NAAM Weekly Updates – April 16, 2020

Our office at 330 Lynnway might be physically closed, but NAAM is very much still open. We have been working diligently from home to ensure that our refugee and immigrant clients continue to receive the services they need and deserve. Here are some things we have been up to this week:

Case Management & Employment:
Employment Services has been up and running! We are helping people apply for jobs with big retail companies, while advising them to take precautions. We are also helping people apply for unemployment. If anyone needs help filling out an unemployment application, or if you would like to join a class, please reach out to Will, Lynne, or Venette.

English Classes:
Online English classes continue to go well. Some highlights from this week:
- Gina’s class had a discussion on Thursday about childhood. This is the kickoff of a new writing project for the weekends – students will write their own autobiographies.
- Khara’s class watched videos and practiced conversation.
- Dulany’s class has been discussing what they are grateful for each day and learning how to form questions.
- Dan’s class watched a video about a woman who moves to Washington and discussed topics relating to relocation.
- Shira’s class began their art and music lessons again. Students discussed several still life paintings, using English to list objects in the paintings, identify colors, and practice using prepositions.

Citizenship:
The citizenship program is up and running again. We had our first online class this week with 15 students and we will continue hosting our classes every week. If you need help with an application, or if you would like to join the class, please feel free to reach out to us at citizenshipNAAM@gmail.com.
Youth Program:
This week, NAC Youth Program fully transitioned to online programming. Fourteen students participated in homework help and yoga classes via Zoom. Our schedule is Monday-Friday, 3:00-5:00. We also recently received a donation from the First Book Marketplace; this will allow us to buy and distribute new books to families in the coming weeks. For more information, please contact Emilie.

Food Deliveries:
Thanks to the food donations from My Brother’s Table and Trader Joe’s, as well as the hard work of our volunteers and staff, we were able to bring groceries to 40 households. Each box had fresh vegetables, fish, chicken, and bread.

Exciting News:
NAAM recently received a grant from United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley as part of their Lynn Community Care Fund. This funding will allow us to provide emergency financial assistance to clients facing economic hardship due to COVID-19 and help them meet basic needs like food, housing, and childcare. We sent out a survey this week to assess our clients’ needs. Expect more announcements about this in the coming weeks.

Contact Us:
Phone – 781.593.0100 x 18
Email – info@naamass.org
Social Media – Facebook and Instagram

We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy in these difficult times. We look forward to the day that we can once again greet you all in person at the New American Center.