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:**
As our state slowly starts the process of “re-opening,” our employment services are adjusting accordingly. We see that now, in addition to the larger chain businesses that have been open throughout the crisis, some of the local food production businesses are starting to recall employees to part-time work and a few of the food production facilities in neighboring towns are advertising new open positions. We are cautiously optimistic that this trend will translate into re-employment for some clients and new employment opportunities for others. In addition to monitoring the evolving employment landscape and assisting clients with job applications and interviews, we will continue to assist clients with managing their unemployment claims and making the weekly benefit requests. As always, please reach out to Will, Lynne or Venette if you need help with filing an unemployment claim or submitting 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 were able to deliver food to 54 families this week. We are well aware about rising concern in the state about food insecurity. We were informed by My Brother’s Table that they will have to reduce their donations within a couple of weeks.
- We also have been planning our distribution of the laptops that we received to our youth to help them do their homework, as well as working on setting up the laptops so that they are ready to use.

**Youth Program:**
This week, our youth program was very well attended as more youth joined us to do homework and participate in fun activities. We delivered homework and school supplies to 28 kids on Tuesday. In addition to doing homework this week, we also did yoga and a food mindfulness exercise on Thursday, and we watched The Princess and the Frog on Friday which the kids enjoyed very much.
**CRES English Classes:**

- Dan’s class is continuing using the Voice of America videos which cover vocabulary, grammar, speaking, and listening. Class attendance has been low but new students are joining next week.
- Gina’s class edited some student writing together as a class; read about the reopening of Massachusetts and how it will affect individuals; and used agendaweb.com to do a listening comprehension exercise about school life and instigate a discussion about students’ memories of school. Writing project for the weekend is to write answers to the questions we discussed. Gina’s students sang happy birthday to her and they all looked at photos from the surprise party her students gave her last year.

**ELT-I:**

- Art: In this week’s session the students were introduced to two different paintings with groups of musicians. The lessons included listing and defining the objects, colors, quantities as well as learning the names of the instruments and working on our pronunciations. We had a great group with lots of class participation.
- Music: In this week’s session, the students were asked to read lyrics to the American folk song “I Love the Mountains”, a very uplifting song that expresses a love of nature. We have been “Sheltering in place”, for a few weeks, the weather is getting nicer, thus this song lifts up our spirits. Pictures of “daffodils” and bumblebees were shared (for clear understanding) on the screen with the class, because some students didn’t know in their mother tongues the equivalent. Each student was asked to read a set of lines from the song and then the class discussed the meaning of the words and the message of the song. This song gave the students a great opportunity to identify vocabulary, grammar, definitions and the expressive use of metaphors.
- Wellness: The students discussed the “Four Pillars of Wellness”, Nutrition/Water, Sleep/Rest, Exercise, and Stress Management at length, sharing their ideas and asking questions. The class then learned a few exercises that incorporated use of language referring to body parts, moving in different directions and working toward the overall concept of “balance”
Phone Technology: During this week’s session, the students reviewed the lessons from the previous week. Information on extensions such as: com, org, edu, gov etc, in order to identify where an e-mail is originating from. The class examined how to look and navigate the NAAM site. All students were encouraged to visit the site several times per week. This was done while sharing the screen with the students so they could visually follow the steps. They were shown the following on the NAAM site: Program & Services, photo gallery, how to find weekly updates, local resources offered by NAAM, local resources in the community, Case Management, Financial Literacy Training, Employment Services, and others.

Citizenship:
Citizenship classes will be are finishing the term on June 1. Michelle Guzman joined class on Wednesday and did her Civics presentation. The class has taken virtual tours of the White House, the Capitol building, and the Supreme Court.

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.