CAI English for Work Student Receives First Literacy Scholarship Award

Eliene Lima da Silva, a CAI English for Work student, was awarded a First Literacy Scholarship during a ceremony held in Boston City Hall in August. The scholarship was presented to Eliene by Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. First Literacy of Boston, awards scholarships to selected students who are entering college for the first time in the United States. Ms. da Silva, originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil, will begin college courses in Health Studies at Northern Essex Community College in September.

In order to prepare for college level course work, Eliene completed both the Fall, 2016 and the Spring, 2017 sessions of English for Work. Her English language skills improved considerably as a direct result of her efforts this past year. Ms. da Silva lives in Haverhill with her husband, Willian, and their two young children.

Community Action Offers Help With Heating Bills

Community Action Inc. (CAI) is expected to receive a LIHEAP grant for FY2018 to assist low income families with their heating bills this winter.

The **CAI LIHEAP Program** assists low-income residents with heating bills incurred November 1st through April 30th. Communities served include Haverhill, Amesbury, Newburyport, Groveland, Merrimac, Boxford, Georgetown, West Newbury, Newbury, Salisbury and Rowley.

For the FY2018 LIHEAP Program the income guidelines have been set to 60% of the state’s median income, based on total gross household income. The maximum annual gross income for a single person is $34,380.00, a household of two $44,958.00, a household of four $66,115.00. (add $10,578.00 for each additional household member)

All income eligible households receive up to a 29% discount on their National Grid gas and/or electric monthly bills. These discounts renew each year you are determined eligible for the LIHEAP Program

Community Action’s LIHEAP Program last winter served over 3447 households with payments made towards their winter heating bills. This season the maximum household grant will probably be set at about $1050. Residents who have their heat included in their rent may qualify for up to a 30 percent payment of their monthly rent during the winter months up to their benefit amount.

The City of Haverhill awarded CAI funds from its Community Development Block Grant. These funds offer additional support to qualified residents facing termination of utilities or needing an oil delivery prior to the start of the LIHEAP Program or if they have exhausted their benefits.

Community Action’s LIHEAP Program also receives grants and donations from many different civic and philanthropic organizations in our service area. The Haverhill Breakfast Exchange Club donates so that elderly households in Haverhill can receive additional assistance. Leeward Charitable Foundation provides a grant to assist eligible
CAI Northern Essex WIC Staff Recognized for Exceptional Service to WIC Participants

The CAI Northern Essex WIC program received high marks from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Health following a local program evaluation completed on June 22. “We are pleased to report that the Northern Essex WIC program has achieved a compliance score of 95% which reflects meeting 137 standards out of 144 reviewed,” said Judy Hause, director of the state WIC nutrition division under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

Some of the highlights from the evaluation include:

- The Community Coordinator excels at connecting the program and participants with local health and human services partners.
- (WIC) staff maintains an excellent relationship with WIC authorized retailers.
- Program staff demonstrates good customer services skills and maintains good rapport with participants.
- Senior nutritionist ensures that nutrition staff provides excellent nutrition counseling and thoughtful nutrition care plans for participants.

“I would like to have our staff recognized for how hard they work to provide exceptional service for our WIC participants. They all did an amazing job preparing for our local program evaluation performed by the Department of Public Health,” said Hope Davenport, the director of the CAI Northern Essex WIC program.

Pictured Above: (Back row) left to right: Bianna Robles, Family Support Coordinator; Debra Luther, Nutrition Assistant; Dulce Cruz, Program Assistant; Emily Waters, Nutritionist; Eva Cortes, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor; Donna Connor, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor; Ivelisse Francis, Nutrition Assistant; Elizabeth Coz, Nutritionist. (Front row) left to right: DeAnna Tashjian, Community Coordinator; Hope Davenport, Program Director; Stacey Moore, Senior Nutritionist. Pictured Above Right: Dianne Gobeil, Program/Nutrition Assistant.

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.

Babies & Babble Playgroup (0–3 years) Tuesdays, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Busy Bees Playgroup (3–6 years) Wednesdays, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Kindergarten Ready
Haverhill - Tuesdays, 10–11:30 a.m.
Merrimac Library - Thursdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.

Messy Monday - Monday, Sept. 18 & Oct. 23, 1–2 p.m.

STEAM - Monday, Sept. 25 & Oct. 30, 1–2 p.m.

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

Story Time and Craft
Monday, 1–2 p.m.

Dad & Donuts
All Saints Parish - Saturday, Sept. 9 & Oct. 14, 9–10 a.m.
Sacred Hearts Parish - Saturday, Sept. 23 & Oct. 21, 9–10 a.m.

Library Programs
Haverhill Library - Mon., Sept. 11 & Oct. 2, 1–2 p.m.
Amesbury Library - Fri., Sept. 15 & Oct. 13, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Groveland Library - Fri., Sept. 29, 1–2 p.m. and Oct. 20, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Merrimac Library - Fri., Sept. 29 & Oct. 27, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Georgetown Library - Fri., Sept. 22 & Oct. 27, 1–2 p.m.

Family & Community Connection
346 Broadway, Haverhill, MA (978) 914-7893
Upcoming registration dates at the CAI Adult Learning Center are listed below. Registrations are held at CAI, 3 Washington Square, 3rd floor in Haverhill.

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

**ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages)**
**Tuesday, September 26 and Thursday, October 26 at 10 a.m.**
Waitlist Registration. Please arrive on time and plan to stay until noon.

For more information about HSE or ESOL classes or registration, please contact: Alisa Povenmire, Career and Education Advisor, (978) 373-1971 ext 216 or apovenmire@communityactioninc.org.

---

**First Time Homebuyer Training Offered**

The **CAI First Time Homebuyer Education Program** will offer first time homebuyer education classes for area residents beginning Thursday, October 12 from 6–9 p.m. in the Presidential Gardens Community Room, 140 Evergreen Drive in Bradford.

- Comprehensive info offered by housing professionals;
- Individual household mortgage pre-qualification;
- Information regarding foreclosure sales;
- Information regarding area affordable housing lotteries and services of a buyer broker;
- Information about down payment assistance programs and reduced interest loans.

A Massachusetts Homeownership Collaborative approved certificate is awarded after completion of the 3-night course. Dates for course are Thursday, October 12; Tuesday, October 17 and Thursday, October 19. Cost is $60 per household. There are no income requirements to take the training. **This workshop is sponsored by Pentucket Bank.**

For more information contact: Richard Lynch, 978-373-1971 or Susan Collins at 978-317-8998.

---

**English for Work Evening English (ESOL) Classes**
**Wednesday, September 6 at 6 p.m.**
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.

For more information about English for Work Classes, please contact: Peter Espiefs, 978-373-1971 ext. 249 or pespiefs@communityactioninc.org

---

**Heating Bills - Continued from Page 1**

households in the seacoast area and the Newburyport Society for the Relief of Aged Women provides a grant to assist households of senior women in Newburyport, Newbury and Salisbury.

Eligible households that heat with oil can also purchase oil through our Oil CO-OP at the discounted price offered by Community Action’s low bid vendor. The Oil CO-OP can be used at any point during the year.

Community Action’s Energy programs also receive a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide assistance with heating system repairs and/or system replacements for eligible homeowners. National Grid Gas and Electric also provides grants to be used in conjunction with the DHCD funds when replacement or upgrades are needed for customers of National Grid. Weatherization assistance is also available for eligible homes and apartments that have not received this service in prior years.

Interested households can visit our website www.communityactioninc.org and click the Fuel and Energy link; this will bring you to the Energy Programs page. From this page click LIHEAP Appointments Link; this will bring you through some prequalifying questions. Once you have answered the questions you can schedule an appointment to meet with a LIHEAP representative at our main office.

You will receive a confirmation by email along with a list of required documents based on how you answered the prequalifying questions. Appointments can also be scheduled at our outreach sites and main office by calling CAI’s LIHEAP office at 978-373-1971 ext. 218. The LIHEAP Program has intake locations in Haverhill, Amesbury and Newburyport.

~

www.communityactioninc.org
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.

Help Anchor of Hope Diaper Bank
“Stuff the Bus!”

The Anchor of Hope Diaper Bank (AOH), which serves the Merrimack Valley from Haverhill to Newburyport, needs your help to Stuff The Bus! AOH will be filling an actual Whittier Tech school bus with diaper donations for children in need in our community. There are two ways to help AOH fill the bus with diapers for babies in need:

- Join AOH at the Flatbread Company in Amesbury on Tuesday, September 12 from 5–9 p.m. A portion of every Flatbread sale during that time will benefit Anchor of Hope. We will also be accepting diaper donations from patrons dining out with us that night (sizes 4, 5 and 6 are most needed).

- Come and Stuff The Bus with AOH at the Haverhill Farmer’s Market on Saturday, September 23, from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Bring your diaper donations from your family and friends or ones that you have purchased (we find Target, Walmart, BJ’s and Aldi to have the best prices) to the bus. Monetary donations are also accepted during the event. Every dollar counts!

If you would like to organize a diaper drive for your scout troop, church, organization, neighborhood or family, so that you can have a big pile for the Stuff The Bus event, please contact AOH at aohdiaperbank@gmail.com.

Visit us on the web: www.CommunityActionInc.org

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.

Board of Directors
Lucinda Nolet, Chairperson
Patricia Gleason, Vice-Chairperson
Harry Korslund, Treasurer
Nancy Doyle, Clerk/Secretary

Current Board Members
Danissa Abreau, Vicki Carr, Tabatha Colon, Donna Ducharme, Douglas Daves, Reggie King, Claire Koffman, Roger LeMire, Sr., Alison Lindstrom, Mary Ellen McEvoy-Lawlor, Michael Nesson, Richard Pettengill, Michelle Roldan, Samuel Sasso and Kathleen Shaw.

President/CEO
John Cuneo

Newsletter Writers and Editors:
Richard Lynch and Katrina Heisler

Visit us on the web: www.CommunityActionInc.org