NAAM Weekly Updates - May 15, 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 is still up and running. We have been helping our clients apply for different government benefits such as Unemployment Insurance and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. Manufacturing businesses have started to advertise for new available positions, and we have been helping clients apply for those. As the anticipated “reopening” of business approaches on May 18th, we will be closely monitoring the local employment market. Please reach out to Natasha, Will, Lynne or Venette if you need help with filing an unemployment claim, a job application, need advice about filing your income tax return, would like to join one of NAC’s classes, or need another type of assistance.

Direct Help to Clients in Need:
- We delivered food to 55 families this week. Families received fruits, vegetables, fish, and more, as well as masks and gloves.
- We are happy to announce that we were able to get a donation of laptops for our youth to help them participate in youth program and do their homework. Our sincerest huge thank you to Walmart in Plymouth, MA and the staff at Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, Maura Healey for advocating and making it happen. We will be working on distributing them soon.
- Thanks to the ongoing generosity and support of United Way and ECCF, we are planning another round of financial support to families impacted by COVID-19 next week. We will be distributing prepaid debit cards and will also be connecting with landlords to pay rent directly.
- We had an all staff meeting on Wednesday over Zoom to discuss the following topics: technology distribution to our clients/students, financial support to families/individuals served by NAAM, as well as others.

Youth Program:
This week we continued to do homework but we also planned some fun activities for the youth. We did breathing exercises, yoga positions, and meditation on Thursday. We decided to do an art activity with the kids on Friday for the second half of program, the kids were asked to think about and draw a place (imaginary or real) that they would rather be at during this time. Ideas included: beach, school, gym, mall, and nail salon. On Saturday, we had our second NAC Movie Night over Zoom. This time we
watched *The Prince of Egypt* which the kids enjoyed and we had a discussion afterwards about slavery as well as typed some questions in the chat while the movie was playing to encourage the kids to think about the movie on a deeper level.

**CRES English Classes:**
- Dan’s class continued using the Voices of America curriculum videos. Topics that were explored included present and past tense, expressing surprise, and imperatives.
- Gina’s class used [thetimesinplainenglish.com](http://thetimesinplainenglish.com) to read about a retired 71-year-old man living in Brooklyn, NY who plays his accordion every evening at 7pm to lift the spirits of his neighbors and honor front line workers. Along with reading comprehension and vocabulary building, they also watched a local news video of the man playing and talking about his choice of music, adding listening comprehension practice. Gina’s class also continued developing student autobiographies, their conversation practice centered around learning to ride a bicycle as a child, what chores were expected, and answering the questions - Did you get in trouble often? What kind of mischief did you get up to? - which elicited some great stories. The writing assignment for the weekend is to write these stories in an email. In addition, the class also discussed the governor’s plan for reopening MA. The students also encouraged one of their classmates who was afraid of leaving her house for two months, to visit the laundromat which she accomplished with the support from her classmates.

**LPS English Classes:**
- Dulany’s class focuses on speaking and listening through having a conversation to practice and improve on their communication skills in English. The topic of conversation in the class has been about sharing good news with each other and elaborating if another student asks follow up questions. Their homework has been focused on reading and grammar (specifically the grammar of questions).

**ELT-I:**
- Art: Students had fun looking at very colorful paintings by Henri Matisse. After identifying object names, colors and quantities, the students were asked to make up a story about the paintings based
on their observations. This helped their thinking ability making word association while defining the objects they observed in the painting.

- Music: Students were asked to read lyrics to the song “I Can See Clearly Now” by Johnny Nash, a very inspiring song that uses the metaphor of a clearing rainstorm to symbolize the overcoming of adversity. Each student was asked to read a set of lines and then we all discussed the meaning of the words and the message of the song. This song gave us a great opportunity to identify vocabulary, grammar, definitions and the expressive use of metaphors.

- Wellness: The class continue exploring the importance of maintaining ourselves safe, as well as eating, sleeping and hydrating while keeping ourselves clean using chemical free agent.

- Phone Technology: The class continues to help students navigate various Websites. They reviewed the lesson from last week while learning additional skills. The instructor shared his screen on Zoom and showed the students how to look up various sites. The New American Association of Massachusetts site was shared and different pages were shown. The students were asked to try it on their own, and encouraged to visit the site and see the different programs and help going on with NAAM.

### Citizenship:

Classes this week covered the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the National Anthem. The class also took a virtual tour of the Capitol Building. This will fulfill the civics activities that are required to do. The class hopes to continue to do more virtual tours of Washington D.C., Freedom Trail, etc. The Citizenship Program is actively seeking new clients. Services will be online for a while, so new clients can be from anywhere in Massachusetts, not just the North Shore! If anyone needs help completing the N-400 or with practicing for the test, please let us know at CitizenshipNAAM@gmail.com.

### Census 2020:

Census Coordinators continue calling students and clients about the Census. For some of them, they have not heard about Census before, and don’t know what it is. For others, they heard about it, but have not done it yet. For this reason, it’s great to have a conversation with them and help them see the importance of the Census. During these difficult times, having an accurate count of people in the city is important and people feel empowered to be part of this by filling out the Census2020. One big help is to have the Census website translated in 59 non-English languages. The website has a short video explaining what the Census is, the guide on how to fill out the Census, and other information. It’s a great tool, especially when coordinators can send a
text to a client or student in their native language, so they can learn about the importance of the Census and how the number of people living in a house can impact the community. The Census Program is excited to announce the Lynn NAAM - Spring Census Contest first group of winners! Please visit us on Facebook at Lynn NAAM Census 2020 to find out who the winners are! For assistance filling out the Census, questions and more, please reach out to Michelle Guzman by email at LynnNAAM.Census2020@gmail.com, by phone at (781) 205-9416, or by visiting us on Facebook at LynnNAAM.Census2020

Do you need help?
If you need any assistance with any of the following: getting medications or masks, connecting with your healthcare provider, applying for unemployment, or have questions about other benefits or immigration, please contact us. The best way to reach us is by email.

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.