ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NAAM had a busy summer: lots of work educating community on COVID prevention and vaccination. We are happy to share that NAAM was selected by the Essex Community County Foundation to be awarded with the Food Systems Resiliency Partnerships Grant. This grant allows NAAM to continue the important work of food deliveries to the most vulnerable families and individuals. We were able to combine our educational activities with food deliveries, adding information about COVID, vaccinations, most recent CDC updates, quick facts, tips, etc. to the food bags we bring to our clients.

Thanks to our generous partners, ECCF and United Way, by the end of summer we were able to finalize the financial support we offered to our clients through the pandemic. With multiple contributions received from ECCF, since January 2021 NAAM distributed $49,661 to 50 households; from United Way’s funding contributions, NAAM distributed $48,000 to 60 households. Money was given to the neediest families and individuals impacted by the COVID pandemic to pay rent and utility bills.

In collaboration with the office of Congressman Moulton and active participation of the Director of the Constituent Services and NAAM Board Member, Neesha Suarez, NAAM continues conducting monthly online immigration clinic. Each month experienced and knowledgeable immigration attorneys meet with about 12-14 individuals to provide one-on-one consultation and advice.

Our deepest gratitude to Gillette for donating to our clients the 15 bags ($180 each bag) containing the highest quality Gillette products (hygiene products, razors, baby wipes, tooth brushes, etc), and thank you to United Way, our faithful partner, for informing us about this donation.

Other than that, we had many happy days over this summer, celebrating our clients’ achievements (obtaining Naturalization certificates, graduating from job skills training), enjoying vacation in the company with our kids by the Lynn Tech Field House, meeting with students and each other in the safety of the offering support and shoulder to those who needed it.
**NAAM STAFF CHANGES**

- **William Pena** has transitioned to be the full time Citizenship Program Manager, to coordinate nuts and bolts of the program, concentrate his undivided attention on the naturalization process and immigration petitions.
- In June, **Holly Jasmin-Mondesir** joined NAAM, supporting its effort to promote COVID-19 vaccine education and advocacy.
- In July, we were happy to welcome a new addition to our NAAM family, **Alexa Arena** who joined NAAM as an Employment Specialist for the ESSP program. Alexa has a unique experience working with refugees abroad, and with her knowledge, language and organizational skills, outgoing and warm personality, she is a definite asset to NAAM and clients.
- **NAAM’s indispensable, multitasking, fast, and easygoing Matthew Alaniz** will continue offering his mighty hand in helping Will to connect with clients, bring more people to the citizenship, assisting Alexa with various tasks, working with Nadav on food delivery project, coordinating Financial Literacy Training and COVID educational program, while having fun doing everything described above.
- You can find photos of the new staff members and their bios on the page Our Team.
- On July 1st, 2021, with very mixed feelings we said our fond farewell to **Dulany Alexander**, the heart and soul of the LPS program, computer training, food distribution program, citizenship classes, technological support and many other things. We sincerely wished her to enjoy her retirement while continue leading our food delivery initiative which simply cannot exist without her.
- Our ESL Instructor **Bobby Grinnell** moved to Columbia for one year to teach English there and ... continue teaching at NAAM from abroad. In October 2021 Bobby will start teaching Citizenship classes online.
- **Emilia Mountain**, Mia, our beloved volunteer, transitioned to teach Bobby’s ESL class. Welcome, Mia!
- NAAM Board of Directors has been very happy to welcome new members in June 2021. **Scott Knox**, an Executive Director of Root North Shore, Inc. has been a long friend and partner of NAAM. In 2019 NAAM clients were fortunate to attend a culinary skills training at Root and learn from the experienced and talented instructors at the company. **Romell Kidd**, Property Manager at Peabody Property Inc. is bringing to NAAM a deep and profound knowledge of an affordable housing system in MA.
Employment & Case Management

- The Employment Services Support Program is meeting with clients both remotely and in-person on a case-by-case basis. We speak to clients by phone, via video call, in our office, and in the community. We employ protective measures such as wearing face masks during all interactions, and ventilating and sanitizing the place before and after meetings. The safety of our staff and clients is our highest priority.
- Companies across many industries on the North Shore are currently hiring. We have been approached by employers seeking construction workers, cleaners, Logan airport staff, lunch aides and crossing guards in Lynn Public Schools, Beverly post office carriers, and more.
- ESSP clients continue to study English remotely via Zoom. In addition to enrolling students in English classes, we are providing wraparound services such as assistance with housing and securing childcare.
- Multiple ESSP clients are engaged in professional development trainings. One client is currently studying to become a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Academy for Healthcare Training in Malden. A native of Colombia, despite having limited English proficiency she has put a great amount of effort into learning the material. She completed the theoretical classroom studies and passed all of the exams. She is now in the practical application phase of the course, and is set to graduate at the beginning of October.

Meet one of our clients!

Our client Paula completed a 4-week Certified Nursing Assistant training at the Academy for Healthcare Training in Malden in September. A native of Colombia, despite having limited English proficiency she put a great amount of effort into learning the material. She spent 30 minutes every day after class reviewing the material and studying new English vocabulary words. She was not familiar with American testing styles, so she also did practice tests that the program provided, on her own time. She possessed the least English in the class; however, the trainers commended her for her positive attitude and dedication to the course. She completed the theoretical classroom studies and passed all of the exams. She went on to the practical application phase of the course, which was easier for her because she could watch and imitate the procedures being done on mannequins.

She also successfully finished the in-person practicum at a hospital with live patients. She was awarded certificates in Home Health Aid Training and Nurse Assistant Training. She now needs to take the Massachusetts state exam in order to become a certified nursing assistant. In the meantime, she will apply for CNA jobs. We are confident that she will obtain a job in this field very soon!
Citizenship Program

- NAAM is working on the creation and implementation of an online-based webtool that will allow clients to self-assess and start citizenship applications.
- Our new citizenship class started on July 8th, 2021, and will run till the end of September. Thirty-six new students participated in this class.
- As our remote services keep expanding to all states in the U.S., we have been able to file applications for clients in Mississippi, New Hampshire, New York, Florida, and North Carolina.
- During the year 2021, we have served people from at least 34 different countries.
- We are still hosting consultation meetings remotely, and in person by appointment only. If you or anyone that you know needs free citizenship classes, or free citizenship application help, please contact Will Pena at 781-593-0100 ext. 714.

Christian, one of our newest Americans, after his citizenship interview

The Power of the People, What’s your Power?

Do you know what is a County? What is its purpose?

A ‘County’ is a geographical region. Each ‘County’ is used for political and administrative division of a State. This helps when selecting a Sheriff.

Do you know how many ‘Counties’ Massachusetts has?
There are 14 ‘Counties’ in the State
COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach

- In partnership with Health Resources in Action, NAAM has continued our COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach.
- Over the summer, NAAM was fortunate enough to welcome another person to the staff to take on the role as our official Vaccine Outreach Coordinator. Holly Mondesir, a current Lynn resident and chemist grad student, ultimately shared NAAM’s passion to provide accessible vaccine education to our most vulnerable North-Shore residents. In this role, Holly has registered countless clients to get vaccinated, accompanied them to their appointments, provided translation, facilitated transportation, and has kept our clients updated with accurate COVID-19 and vaccine information through flyers that are shipped out weekly alongside our Food Delivery Program.
- NAAM will continue to utilize the resource we have in Holly to keep connecting with our clients and North-Shore residents about COVID-19 and the vaccine to further ensure the safety of our beloved community.
ESOL Classes:

Khara: "Students learn English through VOA lessons and also through others YouTube videos. They learn to introduce themselves and their family to others. They learn the opposite meaning of the words. They practice conversation. They also learn to frame meaningful sentences using simple words."

Gina: "The highlight of our summer (and honestly, the year) was the first in person gathering of our class for a picnic at Lyon's Park in Beverly. It was a beautiful day in July at the beach. We ate delicious dolma prepared by Kareema (Iraq), rice, beans and chicken prepared by Jenny (Puerto Rico), plantains prepared by Samuel's wife (Congo) and Moroccan cookies brought by Azziza. We learned that Rodeline is the tallest person in class and Samuel the shortest and cemented the bonds that had united us on zoom over many months together."

Kathryn: "Some classes in the LPS program met in person and picked up their new books. The books focus on language and skills our students need to everyday situations in English."

Mia: "I've been having such a lovely time getting to know Bobby's LPS Level 1 students. We have playfully discussed favorite pastimes, which range from belting out Christian songs at home to home workouts— and couponing! A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting some students at my home to hand out textbooks and share some snacks on my porch. When asking one mother about what her favorite pastimes had been in Guatemala, she responded "None, because you start work at six years old there." My husband and I listened intently as she and her husband proceeded to compare their childhoods with the relative comfort they have been able to provide their own children in this country through very hard work. It was a humbling experience, which I keep in the back of my mind now as I attempt to plan relevant lessons. I wanted to give a shout out to Glenn's charming teenage son Rafael, who sometimes pops on Zoom to describe his experiences in the Lynn Public School system. His quick visits have allowed us the opportunity to discuss meaningful topics, such as the presence of multicultural curriculum materials in LPS classrooms. We all look forward to working with the new texts that Kathryn has ordered."
Learning English through Art, Music, Technology, and Wellness

**Cucumber Project:**
In our spring newsletter, we shared that each student in the ELT-I program received a cucumber planting kit. In this newsletter we are now sharing the progress of our planting project. The choice of growing cucumber was made after our trip to the farm, we learned it is a fruit not a vegetable, which has many health benefits, it contains vitamin C, K, A, Potassium, Magnesium, and Manganese.

- High in Nutrients
- Contains Antioxidants
- Promotes Hydration
- Aid in Weight Loss
- May lower blood sugar
- Promote Regularity
- Easy to add to diet
- Cardiovascular health
- Inflammation (may have anti-inflammatory)
- Bone health
- Skin care
- Fiber

**Wellness:**
We also learned we can attend outdoor concerts at Piers Park in East Boston every Sunday at 6:00 pm through the end of August. While taking precautions such as wearing mask when to many are around.

**Music:**
In music we enjoyed songs recorded by a music organization called, Playing for Change. It is a music project featuring musicians and singers from around the world. However, they perform in their home countries. T Diabetes in Mali, H Agatsuma in Japan, Bam & Pow in Jamaica.

**Phone Technology:**
In computer basics we learned what we can do to protect our computer. We visit the NAAM site so the students/clients can leave messages and see what is going on in the community. We continue to add to our vocabulary, learning and writing five words used in technology during each session.

**Art:**
Museum of Fine Arts Boston Our tour guides: Donna, Ronit, and Ruth the museum representatives shared pictures from there exhibits. The painting elicited a variety of emotions and comments from the students. We were pleased to have had such great information shared with us.

![Cucumber plant growth - three different stages](image)

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![Pictures from the MFA - "Tire Jumping in Front of My Window" by Allan Rohan, described by Ruth](image)
Youth Program

- Summer Program 2021 was a success! We served over 70 students in grades PreK-12.

- Elementary Programming (students entering grades PreK-5):
  - Mornings were online on Zoom. Teachers reviewed math, literacy, science, social studies, and English language with the students. We also had weekly visits from UMass Extension's Nutrition Program who taught their "It's All About the Fruits and Vegetables" curriculum.
  - Afternoons were in-person at Lynn Tech. Students ate lunch and participated in art, singing, drama, and science classes, as well as recreational activities.
  - In August we had a special visit from Northeastern's Marine Science Center, who taught students about the local marine ecosystem and brought their touch tank.

- Middle and High School Programming (students entering grades 6-12):
  - We offered online ESOL classes in the mornings to help prepare newcomer for school in the fall.
  - Afternoons were in-person on Monday/Wednesday and online on Tuesday/Thursday. Students were able to participate in the following classes and activities: creative writing, summer reading, math, science, gardening, conversation, photography, dance, boxing, singing, and college prep.

- We went on field trips to the Lynn Museum, Nahant Beach, Houghton’s Pond, Canobie Lake, Franklin Park Zoo, and Spectacle Island.

- We were able to employ 10 teen staff members this summer. They were responsible for helping with elementary schoolers and they all did a fantastic job. A big thank you to Abeer, Akha, Anuragh, Britney, Israa, Kelly, Modestine, Neida, Pradip, and Shaina!

- Another big thank you to our summer partners, including: Lynn Public Schools for hosting us at Lynn Tech, Root for catering lunches all summer, the Food Project for lending us a garden plot, and many many more.

- After a much needed break, youth program staff are now in the process of planning school year programming, including afterschool program, tutoring, and teen mentoring! Contact Emilie at (781) 593-0100 x 716 for more information.
Sorting shells during Northeastern’s visit

Boxing class

Elementary School field trip to Franklin Park Zoo
Our phone number is still (781) 593-0100, but our extensions have changed.

New American Association of Massachusetts/
Natasha Soolkin - extension 718

Southern Sudanese Solidarity Organization/
James Modi - extension 719

Congolese Development Center/
Eric Kamba - extension 711

Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center/
Maka Osman - extension 713

Other NAAM Staff:
William Pena - extension 714
Alexa Arena - extension 717
Emilie Wilk - extension 716
Lynne Havusha - extension 722
Venette Jean - extension 723
Dan Gorberg - extension 715
Gina Chase - extension 721
Khara Pokhrel - extension 720
Matthew Alaniz - extension 712
Kathryn Baker - extension 724
Carline Rimple - extension 725

We hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy in these difficult times. We look forward to the day when we can once again greet you all in person at the New American Center.

We have new phone extensions!