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:**
It has been another busy week for Employment Services. In order to fully understand the CARES act and the different programs available to our recently unemployed clients, we have been attending the daily virtual town hall sessions currently being presented by the Department of Unemployment Services. As of this week, it has been possible for clients who weren’t eligible for regular unemployment benefits to apply under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance section of the act, for self-employed and gig workers (for example, Uber drivers) and those who earned under $5,100.00 in 2019. By now, we have assisted multiple clients with their applications, and most of them have begun receiving their benefits, including the extra $600.00 per week included in CARES.

We continue to stay in close touch with our clients and to provide our full range of services by phone, text, and email. Please reach out to Natasha, Will, Lynne or Venette if you need help with filing an unemployment claim, would like to join one of NAAM’s classes, or need another type of assistance.

**CRES English Classes:**
- Gina’s class learned about Patriot’s Day and Earth Day. Students practiced using past tense verbs to talk about their childhoods. They also looked at maps of their countries of origin and talked about their home towns.
- Dan’s class used the Voices of America Learn English videos to practice listening, speaking, and pronunciation.
- Khara’s class has been doing lessons from ESL.com and from the Voices of America curriculum. His students answered the quizzes, practiced pronunciation, and learned new words.
LPS English Classes:
- Dulany’s class has been focusing on two things: discussing what they are grateful for and learning how to form questions.
- Bobby’s class has been practicing informal conversation, learning new words, and practicing grammar.

“Many students have said that seeing each other during the class is the highlight of their weeks….one of my students got sick with COVID-19 and the other class members have been very encouraging, even offering to drop off medicine and food to her house”

-Bobby

ELT-I:
- In Shira’s art class, students continued their discussion of still life paintings. They have been developing vocabulary in reference to listing objects and their characteristics, determining quantities and identifying relative position in space between objects in the images.
- In Shira’s music class, students have been studying songs and lyrics that are uplifting and contain messages of inspiration and resilience. One lesson that came up this week was the word “know,” the spelling and pronunciation of which can be confusing for students.
- In Yonerký’s yoga class, students learned how to protect themselves from COVID-19 and practiced stretching and breathing exercises.
- In the phone technology class students are learning how to stay in touch with family and friends, as well as how to attend online classes. They are learning about online platforms like Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp, etc.

Youth Program:
We learned this week that students will not be going back to school for the rest of the year, an announcement that was met with a lot of disappointment. NAC Youth Program will continue our online tutoring and activities through the end of the school year as well. See our schedule to the right:

This week was also Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week and I want to acknowledge all the staff and volunteers who have made our online tutoring possible: Amy, Bethany, Bony, David, Deborah, Esther, Eva, Harena, Harriet, Reem, Rouaa. Thank you!
Citizenship:
Our USCIS classes continue to go well. This week, textbooks were delivered to students’ homes. Dulany and Dan have been using the books, quizlet, google maps, YouTube and original resources to teach their classes. They are now on Chapter 3 of the curriculum. Students have also been practicing one-on-one conversations with our volunteers: Nancy, Roberta, Mohamed, and Eliud.

Census 2020:
NAAM has partnered with the @uscensusbureau to support the #2020Census! As a partner, we are working with our clients and the general public to ensure that our community is accurately represented. In times like this, the Census is more important than ever because we realize the importance of community resources and having an accurate count of people to know how much of these resources are needed. By filling out the Census2020 and counting the people who live with you, the Census will have the correct information, so you and your family can have access to needed resources and also ensures there will be sufficient funds for schools, roads and other vital sources in our community. Make yourself Count!

For assistance filling out the Census, questions and more, please reach out to Michelle by email at LynnNAAM.Census2020@gmail.com, by phone at (781) 205-9416, or by visiting us on Facebook at LynnNAAM.Census2020.

Food Deliveries:
We brought food to 50+ families this week, wonderful donations from My Brother’s Table and Trader Joe’s of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, chicken, bread, and more. Next week we hope to start distributing special kits of COVID19 educational materials, masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer to our families, put together by the North Shore Medical Center.

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.