

Ibtesam Hussain –

Sally Wellman Volunteer Award

Nomination Letter

University of Idaho

Dr. Ibtesam Hussein is an ESL-IEP instructor at the American Language and Culture Programs at the University of Idaho. In addition to her full-time job and other obligations, she has dedicated her time and effort to support and help Muslim Arabic Women (mothers) in Pullman and Moscow. The women have been in these towns for years without being able to speak English. That prevented them from getting involved in their children's school activities and other community events. Believing in the role of women, particularly mothers in making a difference in the society, she initiated a free English language program to teach them English. Ibtesam spent four hours each week for 3 months to teach them English in 2017. Ibtesam also helped some of those students to get scholarships to pursue their studies at the university. That opened doors of hope for them and their families after years of staying at home and doing nothing. Ibtesam also invited those with no ESL teaching experience or little experience to teach in her program under her guidance. She could help one of those TESOL students design materials for the class and teach, which gave her more confidence in her teaching. To create more opportunities for the Arabic women to practice their English, she organized knitting, crochet and sewing workshops. Her goal was to help those women learn a craft that they can use and practice English at the same time. Although Ibtesam is busy with her own publications and job, she believes that it's crucial to help these women be part of the community. She is willing to continue supporting the women through her free English language program. She is even planning to extend the program to include other non-Arabic speaking women from these communities.

To Nominate a deserving volunteer for the 2018 Sally Wellman Volunteer Award, visit the Grants, Awards, Scholarships page on the WAESOL website. www.waesol.org