Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Brings Educators Together

Community Action, Inc.’s Head Start program was awarded an Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grant. This funding allowed Head Start to establish a groundbreaking collaboration, extending the enhanced services of Head Start to two independent childcare centers: Froggy’s Play School and International Child Care Center, creating openings for 72 additional children. In sheer numbers, the extraordinary expansion increased childcare access by 38%. The expanded program brings children to the centers in their earliest, most formative years.

Each month, a support group comprised of Early Head Start Partnership Educators and Infant Toddler Educators from the community meets at different centers in the area. The support group provides educators an opportunity to meet with their peers to share ideas and information and support one another. In April, the support group met at Froggy’s Play School where they enjoyed a paint night.

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Summer Meal Program Sponsored by Haverhill Public School Food Service

Open to any individual under the age of 18. Locations at Haverhill High School, Plugs Pond, Swasey Field and Consentino School. Serving lunches at all sites, breakfast at Haverhill High and morning snack at Consentino.

Visit http://www.haverhill-ps.org/haverhill-summer-youth-programs/ for dates and times.
Community Action, Inc.  
Family Day Care

is looking for Licensed Family Child Care Educators to add to our quality Child Care System.

Do you love working with children?
Do you see yourself as an Early Childhood Educator?
Would you like to open your own Family Child Care program in your home?

The Family Day Care Program can support you through the process to become a licensed Family Child Care Educator if you are not already licensed.

For more information, please contact:
Community Action, Inc Family Day Care Director  
978-373-1971 X267

WIC Office has Moved

CAI's Northern Essex WIC office has relocated from 10 Phoenix Row in Haverhill to our central office location at 3 Washington Square.

Family & Community Connection Programs

Family & Community Connection (FCC) serves families with children from 0–8 years of age. There is NO FEE to participate & NO income guidelines. FCC is located at 346 Broadway in Haverhill. Call 978-914-7893 to register.

Infant/Toddler Playgroups (0–3 years)
Tuesdays, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Parent/Child Open Playgroup (3–6 years)
Wednesdays, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Kindergarten Ready - Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.

Messy Monday - Monday, July 17 & Aug. 21, 1–2 p.m.

STEAM - Monday, July 24 & Aug. 28, 1–2 p.m.

Learn & Move at FCC
Friday, July 7 & Wednesdays, 1–2 p.m.

Picnic Play
Thursdays, 1–2 p.m.

Library Programs
Haverhill Library - Mon., July 10 & Aug. 7, 1–2 p.m.
Amesbury Library - Fri., Aug. 11, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Groveland Library - Fri., July 21 & Aug. 18, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Merrimac Library - Fri., July 28 & Aug. 25, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Georgetown Library - Fri., July 28 & Aug. 25, 1–2 p.m.

Family & Community Connection
346 Broadway, Haverhill, MA - (978) 914-7893

Head Start Hosts STEAM Events

CAI Head Start offered two separate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) events this past April. The events displayed the work that children, families and teachers did for a chosen topic. CAI Head Start/Early Head Start Center classrooms, Early Head Start Homebased families, Family Child Care homes, the CAI Family & Community Connection and the International Child Care Center contributed to STEAM this year.
Adult Education

CAI Helps Two Young Men Pass HiSET Tests

Pedro Colon

Pedro Colon dropped out of high school when he was in his junior year. He said the classes were too easy and what he really wanted to be doing was earning money. He still wanted to obtain his diploma and he heard that Community Action could help him study for the HiSET. Because he came to CAI shortly after leaving high school, much of the school material was fresh in his mind. He studied seriously at CAI for 3 months and was ready to test. Pedro says the best thing about CAI is the helpful staff and the class material, which he found helped him especially with writing.

While Pedro worked full time as an assistant manager at Kentucky Fried Chicken, he kept his focus on passing the HiSET by keeping in touch with his goal of being a role model for the family and children he hopes to have in the future. He also appreciates his girlfriend that encouraged him to study and finish.

Pedro says the best strategy for passing the HiSET tests was to take a lot of practice tests and reviewing answers he got wrong and studying that material again. His advice to potential students is to stay in High School if they have the option. For new students he offers these words of encouragement: “It’s easier to give up than to persist- but you feel so much more accomplished if you do finish.”

For his next steps, Pedro would like to attend vocational training to become a plumber and be his own boss.

Leandre Maalouf

Leandre Maalouf has lived both in the US and in Lebanon. He attended high school in Lebanon but when he returned to Haverhill to finish, he was too old to finish on time with his peer group- so he turned his attention to studying for the HiSET.

When Leandre started class, he shared that in Lebanon, the teachers were strict and the environment was punitive. Leandre never felt that he was a good student. Through participating in the HiSET program, he discovered that he is an intelligent person, able to complete advanced academic assignments, and ultimately- to pass the HiSET. He said that in Lebanon, he was not allowed to speak his mind. He might be able to ask a few questions but there was limited patience for helping students who needed a little extra help. At CAI, he discovered that he was allowed to ask critical questions and express controversial opinions, so he found classes to be liberating and fun.

Sometimes Leandre struggled with his self-confidence, but he persisted because both his teacher and his classmates were supportive. He also knew that obtaining his high school diploma would only benefit his future. His advice for new students is this: “As hard as it may be, as hard as it may get, always think to yourself, the first step is always the hardest. The fact that you managed to start the program shows that you can finish it. As long as you remember the reasoning for your to have entered the program, you will succeed.”

The CAI Adult Learning Center is closed for the summer. Upcoming registration dates are listed below:

- **HSE (High School Equivalency) Preparation**
  Waitlist Registration - Thursday, August 3 at 10 a.m. Please arrive on time and plan to stay until noon.

- **ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)**
  Waitlist Registration - Wednesday, August 9 at 10 a.m. Please arrive on time and plan to stay until noon.

- **Fall Evening English (ESOL) classes**
  Fall Registration - Wednesday, August 30 and September 6 at 6 p.m.

All registrations are held at the CAI Adult Learning Center, 3 Washington Square, 3rd floor in Haverhill, MA.

For more information about HSE or ESOL classes or registration, please contact: Alisa Povenmire, after August 1st, at (978) 373-1971 ext 216 or apovenmire@communityactioninc.org.

English for Work classes are designed for high intermediate to advanced level ESOL students and are held three nights per week for an intensive 12-week period. Classes begin in September (exact dates to be determined soon). For more information, please contact: Peter Espiefs at 978-373-1971 ext. 249 or pespiefs@communityactioninc.org.

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CAI News - July/August 2017
Our Programs serve the following Massachusetts cities and towns: Amesbury, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, and West Newbury. Some CAI programs also serve Beverly, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lawrence, Manchester, Rockport, Topsfield and Wenham.

Community Action, Inc. (CAI) provides resources and opportunities for individuals, families and communities to overcome poverty. Vision: CAI envisions strong, thriving communities free of poverty. Values: We build hope and offer assistance with respect and understanding.

CAI English for Work Students Earn Certificates

CAI students and staff celebrated the completion of the Spring session of the evening English for Work ESOL program on May 18. Nine students earned certificates of completion.

Shown in photo above: Arsen Shule, Eliene Lima da Silva, Antonio Ostos, Nichada Debitetto, Cynthia Faulkner- Education and Training program director; Suead Bayoussef, Fermin de la Cruz Santana, Teresa Salerno- ESOL instructor; Junior Ruiz, and Theodore Beauparlant, volunteer ESOL instructor. Students not shown in photo: Miguel Ixcoy and Tirsa Vasquez. Also not shown: Peter Espiefs, Adult Career Pathways advisor.

The celebration included food, music and lots of laughs. Congratulations to the English for Work students for their commitment, motivation, and resilience in completing this English for Work session.

This is the newsletter for Community Action, Inc., a private non-profit corporation established in 1965 to serve the Greater Haverhill, Amesbury and Newburyport areas.

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Visit us on the web: www.CommunityActionInc.org