NAAM Weekly Updates - May 1, 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:

**Direct Help to Clients in Need:**
- **Technology Access:** We are working on bringing technology to our clients/students to ensure their participation in our classes and programming. Currently we are looking into different resources and options to purchase low cost lap tops or tablets. We hope that we with the help of United Way, Essex Community County Foundation and other resources will be able to support families in the extreme financial hardship.
- **United Way’s Lynn Community Care Fund:** As we announced two weeks ago, NAAM is one of the Lynn agencies working with United Way to distribute their COVID-19 relief fund. This week we were able to give gift cards to 13 of the clients/families we work with. Another distribution is slated for next week.
- **Food Deliveries:** We were able to bring food to about 64 household past Tuesdays. We believe that we are getting more organized with this new task, we have six faithful volunteers who are on the task to put together boxes of food and deliver them on time.

**Case Management & Employment:**
Employment Services - We continue to assist clients with filing of unemployment claims and with managing the required weekly benefit requests. Please be aware that, if you are still employed but your hours have been reduced due to COVID, you are also eligible to receive unemployment benefits to help make up for the lost wages. We are also closely monitoring the local employment market and see that some of the larger chain grocery and department stores, as well as the pharmacies, are advertising job openings. Please reach out to Will, Lynne or Venette if you need help with filing an unemployment claim, need help with a job application, would like to join one of NAC’s classes, or need another type of assistance.

**Citizenship:**
Citizenship classes are moving right along. A big focus right now is on the 100 possible questions for the citizenship test and the N-400 (citizenship application) questions.
Youth Program:
Another busy week of NAC Youth Program! Students are working hard on their remote homework assignments. To support that process, we delivered new homework assignments and more school supplies to 26 kids this week. We’ve also found time to do some activities as well; this week we did a meditation activity, karaoke, and a dance competition.

CRES English Classes:
- Gina’s class learned about geography this week. Students shared about what their childhood hometown looked like. There was also a lesson on descriptions of hair and hairstyles, followed by a discussion about how students feel about their hair and its importance to what we think of ourselves and others.
- Dan’s class is still following the “Let’s Learn English” videos. Students are learning grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary.
- Khara’s class learned the present continuous tense, prepositions, and practiced following directions.
LPS English Classes:
- Dulany's class practiced social conversations, learned how to form Who/What questions, and started a unit on health topics.

ELT-I:
- Technology: During the class discussed several websites that publish accurate and scientific information from the State (MA), Federal (CDC) & World (WHO) regarding COVID-19. Also, explained to them how to access these sites via phone. Four new students joined our discussions. Therefore, we reviewed previous information discussed during our last class. Such as downloading “transit” APPS such as: Citymapper, Transit and Moovit. The students were able to input addresses and see which bus/train to take to wonderland from their locations.
- Music: Friday’s English Language Training-Music class was very well attended and dynamic. We used the song, “Feeling Good” by Nina Simone as inspiration. The students took turns reading the lyrics; decoding the words, exploring grammar and phrasing, the definitions and meaning of the words, as well as the expressive intention of the song. We then listened to the song while singing along w the lyrics.

Census 2020:
We will be having a contest to motivate people to fill out the census. Watch our social media for more information coming soon!

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.