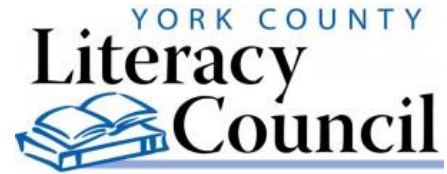


# ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE



## YORK COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

Benigna Remigia Figueroa, known affectionately to many as “Beny” came to the US in 2006 after winning the Visa Lottery in her native Peru. The Visa Lottery is exactly what it sounds like: a random chance to win residency in the US. It does not happen in all countries, only those that have the least amount of immigration petitions. Some would say Beny was very lucky to be selected, but she calls herself blessed.

For a woman in her 50’s, even with studies and experience, getting a decent paying job in Peru is almost impossible. Here in Hanover, Beny gives thanks for the 12 hour shifts she works as a packer in a snack food factory. Her job has allowed her to buy a car, a house, furniture and more. There was just one thing missing: her family.

Beny filed petitions to bring her adult children from Peru in 2007. As a permanent resident the process takes many years. Knowing that she would be eligible for citizenship after 5 years of residency, she decided to take on the most nerve-racking challenge of her life: improving her English and preparing for the citizenship exam. Dedication and sacrifice led to success. In March 2014 she achieved her goal and was sworn in as a citizen of the United States of America. Now, what would have been several more years of waiting to be reunited with her children will be significantly reduced because of her naturalization.

Thank you for your support!

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