@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7081

**Registration Deadline:** January 15

### Topics in Entrepreneurship for English Language Learners

**Date:** Session 1  
Mondays  
January 27 - March 24

**Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructors:** Claire Wheeler and Maxine McGowan

**Description:** This student-centered class introduces topics related to starting a business in Vermont, and is co-taught by instructors from the Inclusive Entrepreneurship and English Language Learning programs. Each class will include vocabulary instruction and examples of cultural practices essential for exploring entrepreneurship.

Students will have opportunities to practice open conversations and learn directly from business owners.

**Registration Requirements:**

This class is designed for intermediate-to-advanced level English language learners.

All interested students should contact Raquel to chat to review level of English prior to enrolling.

**Registration:** Contact Raquel

Raquel Aronhime  
raronhime@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7162

**Registration Deadline:** January 15



## Inclusive Entrepreneurship Programs

### Introduction to Small Business

**Dates/** Session 1  
**Times/** Wednesdays, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
**Where:** January 22 - March 12  
 Online

Session 2  
 Thursdays, 9:00 am - 11:00 am  
 April 10 - May 29  
 In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Claire Wheeler

**Description:** In this introductory series, participants can learn about a variety of topics to support them in starting and operating a small business in Vermont.

Register once and attend all, or just drop in for the sessions that are of interest to you.

Session topics:

1. Design Your Business Model Using the Business Model Canvas
2. How to Register Your Business
3. Intro to Marketing and Branding
4. How to Create Your Own Website
5. Intro to Business Finance & Bookkeeping
6. Paying Yourself and Your Taxes as a Small Business Owner
7. Managing Risk for Your Business
8. Time Management for Business Owners

**Registration:** Register online or contact Claire

Claire Wheeler  
 cwheeler@mercyconnections.org  
 802-846-7081

**Registration Deadlines:**

Session 1 by January 15  
 Session 2 by April 01

### Small Business Launch Pad

**Dates/** Session 1  
**Times:** Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 January 21 - March 25

Session 2  
 Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm  
 April 08 - June 03

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Claire Wheeler

**Description:** This class is for participants who are looking for community and support as they start their new business. Launch Pad is a supported, drop in, co-working space for folks actively working to start a new business. Participants work alongside other entrepreneurs to take action and get support on tasks to get their business up and running.

The Inclusive Entrepreneurship program staff will offer help on everything from registering a business or setting up bookkeeping software, to building a marketing strategy.

**Registration Requirements:**

Interested students must schedule a chat with Claire Wheeler prior to enrollment in order to survey each person's needs and ensure fit.

**Registration:** Contact Claire

Claire Wheeler  
 cwheeler@mercyconnections.org  
 802-846-7081

**Registration Deadline:** Ongoing

## Inclusive Entrepreneurship Programs

### Business Owner Wellness Workshop Series

**Date/** Session 2  
**Time:** Wednesdays, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
April 09 - June 04

**Where:** Online

**Instructor:** Claire Wheeler

**Description:** Business owners are invited to gather in community to brush up on essential tools, tricks and skills for running a business.

Register once and attend all of the sessions, or just attend for topics that interest you.

Topics to be announced! Stay tuned.

**Registration:** Register online or contact Claire

Claire Wheeler  
cwheeler@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7081

**Registration Deadline:** April 01

### Need Assistance Registering?

**Learn More Online:**  
[www.mercyconnections.org](http://www.mercyconnections.org)

**With Registration:**  
Call the instructor listed for the program

**All Other Questions:**  
802-846-7063



## Inclusive Entrepreneurship Programs

*Mercy Connections Signature Program*

### Start Up Online Business Planning Class (Cohort 71)

**Date:** Wednesdays  
February 19 - June 04

**Time:** 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**Where:** Online

**Instructors:** Claire Wheeler, Ashley Sandy  
and Heidi Brown

**Description:** Start Up is a semester-long business planning course for women, transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming adults.

The class has a 30+ year history, and many local business owners have been through the course and gone on to operate successful businesses. The curriculum covers the fundamentals of business planning through three content areas in depth: marketing, finance, and operations, and is taught by instructors who are also women business owners. In addition to gaining expertise in these areas, we'll connect as a group around the business planning process, personal wellbeing, and the realities of business ownership.

You will graduate knowing what you need to do to start and operate a successful business, and you'll have completed a comprehensive, realistic business plan that you can use to guide you and to take to a lender if you decide you'll need funding.

This course is also great for people who are already in business and want to reinvent their business or take it to the next level.

Class size is intentionally small, so you'll get lots of personal attention and form lasting bonds with your classmates. This cohort-based design adds incredible value to the learning experience and has been described as "life-changing" by many of our previous graduates.

The class is designed to meet a variety of learning styles — you'll be asked to review lessons each week in the online classroom before the class meets on Zoom, and in class we'll review and cover new content.

All Zoom classes are recorded and slides used in class are posted so you can watch replays anytime. We use an online business planning tool that streamlines your writing and financial projections. You'll also get regular time to check in with me to ensure satisfaction with your learning experience and business plan.

**Tuition & Assistance:** The tuition for the course is \$2,500, and mandatory fees include a \$25 application fee and a \$90 license fee for a dedicated LivePlan account for 6 months (online business planning software).

We are grateful to partner with VSAC to offer Advancement Grants to cover the cost of tuition for income-eligible students.

Students who are not awarded a VSAC grant may qualify for flexible, interest-free payment plans and a sliding scale tuition reduction. A 5% discount for full payment up front before the first class is also available.

**Application:** The application may be found online, or contact Claire Wheeler for assistance.

Claire Wheeler  
cwheeler@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7081

**Application Deadline:** February 15

## English Language Learning Classes

### Beginning English Level I

**Date:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
January 21 - June 03

**Time:** 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Veronica Bernicke

**Description:** This group class is continued from the fall session and is intended for adult beginning level English language learning (ELL) students for whom English is a new language, but who have had previous exposure or limited language instruction.

Students should be familiar with simple present and past tenses, and possess the ability to answer basic question and answer structures.

The class will include instruction in the four main skill areas of ELL development: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Instruction will also focus on survival English skills, studying the letter names and sounds in English, greetings, self introductions, asking/answering simple questions, and basic conversation skills.

**How to Register:** Contact Veronica or Raquel

Veronica Bernicke  
vbernicke@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7084

Raquel Aronhime  
raronhime@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7162

**Registration Deadline:** January 14

### Beginning English Level I (Evenings)

**Date:** Wednesdays  
January 22 - June 04

**Time:** 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Maxine McGowan

**Description:** This group class is intended for adult beginning level English language learning (ELL) students for whom English is a new language.

The class will include instruction in the four main skill areas of ELL development: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Instruction will also focus on survival English skills, including essential vocabulary for everyday life, studying the letter names and sounds in English, greetings, asking/answering simple questions, and basic conversation skills.

**How to Register:** Contact Veronica or Raquel

Veronica Bernicke  
vbernicke@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7084

Raquel Aronhime  
raronhime@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7162

**Registration Deadline:** January 14



## English Language Learning Classes

### Beginning English Level II

**Date:** Mondays and Wednesdays  
January 22 - June 04

**Time:** 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Maxine McGowan

**Description:** This group class is intended for adult beginning level English language learning (ELL) students who already have some basic English language skills (see requirements below).

Instruction in this program will include increasingly complex reading, writing, listening and speaking skills that facilitate communication throughout the community. Examples include the study of vocabulary in thematic units to describe family relationships, search for housing, understanding utilities, job descriptions, etc.

**Registration Requirements:** Basic English language skills and completion of the Beginning English Level I course.

**How to Register:** Contact Veronica or Raquel  
Veronica Bernicke  
vbernicke@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7084

Raquel Aronhime  
raronhime@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7162

**Registration Deadline:** January 14



### Beginning English Literacy

**Date:** Mondays and Wednesdays  
January 22 - June 04

**Time:** 11:15 am - 12:15 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Veronica Bernicke

**Description:** A small group class for non-native English speakers, or beginning students of the English language who have not yet had formal literacy instruction in any language.

The class will focus on phonics and Roman alphabet letter formation. Instruction will also include survival English skills, greetings, self introductions, and asking/answering simple questions.

**Registration Requirement:** A language assessment required before registration.

**How to Register:** Contact Veronica or Raquel  
Veronica Bernicke  
vbernicke@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7084

Raquel Aronhime  
raronhime@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7162

**Registration Deadline:** January 14

## English Language Learning Classes

### English Conversation Group for Intermediate-Level Speakers

**Date:** Wednesdays  
January 22 - June 04

**Time:** 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Raquel Aronhime

**Description:** Intermediate-level speakers will work to improve their English conversation skills in this fun and engaging class. The class will offer activities that focus on oral communication, learning about the U.S., and cross-cultural exploration.

**How to Register:** Contact Veronica or Raquel

Veronica Bernicke  
vbernicke@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7084

Raquel Aronhime  
raronhime@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7162

**Registration Deadline:** Ongoing

### English Through History: Movers, Shakers & Headline-Makers

**Date:** Session 1  
Tuesdays  
January 21 - March 25

**Time:** 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Melissa Lang

**Description:** This class is intended for intermediate level English language learning students who want to improve their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in a fun way.

Each week, students will learn about a new person from U.S. history, or from current events. Students will have the opportunity to read about individuals who have shaped the U.S., or who have had a significant impact on the country.

Examples of topics to be covered include key figures in the Civil Rights Movement, leaders in technology, innovation and education, current political figures, and people who have influenced U.S. arts and entertainment.

**How to Register:** Contact Melissa

Melissa Lang  
mlang@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7084

**Registration Deadline:** January 15

## English Language Learning Classes

**NEW**

### Topics in Entrepreneurship for English Language Learners

**Date:** Session I  
Mondays  
January 27 - March 24

**Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Instructor:** Claire Wheeler and Maxine McGowan

**Description:** This student-centered class introduces topics related to starting a business in Vermont, and is co-taught by instructors from the Inclusive Entrepreneurship and English Language Learning program. Each class will include vocabulary instruction and examples of cultural practices essential for exploring entrepreneurship.

Students will have opportunities to practice open conversations and learn directly from business owners.

**Registration Requirements:**

This class is designed for intermediate-to-advanced level English language learners.

All interested students should contact Raquel to chat to review level of English prior to enrolling.

**Registration:** Contact Raquel

Raquel Aronhime  
raronhime@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7162

**Registration Deadline:** January 15



## Tutoring Programs

**Note: This is not a drop-in program. Each student is paired with their own tutor and commits to a 90-minute time slot each week at the same time and on the same day at Mercy Connections.**

### US Citizenship Preparation

**Date:** January 22 - June 05

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Time:** One weekly 90-minute appointment:  
Mondays 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Thursdays 9:00 am - 10:30 am

**Coordinator:** Melissa Lang

**How to Register:** Contact Melissa

Melissa Lang  
mlang@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7084

**Registration Deadline:** Ongoing. An active waiting list is maintained, as tutoring slots often fill up quickly.

**Description:** Adult learners are matched with skilled tutors one-on-one to prepare for the U.S. Citizenship test and interview. Students will study United States history, government and geography.

Each session includes practice questions and answers from the U.S. Citizenship test and time to practice English language skills.

It is recommended to register for tutoring prior to submitting the N-400 application to USCIS. Students learn about the N-400 application process and receive support to understand the language of the application.

### Academic Support

**Date:** January 22 - June 05

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Time:** One weekly 90-minute appointment:  
Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Thursdays 9:00 am - 10:30 am

**Coordinator:** Melissa Lang

**How to Register:** Contact Melissa

Melissa Lang  
mlang@mercyconnections.org  
802-846-7084

**Registration Deadline:** Ongoing. An active waiting list is maintained, as tutoring slots often fill up quickly.

**Description:** Adult learners are matched with skilled, trained tutors, one-on-one, to improve academic skills.

Each student is provided with an individualized educational support plan. Students meet with their tutor in the center, and the program is facilitated by the Tutoring Program Coordinators.



## Tutoring Programs

**Note: This is not a drop-in program. Each student is paired with their own tutor and commits to a 90-minute time slot each week at the same time and on the same day at Mercy Connections.**

### English Language Learning (ELL)

**Date:** January 21 - June 05

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Time:** One weekly 90-minute appointment:  
Tuesdays 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Coordinator:** Veronica Bernicke

**How to Register:** Contact Veronica  
Veronica Bernicke  
802-846-7086  
vbernicke@mercyconnections.org

**Registration Deadline:** We maintain an active waiting list. New students can be accommodated as spots open up.

**Description:** Adult learners are matched with skilled, trained tutors, one-on-one, to improve English language learning skills.

Each student is provided with an individualized educational support plan. Students meet in our center and the program is staffed and facilitated by the ELL/Tutoring Program Coordinators.



## Justice, Mentoring & Reentry Programs

### Vermont Women's Mentor Training

**Date:** Wednesdays  
February 26 - March 26

**Time:** 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections\*

**Instructors:** Joanne Nelson & Kelly Moran

**Description:** This program pairs volunteer mentors with justice-involved women (mentees) in order to successfully reestablish their lives post-incarceration.

Volunteer mentors support, coach, and function as new, healthy companions to trauma-affected women facing many challenges.

Pairs are carefully matched, and training will provide everyone with the tools they need to be a successful mentor. Mentoring is a year-long commitment. We welcome all people who identify as women regardless of assignment at birth, transgender, non-binary, gender non-conforming and gender-expansive folks who are comfortable in a woman-centered space to join the training.

\* The last session will be held at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility (CRCF) from 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

**Registration:** Sign up online, or contact Joanne

Joanne Nelson  
802-846-7164  
jnelson@mercyconnections.org

**Registration Deadline:** February 25

### Mentor Support Group

**Date/Where:** Mondays or Wednesdays

January 22, Online  
February 19, Online  
March 31, in-person at Mercy Connections  
April 16, in-person at Mercy Connections  
May 21, in-person at Mercy Connections

**Time:** 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

**Facilitators:** Joanne Nelson & Kelly Moran

**Description:** Staffed by the Justice and Mentoring team, this monthly support group is for mentors who are already paired with a justice-involved woman to ask questions and share experiences in a supportive and confidential environment.

Volunteer mentors support, coach, and function as new, healthy companions to trauma-affected women facing many challenges.



## Community Meal Programs

*Meal programs are open to Mercy Connections participants currently enrolled.*

### Community Lunch

**Date:** Thursdays  
January 23 - June 05

**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

**Where:** In-person at Mercy Connections

**Description:** Join one of the most embraced traditions of Mercy Connections! Every Thursday, Participants may stop by and join Mercy Connections' staff and community partners for a delicious lunch in the spirit of collaboration.

Everyone will stand in a circle and listen to a reading of a reflection, followed by announcements, and a meal together. Come by to practice your English, make new friends, learn more about community initiatives and feel a part of the community at Mercy Connections.

All participants welcome.

**Registration:** Not required

### ***Did You Know?***

*Food insecurity affects concentration, memory, mood and motor skills - all of which are required for adults to be successful in a learning environment.*

# Where Learning & Living Come Together

At Mercy Connections, every person - regardless of life circumstances - experiences dignity, compassion and the opportunity to pursue personal aspirations within a supportive community. Our programs change lives.



## QUESTIONS?

### Contact:

Raquel Aronhime  
Director of Education and Evaluation  
Phone: 802-846-7162  
Email: [raronhime@mercyconnections.org](mailto:raronhime@mercyconnections.org)

### Mercy Connections Address:

255 S. Champlain Street  
Suite #8  
Burlington, VT 05401



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