NAAM Weekly Updates - May 8, 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:**
We continue to assist clients with filing of unemployment claims and with managing the required weekly benefit requests. As the anticipated “reopening” of business approaches on May 18th, we will be closely monitoring the local employment market. Currently we see that some of the larger chain grocery, department stores, and pharmacies are advertising job openings, as are a few companies with remote work positions. One other piece of information we want to share is that the deadline for filing income taxes this year has been extended to 7/15/2020. 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 on NAAM’s classes, or need another type of assistance.

**Direct Help to Clients in Need:**
- 62 families received food this week. Last week Lynn Emergency Operation Center provided us with 70 CARE kits which included educational materials about Coronavirus, two masks, and a soap. Kits were put together by North Shore Medical Center. Kits were distributed to our clients on Tuesday with food deliveries.
- We were able to secure funding to purchase number of tablets and refurbished chrome books to provide our clients to attend NAAM ESL classes. We hope that improved technology will enhance remote learning and class participation. We are looking for resources to offer technology to our young students to participate in the summer program activities.
- Thanks to the ongoing generosity and support of United Way and ECCF, we have been able to provide direct financial help to families. By early next week, we will have distributed nearly $20,000 of both funding sources to 37 different individuals/families in Lynn. This money is being used to support clients’ financial needs: rent, utilities, food, basic supplies, etc. In the coming weeks, we plan to expand our distribution to help support more families in need during this time of crisis.

**Youth Program:**
Another eventful week for NAC Youth Program! This week we did a lot of homework, learned how to troubleshoot Internet connectivity problems, and practiced some new yoga positions. On Friday, we also had a NAC Movie Night (over Zoom, of course). We watched Disney’s Aladdin. The kids enjoyed the movie and we had a discussion afterwards about what we would wish for if we met the genie.
CRES English Classes:

- Khara’s class continued to use the Voices of America curriculum. Students did reading activities, practiced everyday conversation, and perfected their pronunciation of words ending in -ing.
- Dan’s class also used Voices of America. His students focused on listening and pronunciation.
- Gina’s class continued to learn about the theme of childhood. They read about the childhood of a Canadian artist, learned words for toys and games, and discussed the differences between childhood today and childhood when they were growing up. One student concluded: “children were more creative in the past; now children play with purchased games on their phones or computers.”

LPS English Classes:

- Dulany’s class focused on speaking and listening this week. Their homework has been focused on reading and grammar.
- Bobby’s class has switched to Wednesdays and Fridays. This week they played QuizletLive, an interactive game which allows students to practice new vocabulary and simultaneously compete against each other in mini-teams.

ELT-I:

- Art: Students discussed several paintings by Vincent Van Gogh. Concepts included listing the objects in the paintings, identifying colors, observing details in the setting, determining quantities and time of day, making comparisons and describing the various moods and feelings in the paintings.
- Music: students were asked to read lyrics to the song “Sir Duke” by Stevie Wonder, a very upbeat song about the universal language of music. 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 language in a song.
Citizenship:
Classes this week covered the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. 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.

Census 2020:
The Census 2020 continues to happen. Michelle Guzman and Michelle Richardson have been calling students to make sure they filled out the Census 2020. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the subject of the census was side tracked, but its importance is greater than ever. Census Coordinators are motivating students even more to learn about what the Census 2020 means in a crisis like this one, how it will affect them and their families if they don’t count their families, and how to fill out the census. So, the Census Program is happy to announce Lynn NAAM - Spring Census Contest! After filling out the census, students and clients can enter in this contest by 3 simple steps. Visit us on Facebook for details: Lynn NAAM Census 2020!

Contact Us:
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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.