



## English Classes are meeting!

We started in-person English classes in early September and currently have about 20 students enrolled and learning. It has brought back a renewed level of energy and fun to have the classes meeting in the building. Students and teachers wear masks (which can prove a bit challenging for pronunciation practice!) and everyone has their temperature checked with they enter the building. But, even with some new restrictions in place, it's obvious the students are enjoying learning again.

We are thankful for our new teacher volunteer for the Level 1 class, Jim Bever, and for the continuing teachers: Jan Randall, Bill Campbell, and Angie Long.



## Our New Executive Director: Mary Tellis



I am Reverend Mary Tellis and I am excited to share with you what God is doing in my life and within Restoration Outreach Programs (ROP). A new season has begun at ROP since the leadership team offered, and I accepted the invitation to be the organization's new Executive Director effective September 2020! I could not be more honored and excited to have an assignment that affords me an opportunity to fulfill my purpose and passion of sharing the love of Christ with others.

It is my pleasure to introduce myself to you. I have academic degrees in sociology, leadership development, theology, and a certification as a spiritual life coach. I have more than 30 years of combined experience in the corporate and nonprofit sectors, as well as church administration. I am eager to continue using the expertise and skills I have gained as an educator, leader, pastor, and community activist. I am working alongside Kent Scroggs— the outgoing Executive Director of ROP— over the upcoming months to learn about the infrastructure, culture, and legacy that Kent, the board of directors, staff, volunteers, and constituents of ROP have cultivated. I am reminded of the words of Apostle Paul, *“He who has begun a good work in you shall perfect it to the day of completion.”* I am excited about deepening existing relationships, and establishing new ones to help expand the reach of ROP.

We are living in a time that presents challenges and also provides opportunities for gratitude. Being invited to become a member of the ROP family is a gift that I will cherish forever. Our team of staff and volunteers is adjusting to new realities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. To honor and protect our health and lives, where possible, staff members are working to provide services online and are bringing participants together virtually in more creative ways.

While I am optimistic that the future of ROP is bright, I acknowledge the challenges that our ministry currently faces. During the past couple of weeks, I have spent quality time with team members, and I have witnessed amazing acts of generosity. The ROP team gives from the heart, honoring the dignity and lives of people who are enduring the most challenging seasons of their lives. Sharing the love of Christ with others brings great joy and gratification!

*“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.” — Harriet Tubman*

Would you like to connect with Mary and get to know her? She would love to meet you!

Email her at:  
[mary@restorationoutreachprograms.org](mailto:mary@restorationoutreachprograms.org)

I find this quote both powerful and prophetic. It is a vivid descriptor of the mission and work of ROP. I remain committed to serve those who are most oppressed, disfranchised, and broken. As a team, we honor the beauty and divinity in every person.

I anticipate testimonies of God’s great works in the months to come, and I look forward to meeting many of you and sharing more of my journey and growth with you as time progresses. - Mary Tellis

**Stepping Down, But Not Out** by Kent Scroggs

September 8<sup>th</sup> was a big day for ROP and for me. It was the day Mary Tellis began her service as ROP’s Executive Director. The last 12.75 years have been the best of my career, but I feel like it is time to step aside and I could not be more excited about Mary and all that she brings to ROP.

To facilitate a smooth leadership transition process, Mary and I will be serving a Co-Executive Directors through the remainder of this year, but after that I will be stepping down as Executive Director and into the position of ROP’s Finance Director. When I eventually step aside from all ROP leadership in a couple years, my goal is to leave a legacy built on strong and stable financial foundation for ROP’s future ministry. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, I announced a major step toward achieving that goal and legacy - ROP’s Payoff 4A Purpose (P4AP) campaign. The goal of the P4AP campaign is to significantly reduce (or fully payoff) the mortgage on ROP’s building.

**HOW WILL WE GET THERE?**

**\$50,000-** In recognition of the importance of this goal, The Anschutz Foundation has provided a \$50,000 matching grant dedicated solely to mortgage reduction.

**x 2 = \$100,000-** In other words, for every dollar donated to the Payoff 4A Purpose campaign, The Anschutz Foundation will match the donation up to \$50k in aggregate, for a potential total of up to \$100,000!

**= \$27,000 EVERY YEAR GOING FORWARD-** Elimination of the mortgage would be huge for ROP’s because it would free up \$27,000 EACH YEAR for ministry use.

Of course, now the challenge is to raise the \$50k needed to fully take advantage of the matching grant. In order to provide an opportunity for those who would like to partner with ROP in meeting this challenge, we are using Just Giving peer-to-peer software. Clicking on this link (or typing <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/payoff4apurpose2020> into your browser) will take you to the Payoff 4A Purpose campaign website.

At the website above, **you can do three things:**



- Make a donation
- Share the Payoff 4A Purpose campaign with your friends on Facebook
- Create your own P4AP Fundraising page. The site will lead you through a simple process to get you started.

In order to reach our \$50k goal and partner with me in building a strong financial foundation for ROP, I hope you might consider all three. If you need help setting up your fundraising page or have any questions about ROP or the Payoff 4A Purpose campaign, please contact me at 303.525.2255 or [kent@restorationoutreachprograms.org](mailto:kent@restorationoutreachprograms.org).