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:

A message from Natasha:
To my beloved clients and NAAM family members,

I have thought long and hard about the message I would like to share with you all in response to recent events. It breaks my heart to see our Black communities struggling with so much fear and grief. Although the issues we are discussing today are not-at-all new or recent, because of today’s climate, I believe it is vital to vocalize the solidarity and support I, along with the other NAAM staff, feel for our communities.

As we take time to consider the dire situation we find ourselves in (both in regards to the political climate as well as the COVID-19 pandemic), I hope we are able to reclaim that which I personally consider most important - the right of each one of us to live in safety. Physical, emotional, psychological safety is at the core of human need and is what lacks for many of our Black friends and neighbors daily. I pray that we are able, as a community to come together in order to provide and restore the sense of safety that is as basic of a human need as food, water and roof above our heads.

If you or anybody in your circle have a need to talk about current events, have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach to your Case Manager, Teacher or email us at info@naamass.org. We, at NAAM, are continuing to support our community members who have lost jobs due to Covid-19 by providing food donations and support our families in the best way we can.

On the topic of safety: as we exercise our freedom of speech through peaceful protest, all of us at NAAM encourage everyone to continue to wear face masks and take safety precautions as recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Please remember, in order for this country to be great, we must all work hard, together, to lift each other up.

Thank you.
Stay safe.
Natasha Soolkin
Executive Director
Case Management & Employment:
As we enter phase two of the re-opening of Massachusetts businesses, we continue to see more companies beginning to advertise open positions. So far, a few clients have been called back to full-time work at one of the local food production companies, and we expect that others will follow within the next few weeks. Also, we have heard from clients that a few companies at Logan have started to contact their employees about returning to their jobs on a part-time basis for now. We are working with a local staffing agency that is building its candidate pool for production jobs they anticipate will be available at the end of this month or beginning of next month. 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 distributed food to 55 families. Food boxes included fish, fresh fruits and vegetables, cookies, pasta, and more. The boxes also included PPE for families.
- We distributed laptops to some of our families with school-aged children.
- We are starting to talk about reopening our office. However, we need to be very thoughtful about the process and make necessary precautionary measures to make our office space at the center safe. Therefore, it will take us some time to figure out what we need to do. We are keeping in touch with the City of Lynn Health Department to obtain guidance on what we need to do.

Youth Program:
This week, we continued to do homework with the kids and also offered some activities. We did an art activity with students on Tuesday where we talked about the current events relating to protests and police violence and asked the kids to create a Black Lives Matter protest sign to express what they are feeling. We also discussed some safe ways they could support the movement. We also worked on a controlled breathing exercise on Thursday and watched the movie Sailor Moon on Friday.
**CRES English Classes:**
- Dan's class have been working through Voice of America which includes, listening, speaking, and pronunciation. VOA also has videos and exercises apart from the daily lesson. They include world news and photos from around the world. Dan sent the link to the day's lesson to the students so they can review at home. He has 9 students who attend his class regularly and are very eager to learn.

**LPS English Classes:**
- Dulany's class is working their way towards answering medical history questions that use the present perfect.
- Bobby's class have been going well. Bobby decided to do a virtual tour and found a NEWSLEA article related to animal webcams in zoos/aquariums across the country. His class worked through the article and watched the live webcams - the students loved it!

**ELT-I:**
- **Art:** In this week's session the students were asked to write 3-5 sentences on their own listing their observations of the painting Bedroom at Arles by Vincent Van Gogh. We discussed how important painting was before there were cameras, as it was the only way we could capture how things looked and share them with others. Vincent Van Gogh painted this small painting in 1888 to send to his brother and show him what his room looked like at the time. After the students wrote their sentences, they were asked to read them and the sentences were written on the board for all to see.
- **Music:** In this week's session, the students were asked to read lyrics to the song, “Shining Star”, by Earth Wind and Fire in (1975). 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 students discussed the many factors that go into wellbeing and watched a video about the effects of stress on the body and mind. The students were introduced to an excellent educational website, ed.ted.com, where they can find numerous short videos to learn about many subjects. We had an excellent discussion about the video where students shared some of the sources of stress in their lives and how they manage.
The students also reviewed last week’s lesson and built on their knowledge on nutrition, exercise, and sleep/rest.

- **Phone Technology:** During this week’s session, the students watched a short video shared by the instructor. Students worked on defining and understanding: What is a computer? What is a PC processor? What does it mean to save or store on a computer? What is a screen? What is a keyboard? What is a mouse in a computer? What does it mean to download? The students asked lots of questions during the session. Morris K said “today we enjoyed the class to much”

**Citizenship:**
This was the last week of citizenship classes for the term. Post-testing and pre-testing will now begin for the next session that will start on July 6. Some of the citizenship classes’ students will have a chance to continue practicing for their interview over zoom.

**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.