

Kat Brodie
Orland, Maine
LD 783

My name is Kat Hudson Brodie and I am a retired public school teacher from Orland Maine. I am currently a volunteer for The Maine Multicultural Center and I strongly support the LD 783 Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center.

As a volunteer since September 2024, I have been involved with the MMCC as an educational tutor, and am now serving on the Education Committee. I have attended the MMCC training and helped disseminate important information to a refugee family living in Old Town, ME. Helping this family to settle in the area, I have donated household items and offered community support guidance. I also tutor their oldest child, a senior at Old Town Highschool, twice a week via ZOOM, as needed.

MMCC is a valuable organization that serves the Maine community by assisting and integrating immigrants into our workforce. The student I tutor is eager to work in the health care profession and benefits from the academic support MMCC provides. As the oldest child of a large family, she serves as a role model for her younger siblings. Academic services for English Language Learners can be difficult to secure, so the added tutoring and college planning guidance is extremely helpful for this student. With assistance from MMCC, high school student refugees can plan a future career in Maine.

MMCC is the "welcoming base of operations" for immigrants new to the Bangor area. Setting up a new home in a new community, with limited language and cultural skills, can be overwhelming. The staff and volunteers at MMCC reach out to these individuals and families and assist them in so many ways. New homes, household items, informational services, educational programming and neighbor-to-neighbor friendship is offered to facilitate a challenging transition to a new life in Maine. These families thrive from such support and feel empowered to contribute back to the Maine community.

With the continued support of MMCC, immigrants can feel safely supported and will become productive members of the Maine community. Please continue to fund MMCC , its staff and volunteer program,