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 month:

Citizenship Services: We are happy to report that we have been awarded a two-year grant from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to provide citizenship application services and conduct ESL/civics classes for permanent residents. Our classes are run on Zoom, our next class will start November 23rd. Please contact us via email if you are interested to participate. We accommodate people with application assistance the best we can using a technology to submit applications online, collect signatures electronically, etc.

In classes, we continue to review civics questions as well as the N-400 questions. Topics covered were the three branches of government, the Supreme Court, The Legislative Branch, and the Executive Branch. We took virtual tours of the White House, Senate, and the Supreme Court. One student read about Ruth Bader Ginsburg and made a presentation to the class about her life. Students have learned 70 civics questions and have reviewed 30 of the 50 N-400 questions. We have 4 classes left in the quarter. One student from quarter 4 was naturalized and 1 student from quarter 5 was naturalized in September. 2 students from quarter 4 have interview appointments in October.

From a student who was recently naturalized:
“I am Carmen, I am very happy to be a new American Citizen and at the same time fulfill one more goal in my life, I want to thank my family wholeheartedly for always being with me in everything, and especially the New American Center Program at Lynn Massachusetts for supporting me along the process for my citizenship. Thank you all very much for your support.”

Case Management & Employment: As the fall starts, different industries have been revamping their activities and services in larger scales. Our clients have been able to find employment in the production, food and hospitality fields. As has been the case since phase one of the re-opening, the local big box stores and supermarkets continue to post positions, and there are restaurants and other product delivery services that are looking for delivery drivers. In addition, the local staffing agencies are advertising more new positions in production and sanitation, as some of the local production companies that have traditionally employed our clients are now heading into their busy seasons. NAAM has also been offering English classes and employment coaching services remotely via ZOOM. We offered different class
levels, as well as volunteer one-on-one with participants. We believe that English language acquisition is vital for reaching quality employment.

Our organization also sponsors in-person work trainings and driving lessons for our clients. Our clients have been able to get their driving licenses and also training certificates such as the Certified Nursing Assistant Training. In addition to monitoring the evolving employment landscape and helping clients with job applications and interviews, we 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 an unemployment claim or submitting a job application, help getting an appointment with the RMV for any reason, would like to join one of NAC’s classes, or need another type of assistance.

**Direct Help to Clients in Need:** With the continuous support of My Brother’s Table we continue offering food boxes to about 50+ families each week. Great news: we received a grant from the city of Lynn to bring our families food boxes through the winter. We are happy to welcome Nadav Havusha to the team to work on the project. Since March Nadav has been instrumental delivering boxes to our families on a volunteering basis. It is great to have Nadav to be focusing on improving our initiative, working on logistics and details of making deliveries more efficient.

Another great news, Clifton Lutheran Church in Marblehead offered us a space for the winter so we would be able to pack food without interruptions due to the weather conditions.

**Lowell Office:** from Amanda Sullivan, Employment Specialist, NAAM Lowell Site: “Things are progressing nicely in Lowell, despite covid. I am in the office three times a week, and manage to have safe, socially distant meetings with clients. There are many jobs in the area, as manufacturing is opening up, although everything depends on an uncertain demand, so more often than not temp jobs do not become permanent so we need to start looking for a new job after a month or so. The one industry that has taken off is medical assembly, but that requires higher education and higher English levels. I am happy that some of my clients are taking advantage of the Lynn English classes on Zoom, and I have more people showing interest that I hope to place with Khara or Gina. The main frustration is the schools, as they only recently opened for some in-person classes, and very little busing is offered. Some in-home daycares are open, but when one child tests positive they must close for 2-3 weeks.”
CRES English Classes:

- Dan’s class:
  - We are continuing with Voice of America. Students are learning past perfect tense and phrasal verbs. We continue with reading, writing, listening, and speaking/pronunciation.

- Gina’s class:
  - September was a transitional month in my class. We took a break the first week of September and were down to two returning students. In the following weeks, four new students joined the class and we spent many classes learning about each other's current situations and activities. Students were invited to send photos of themselves during a weekend activity or outing which they could talk about in Monday’s class - an online show-and-tell. Included here are a couple of those photos, the first shows Jonathan doing what he loves best - fixing a car, his mother’s car, over the weekend. The second photo is of a new student, Natacha, shopping on Newbury Street in Boston for a new dress to wear to her cousin’s wedding. This photo led to a great conversation class about wedding traditions and more photos later in the month.

- Khara’s class:
  - My students are Learning English through VOA lessons. In September the following lessons/activities were practiced: simple present continuous tense, comparative degree of adjectives, and simple past tense of the common verbs. They also practiced some questioning skills. Finally they watched videos and answered comprehension questions.

LPS English Classes:

- Dulany’s class:
  - In our own class, we wrapped up our “learning to learn” unit and some of the students took a financial literacy class. One student says: “last month I learned how to bank.” Inspired by the financial literacy class, we began learning more about the language of spending and shopping. One student said that she liked learning this because it was something we can use outside of class.
**Bobby’s class:**
- In the past few weeks, we have been going over the past progressive and learning common irregular verbs in the past tense. I hope to transition soon to discussing the past perfect tense. Students have enjoyed the Wednesday/Saturday schedule.

**Suzie’s class:**
- It was a successful month. Three students had perfect attendance and we all but completed the 4th chapter of Step Forward, book 2. The students are gaining mastery of the past tense and their homework sentences and paragraphs are really improving. Each class has some giggles and nice group support.

**Elizabeth’s class:**
- This month we began a new literacy class with a small group of students. Without having had the opportunity to learn to read in their first language, these dedicated students are learning basic conversational English and initial literacy skills in English at the same time. During these twice a week evening classes, we are developing vocabulary centered on personal information and practicing letter sounds and sight words. Teaching and learning over Zoom is a challenge for all of us, but we’re making great progress!

**ELT-I:**
- **Art:**
  - The Art session was lively with students working on sentence structure through their observations. Using the painting we worked on expanding our vocabulary by using words such as: *Carnivorous, Domesticated, Companionship, Allergic, and Breeds*. We also worked on listing, filling in the blanks, answering questions, and forming sentences and paragraphs in response to observing *Yellow Cat painting by Henri Matisse*.

- **Music:**
  - This month the *Artist Bob Dylan* who is an American singer-songwriter, author, painter, and poet was introduced to the ELT-I session. The *song “Blowin’ in the Wind”* was listened to and sang by some. A student, Kabura, said of the song, “teacher the song touched me right here” pointing at her heart. All students read and participated during the session. During the reflection toward the end of class, we realized that the message of the song was something we could all relate to. After the lesson, a student, Reza, sent me a picture of his notebook where he had written down the lyrics by hand. We also enjoyed the song, *Turn Turn Turn, written by Pete Seeger*, an influential American folk singer and activist in 1961. Students read the lyrics to the song as well as the bio.
Wellness:

- We started a new curriculum regarding areas of wellness and are currently focusing on Financial Wellness and working with a Financial Literacy curriculum designed specifically for refugees. Students learned about the following topics: What is wellness? We learned wellness expands beyond mere health: It is not the absence of illness, it is the presence of complete mental, physical, and emotional well-being. We looked into the “Eight Dimensions of Wellness,” including financial wellness. We reviewed lessons we will be working on, such as Budget- Expenses-Income etc. We also talked about the pandemic and looked at (WHO) World Health Organization and talked of the concept called “herd immunity” and discussed what it means.

Phone Technology:

- This month in Phone Technology we reviewed the NAAM website, we located food pantry locations, updates, after school youth programs, and case management contact information on the website. We also visited Mass.gov and the City of Lynn Municipal Website where we looked at Coronavirus updates and other information. We reviewed financial wellness using phone technology. We looked at various sites, starting with the Boston Public Library and the Lynn Public Library, the Central Library in Copley Square. We talked about the benefits of having a library card. Because of the pandemic the students learned, they can register for an ecard online, this is especially important and useful for our parents for their school aged children.

Youth Program: We took a break after our summer program and kicked off our first day back by watching the Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie on September 25th. We have been helping our students with their homework on Zoom as well as helping them navigate Schoology and online learning. We will also be planning weekly activities in addition to tutoring. The current schedule for the youth program is Monday-Friday, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM.
2020 Election:
As the Census Program is done, the New American Association of MA is focusing on the next task at hand...

"Early Voting," Your Vote, Your Voice.
You can avoid the crowd on Nov. 3rd and go to Lynn City Hall to vote all this week. Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 4 PM, with longer hours on Tuesday night until 8 PM; and Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Let your vote make a difference!

Español:
Aunque el Censo ha terminado, la Asociación para Nuevos Americanos de MA está enfocada en el siguiente paso del momento: focusing on the next task at hand… "Votación Temprana," Tu Voto, Tu Voz.
Ud puede evitar la multitud del día de las elecciones del 3 de Noviembre e ir a la Municipalidad esta semana para ir a votar. De Lunes a Jueves, de 8:30 am a 4 pm, con horas extendidas los Martes hasta las 8pm; y los Viernes de 8:30 am a 12:30 pm. Deje que su voto haga la diferencia!

Announcements:
● NAAM is also happy to announce that we recently received a $10,000 grant from Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation to continue providing COVID-19 relief to clients. Look for more information in our press release!
● On September 24th, Natasha Soolkin, NAAM Ex. Director participated in the Citizenship Day Facebook Live Panel, which was part of the National Citizenship Campaign. The event was organized by the Office of Seth Moulton. The panel included Sage Shaw, Exec. Director of Open Door Immigration Services, Jessica Chicco, MA Immigrants and Refugee Association, and Eliana Nader, NE Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

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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.