

## El Barrio Success

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Santosh came to the United States from Nepal in June of 2010. He and his family are Bhutanese refugees who were living in a refugee camp in Nepal to escape political corruption. Although the other members of Santosh’s family came to America in June of 2009, he stayed in Nepal to care for his elderly grandmother and did not make his journey to the United States until the following year.

Shortly after arriving in the Cleveland area, Santosh began taking English as a Second Language (ESL) classes through El Barrio at the Eastside resettlement agency, US Together. El Barrio’s Refugee Coordinator was impressed with his work ethic and desire to learn and help others. “Santosh was hard working, a team player. Just a genuinely great guy,” she remembered.

Three months after coming to the United States, Santosh began working for Five Guys Burgers & Fries. When asked about his job, Santosh said, “I like the flexible schedule, and I am starting college classes this month. I will be able to work in the morning and go to school in the evening.” He went on to say, “The people [here at Five Guys] are really good. They are like friends to me. It is a job where you can learn many things, like how to make customers happy.”

Santosh remembers his time with El Barrio fondly and believes that the skills he learned in class helped him to get—and keep—his job at the restaurant. “[The Refugee Coordinator] taught me many things about having a job; she helped with applications and how to dress for an interview,” he said. He paused to ring out two customers with a rather extensive order and did not stop smiling the entire time he assisted them. After completing the sale, Santosh turned and said, “Everything is going good right now. I am quite happy to go college and to continue working.” In his spare time, Santosh travels across the United States performing Christian music in his native Nepalese language to different Nepali communities. He and his brothers have driven to nine different states to give concerts already and plan to continue!