

## TERRY MCHUGH

## THE 'EDUCATOR' IN OUR FAMILY OF VOLUNTEERS

Terry comes from a teaching background and has vast experience in primary and secondary teaching as well as training teachers. After he retired from work, he joined MCLaSS as an ESOL volunteer at the beginning of 2017 and ever since, he has been imparting his valuable knowledge and experience in teaching, as part of our General English programme.

Terry is passionate about empowering people by helping improve their literacy and language competence. He has been a teacher and an educator all his adult life and after his retirement, when a friend suggested volunteering at MCLaSS, he enthusiastically agreed.

In his early career, Terry was involved with a government-sponsored English language teaching programme in the Cook Islands where he was tasked with upskilling the English language competence of young government officials. He has also taught Literacy and Numeracy at the Correspondence School of New Zealand and been a part of reading programmes for adults in New Zealand. However, Terry finds his experience at MCLaSS quite different because volunteering at MCLaSS comes with the added bonus of working with immigrants and former refugees which is a first for Terry.



Students that Terry works with at MCLaSS are at the beginner level of English literacy. For Terry, seeing the progress the students are making and seeing the happy look on their faces makes his efforts worthwhile.

*“Just to see the students graduate at the end of the year and see how much they have improved in understanding the English language is very fulfilling. That’s why I really like doing this volunteer work at MCLaSS”*

His volunteer work at MCLaSS has also given him an insight into the immigrant and refugee community in New Zealand. According to Terry, his volunteering experience has been an eye-opener in understanding the diversity of ethnicities in New Zealand, and at the same time, in realizing the individuality of each of the sub-cultures that New Zealand society is made of.