NAAM Weekly Updates - June 19, 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:

**World Refugee Day 2020:**
In past years, we have celebrated World Refugee Day, June 20th, at the Center with our clients and with stories, songs, dances and food from around the world. We have always appreciated the celebration as a way to recognize and honor our many refugee clients who made their brave journeys to our shores. This year, sadly, we had to suffice with the following message that we texted to our clients:

Happy World Refugee Day from all of us at the New American Center. We hope to celebrate the holiday together with you next year!

We were happy to receive messages in return from so many clients who wrote to express thanks and to share in the hope that, next year, we will be celebrating together, in person at the Center!

**Case Management & Employment:**
As we enter phase two, step two, of the re-opening, more companies, including restaurants, are beginning to advertise their open positions. Several clients have been called back to either full or part time work and one of the local staffing agencies has contacted us about positions through them as those positions become available.

We want to remind clients that the deadline for filing 2019 income taxes was extended due to COVID to Wednesday, July 15th, 2020. We have been informed that LEO VITA in Lynn will be assisting clients with the online filing of state and federal returns. Please contact us for more information. 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, Natasha 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 distributed food and children’s books to 55 families. Food boxes included vegetables, fruits, tofu, cookies, and more.

**Youth Program:**
We did not do much homework this week because it was the last week of school and since some of our kids already graduated from middle school and high school and homework was due last week. We did many fun activities with the students such as playing Pictionary and dancing to music. We also did an art activity on Tuesday where we asked kids to draw themselves or their lives before Coronavirus, during Coronavirus, and what they imagine their life would be after Coronavirus. For our Friday movie night, we watched *The Emperor’s New Groove*. We will be taking a few weeks off to plan our summer programming.

**CRES English Classes:**
Dan’s class: We continue with Voice of America. This week’s topics included the adjectives usual and usually. Also, adjective/noun rules and tag questions such as “isn’t it?” Students are very interested in grammar tenses, present, present continuous, past and future. Every lesson includes reading practice of vocabulary words and definitions.

**LPS English Classes:**
- Dulany’s class is doing a grammatical review, using a basic structure to make observations about personal stories shared in small groups. We extended that to include citizenship information (3 of the students were in the most recent citizenship class) and information about Chicago (a student is away this week visiting family in Chicago.) Continuing with that grammatical structure, the homework is to read one of three ESL-focused, online news sources, searching on the term "Black Lives". The students are then to reflect on racism in their countries as compared to the US in a response that utilizes the grammatical structure that we’re exercising.

**ELT-I:**
- **Art:** This week, Students worked on the 19th Japanese ink painting, “Two Cats” looking at the picture, the students were asked to look for quantities, colors, and position in space. They were also encouraged to write 3 - 5 sentences, write about facts they know about cats, and write personal stories.
- **Music:** This week’s class focused on learning about the holiday Juneteenth and its importance in the USA history. The students read some historical background information and we focused on the song, “What Can One Little Person Do”, a storytelling...
song that highlights four major contributors to the civil rights movement. The lesson gave all of the students an opportunity to practice reading, learn about history, and share their ideas on the theme of freedom.

- **Wellness:** Each of the students took turns reading some background information about yoga written on the board. We looked at the three elements of yoga: Breath, Physical Movements, and Mental Focus. The class watched a short, animated video about what is happening in our bodies when we breathe and why it is important to be aware of it. The students took turns reading the personal affirmation for Mountain Pose and we all learned a short dynamic breathing exercise from Mountain Pose.

- **Phone Technology:** This week, students reviewed what was learned the previous weeks, and looked to see what’s new on the NAAM site. A video was also shared on the different parts of devices: What is a Wallpaper? What is a screensaver? What’s a desktop?

**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.