Language Access is a Civil Right.

Without language access, individuals who are still learning English cannot access the services they need to survive and thrive. This includes everything from public benefits, financial services, healthcare, education, mental health services, public safety, housing and professional services to victim's services, public transportation, access to capital and resources, childcare and employment—among many others.

Global Wordsmiths' goal is to create and advance a culture of language access awareness, so that language resources will become more widely available when they are needed. Through language accessibility, nonprofits, hospitals, schools, and governments are able to increase their service capacity and compliance, English learners are able to access vital services, and our region becomes more integrated, welcoming and economically secure.
Helping People Use Their Voice.

THE LANGUAGE ACCESS PROJECT

The Language Access Project (LAP) is Global Wordsmiths’ flagship Social Impact Initiative. Here’s how it works:

First, we choose talented bilingual university students and put them through our month-long, professional interpreter/translator training program.

Next, we choose 3 - 5 local nonprofit Partner Organizations that work directly with immigrants and refugees in Western Pennsylvania.

Then, we supervise and mentor the interns for a period of 1 - 2 semesters while they provide written translation and oral interpretation to the Partner Organizations at no cost.

In 2018, we provided partner organizations with over 2,450 volunteer hours.

During the cycle, Global Wordsmiths also works closely with the Partner Organizations to provide:

- help prioritizing documents for translation (for example, brochures, intake forms, etc. which can be used after the program has ended),
- training, to teach Partner Organization staff how to work with interpreters and how to provide meaningful access, and guidance and consulting to help Partner Organizations form long-term language access plans and procedures.

2,450 VOLUNTEER HOURS
Relying on family members or untrained volunteers to convey information does not provide English learners with meaningful access to services.

The written translation of documents such as brochures, instructions, maps, copy, consent forms, surveys, and other everyday documents are a direct link to services for English learners. These documents are used over and over to communicate with thousands of families and individuals every year.

In 2018, our interns translated 851 vital documents for 13 local nonprofits at no cost, into Arabic, Bengali, French, Spanish, Swahili, Russian, Mandarin, Nepali, and Japanese.
Commitment is an act, not a word.
- Jean-Paul Sartre

100% of our profits are used to fund our social impact initiatives. Every penny.

Language Access
Project Cost in 2018:
$105,000

Funding Sources
Organic Profit:
$87,000

- Grants: $18,000
- Proofreading: 33%
- Intern Stipends: 15%
- Materials: 12%
- Operations: 40%
A huge part of the work we do is teaching organizations and individuals about language access.

We teach people what language access is, why it is so important, what the law says, how to engage with language resources, and how to work with interpreters.

We also teach bilingual helpers, family members, and employees how to correctly interpret, since qualified interpreters are crucial to meaningful access.

This year, we brought our curriculum to interpreters, individuals, partners, service providers and the community and helped over 700 people learn how to work with English Language Learners.

Service Providers trained in language accessibility best practices:

746

Bilingual helpers, volunteers, interpreters and interns trained in interpreter best practices:

218

Organizations that became more accessible as a result:

70
Funded by the Jefferson Regional Foundation, the Jefferson Language Access Initiative was designed to increase the accessible service capacity of 12-15 Jefferson Community Collaborative organizations that serve refugee, immigrant and international populations through a partnership with Global Wordsmiths and Center for Hearing and Deaf Services, Inc.

In 2018 as part of this initiative, Global Wordsmiths has completed comprehensive language access plans, language access training and consulting, written translation and oral interpretation for The Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education, Jewish Family and Community Services, Consumer Health Coalition, Just Harvest, Cribs for Kids, Women for a Healthy Environment, and Goodwill of Southwest PA.

This collaborative effort is laying the groundwork for regional language access infrastructure, and we are so proud to play a role.
Thank you to The Opportunity Fund and to New Sun Rising’s Vibrancy Fund for your financial support, for believing in us and for seeing our vision.

We are so grateful to our fiscal sponsor, New Sun Rising.

And a huge thank you to the nonprofits who participated in the Language Access Project for trusting us with your materials, for your partnership and for everything you do to welcome immigrants and refugees to our region.

Thank you also to our university partners, and to Chatham University’s Center for Women’s Entrepreneurship. We couldn’t have done this without you!
We all speak Kindness.

According to the data provided by LAP Participants, The Language Access Project provided direct access to our Partners’ services for 242 English Learners in just 24 weeks.

These individuals came from: Bhutan/ Nepal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, Haiti, China, Somalia, Russia, Syria, Iraq, Guatemala, Japan, Colombia, India and Ukraine.

These individuals accessed vital human services, such as public benefits, tax preparation services and housing benefits. Parents were able to enroll their children in educational institutions and after-school activities. Families were able to apply for legal aid, and more. Our LAP interns also interpreted for fun activities such as family-led hikes and story times.

Each of the 851 documents translated through this program can be used over and over, serving thousands of individuals, year after year.

We think that’s pretty great, and we are so very grateful for the support of each and every one of you.

Thank you for all that you do.