Paraskevas (Paras) Kyriakov was born in Greece and didn't learn English in school. After high school he worked as a barista. Later, he became a storeowner and continued serving customers until he met his wife six years ago and moved to the United States.

When he first came to Community Action Inc. for a ESOL waitlist registration in August 2016, his American wife had to translate for him because his English skills were very limited. However, he was determined to learn the language. “I wanted to have a better life for myself, for my family and more opportunities in the US.”

After getting married Paras started working in a pizza place to help support his two children. Later he worked for a bigger company where he did delivery work for four years. One day while he was out for a walk, Paras noticed an advertisement on the window of a new coffee shop. They were looking for a barista. Paras greatly enjoyed this work in Greece and he applied for the job. He was hired because of his skills and previous experience but his English language skills were very limited and his supervisor suggested he take English classes. His wife's aunt knew about the ESOL program at Community Action Inc. and encouraged him to register.

In September, Paras started in Gene Schmidt’s level-2 ESOL class and after two months began making great progress. His tests results became significantly better and his communication skills were also improving. For the second trimester, he was placed to the level-3 class to learn the language even faster. Paras said the ESOL classes have had an immediate impact. “Learning the language changed me and my life. What I'm learning here in class, I can use it at work after school.”

Paras appreciates the teachers, advisor and classmates who all are helping him achieve his goal. “Eva (Balogh) works hard with all of CAI’s ESOL Program Helps Man from Greece Achieve Success

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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

Observing 52 Years of Community Action

On August 20, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act which created Community Action agencies, as part of his War on Poverty initiative. Community Action, Inc. was established in 1965 to wage the War on Poverty in the Greater Haverhill, Amesbury and Newburyport area.

CAI’s mission was and continues to be to promote self-sufficiency for those of limited income, ensuring that all residents are able to live in dignity. CAI implements innovative and cost-effective programs to improve the lives and living conditions of our neighbors who are living in poverty.

May is National Community Action month. “Community Action Month is a wonderful time to honor and celebrate the impact Community Action has in the lives of families and communities from the Newburyport Seacoast to Haverhill,” stated John Cuneo, President of CAI. “Every day our dedicated staff helps families achieve economic security. Given that the needs of each family and community are unique, Community Action is able to use a range of resources and programs to meet local needs in creative and impactful ways.”

CAI statistics underscores a positive impact on local neighborhoods. This year CAI has served over 8,000 individuals and helps improve their lives by providing essential services and life-changing opportunities including: financial education, early childhood education, adult education, first time home purchase and education, affordable housing, emergency housing intervention, child care, nutrition, basic services and consumer protection.

“Despite experiencing budget cuts, shrinking resources, and increased demands for services during these challenging economic times, CAI has been remarkably successful assisting the low-income senior citizens, families and children in our region,” Mr. Cuneo said.

WIC Office is Moving

CAI’s Northern Essex WIC office will be relocating from 10 Phoenix Row in Haverhill to our central office location at 3 Washington Square. The WIC office will be located on the second floor with the fuel assistance program. Relocation is anticipated to be completed by June 1.

Library Programs

West Newbury Library - Fri., May 5, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.; Haverhill Library - Mon., May 1, 1–2 p.m.; Amesbury Library  
- Fri., May 12, 10:30–11:30 a.m.; Groveland Library - Fri., May 19, 10:15–11:15 a.m.; Merrimac Library - Fri., May 26, 10:30–11:30 a.m.; Georgetown Library - Fri., May 26, 1–2 p.m.
HiSET Prep Class
Waitlist Registration Dates

Want to get your Diploma? (It was called GED, now it is the HiSET). The CAI Adult Learning Center offers free High School Equivalency Prep Classes. The next Waitlist Registration dates are scheduled for Thursday, May 11 and Tuesday, June 27 at 10 a.m., 3 Washington Square, 3rd floor in Haverhill. Please arrive on time and plan to stay until Noon. Please do not bring children. Registration is for classes that begin in September.

For questions and more information, please contact: Alisa Povenmire, Career and Education Advisor, 978-373-1971, ext. 216 or apovenmire@communityactioninc.org. For Online Class option, contact Milissa Duncan at mduncan@communityactioninc.org.

Merrimack College Students Provide Income Tax Assistance

Thank you to student volunteers from the Merrimack College Hands to Help Community Resource Center for providing free assistance to residents of Haverhill with their 2016 tax forms on Tuesday, April 4. Pictured above, left to right: Tamara Matama, Amanjot Dhatt, Sam Atallah, Sam Ventresca, Zach McCurdy and Richard Bourgeois.

Apply Now for the Gerald Goldman Memorial Scholarship

Community Action. Inc. (CAI) is accepting applications for the following three categories of CAI’s Gerald Goldman Memorial Scholarship Program - graduating high school senior, HiSET recipient and post-secondary student. Each category awards one $1,000 scholarship to an area resident that meets the eligibility criteria. The scholarships are named after Gerald Goldman, the Executive Director of Community Action, who passed away in 1995. Community Action presents these scholarships in his honor.

Students from Haverhill, Amesbury, Newburyport, Salisbury, Groveland, Georgetown, Boxford, Rowley, Newbury, West Newbury, and Merrimac are eligible. Application packets can be downloaded on our website www.communityactioninc.org/programs/scholarships or be picked up at the Community Action, Inc. main office located at 3 Washington Square in Haverhill. Completed applications are due by May 15th.

For more information contact: John Cuneo - 978-373-1971 ext. 223 jcuneo@communityactioninc.org

Evening English for Work
Fall Registration

Registration for Fall Evening English (ESOL) Classes will be held on Wednesday, June 07 at 6 p.m. at the CAI Adult Learning Center at 3 Washington Square in Haverhill. English for Work Classes are designed for High Intermediate-Advanced Level ESOL students and are held 3 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.

ESOL Waitlist Registration

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Class Waitlist Registration will be held on Tuesday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m. at the CAI Adult Learning Center, 3 Washington Square, 3rd floor in Haverhill. Please arrive on time and plan to stay until noon. For more information please contact the CAI Adult Learning Center at 978-373-1971.

Continuous from Page 1 - ESOL Student from Greece

us. She does a good job just like the teachers. Gene’s patience and teaching style was so perfect for me, and Peter is giving me a different approach to learn English”.

Paras’ hard work, persistence, and motivation are exceptional. Recently, he became the manager of the coffee shop where he’d started as a barista. After years of practice, he also started working as a jiu-jitsu instructor. Paras, utilizes this ancient Japanese martial art as a great tool to become stronger, more focused, empowered, and ambitious to achieve his goals and to make a better life for his family.

For information about CAI’s ESOL classes contact the Adult Learning Center, 978-373-1971.
Administration
3 Washington Square, 4th Fl.
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-373-1971

Adult Education & Training
ABE/GED/ESOL
3 Washington Sq, 3rd Fl.
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-373-1971

Community Services
Housing, food and clothing resources & referrals, Drop-in day program
Haverhill - 978-373-1971
Amesbury - 978-388-2570
Drop-In Ctr. - 978-241-9621

Consumer Services
Consumer Protection
North Essex Mediators
3 Washington Square, 4th Fl
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-373-1971

Energy Programs
Heating Assistance, Heating System Assistance, Weatherization
3 Washington Square, 2nd Fl.
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-373-1971

Family & Community Connection
Resources, activities and playgroups for families with children 0-8 years
Presbyterian Church
346 Broadway
Haverhill, MA 01832
978-914-7893

Family Day Care
Community-based network of Family Child Care Educators
CAI Fox Center
75 Elm St.
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-373-1971

Head Start/Early Head Start
Preschool program for children 0-5
Administration, CAI Fox Center
75 Elm St.
Haverhill, MA 01830
(978) 372-5052

Housing Development
Affordable Housing Lottery, CAI Rental Management and First Time Home Buyer Program.
3 Washington Square, 4th Fl.
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-373-1971 ext.225

Northern Essex WIC
Women, Infants & Children Nutrition Program
10 Phoenix Row, 3rd Fl.
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-374-2191 - Haverhill
978-388-2575 - Amesbury
978-922-2110 - Beverly
978-281-4540 - Gloucester

First Time Home Buyer Training
The Community Action Inc. (CAI) First Time Homebuyer Education Program will offer first time homebuyer education classes for area residents beginning Tuesday, May 16 from 6 to 9 pm in the Presidential Gardens Community Room, 140 Evergreen Drive in Bradford.

A Massachusetts Homeownership Collaborative approved certificate is awarded after completion of the three-night course. The program is also approved by MassHousing. The dates for the course are Tuesday, May 16; Thursday, May 18 and Tuesday, May 23. The cost is $60 per household. There are no income requirements to take the training.

The workshop is sponsored by Pentucket Bank.
For more information contact Richard Lynch at 978-373-1971 or Susan Collins at 978-317-8998.