Eight Participants Graduate from CAI’s Budget Buddies Financial Coaching Program

Eight women with children in the CAI Head Start/Early Head Start program graduated from the Budget Buddies Financial Coaching program on June 12. The six-month program helps low-income women become more economically self-sufficient by teaching core money-management skills and pairing them with personal financial coaches.

CAI thanks Budget Buddies coaching coordinator, Bernadette Wheeler; program leader, Gina Marks; the workshop presenters; volunteer coaches and Head Start Family Engagement Coordinator, Amy Morello for helping to make this program such a success. CAI congratulates the recent graduates and looks forward to partnering with Budget Buddies to offer another session starting this fall.

http://www.budgetbuddies.org

Pictured above are program participants with their children and Budget Buddies Coaches

Mt. Washington Alliance Announces Winners of Quality of Life Summer Pitch Contest

The Mt. Washington Alliance held its first Quality of Life Summer Pitch Contest for residents in the Mt. Washington Neighborhood of Haverhill in June. Local residents were asked to submit ideas to improve the quality of life in their neighborhood with an award of $1500 promised to the top three applicants for project implementation. The idea had to be a project that could be completed by Labor Day of this year and the applicant needed to be directly involved in implementing the project, said Christina Soundara, Mt. Washington Alliance initiative director.

Five finalists were selected from the initial submissions and were asked to pitch their ideas on June 25 to a panel of judges including: Mt. Washington resident, Michelle Geronimo; Professor of Natural Science & Coordinator of CRCAC program NECC, Emily Y.F. Gonzalez; Guest Judge, Hartell Johnson presents 1st Place Winners, Adrian Delgado and Tito Rivera with a check for $1500 to implement a Summer Youth Basketball Tournament at Swasey Park.

Mass Save Offers Home Energy Assessments

Mass Save offers a no-cost Home Energy Assessment for qualifying residents. Receive energy-saving products like LED light bulbs, wireless thermostats and power strips. Plus you will receive recommendations on further ways to save energy and access to incentives and rebates. Your assessment will also determine if you’re eligible for additional offers toward insulation, appliances and other energy efficiency upgrades.

To get started call 866-527-SAVE (7283) to schedule your no cost Home Energy Assessment. If you already have a Customer ID or Site ID issued to you in your Home Energy Assessment confirmation email or during your Home Energy Assessment, visit link below to verify your income for eligibility for enhanced rebates and incentives.

https://eassistpublic.communitysoftware-group.com/eAssistModApply/#/welcome
https://www.masssave.com

Guest Judge, Hartell Johnson presents 1st Place Winners, Adrian Delgado and Tito Rivera with a check for $1500 to implement a Summer Youth Basketball Tournament at Swasey Park.

- Continued on back page
Northern Essex WIC Distributes Farmers Market Vouchers

CAI Northern Essex WIC will distribute Farmers Market Vouchers to WIC recipients this summer. Vouchers can be used for fresh fruits, vegetables and cut herbs. The following pick-up dates and times are scheduled:

- **Sunday, July 22 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**
  Newburyport Farmers Market
  50 Water Street in Newburyport (Tannery Shopping Center)
- **Saturday, August 4 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.**
  Haverhill Farmers Market
  Parking Garage on Merrimack Street in Haverhill
- **Monday, August 6 from 3–6:30 p.m.**
  Beverly Farmers Market
  Veteran’s Memorial Park in Beverly
- **Thursday, August 9 from 3–6:30 p.m.**
  Gloucester Farmers Market
  Stage Fort Park in Gloucester

If you have questions, please call Northern Essex WIC, 978-374-2191.

Toddler Playgroup for Children 18-36 mths.

CAI’s Family and Community Connection is offering a wonderful and fun opportunity for children aged 18 to 36 months and their parents or caregivers who live in Haverhill, Merrimac, and Groveland to participate in a developmental, integrated Toddler Group run by certified Early Intervention staff.

The sessions meet Monday through Friday from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 346 Broadway in Haverhill and include music, movement, sensory activities, free play, book-time, and snack.

There is also a parent discussion group that provides the time for parents to meet and talk with other parents whose children are in the playgroup.

There are no income requirements to participate. For more information and to register, please contact Melanie Tamberino, mtamberino@communityactioninc.org or (978) 914-7893. To learn more about FCC and to see all upcoming programs, please visit: https://www.communityactioninc.org/programs/children/family-community-connection

The Family and Community Connection is a Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) Program. FCC offers programs for families with children birth through school-age and provides access to local resources, early learning activities, community playgroups and more. CFCE programs are funded by the MA Department of Early Education and Care.

Early Head Start Hosts Baby Shower for New and Expecting Moms!

The CAI Early Head Start program recently hosted a baby shower in May for new and expecting moms enrolled in our Pregnant Woman and Home-based Early Head Start programs. Attendees enjoyed socializing with other families, refreshments and also received a gift bag and flowers to take home!

We would like to congratulate these new moms and also thank our Early Head Start staff and the generous donors that contributed in making this day a success, including: Kohl’s in Salem NH, for their donation of stuffed animals and Stacy Proia for donating items for gift bags.

Pictured Above: Fenglu Li (right) with his wife Qingmei Jiang (left), and children Anna and Andrew.
Adult Education

Adult Learning Center Registration in July

The CAI Adult Learning Center will hold waitlist registration sessions for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes and High School Equivalency (HiSET) Preparation classes in July. Registration sessions are held at 3 Washington Sq., 3rd floor in Haverhill. Please arrive on time for registration, late arrivals are not permitted. You will receive more information, a placement test and an interview. Please plan to stay until noon. HSE Preparation Class registration will be held, Tuesday July 17 and ESOL Class registration will be held, Wednesday, July 18. For questions and more information, please contact Alisa Povenmire, Career and Education Advisor, apovenmire@communityactioninc.org or (978) 373-1971 ext 216.

Students Participate in Third Annual Mock Interview Event

On May 3, ESOL English for Work students participated in the CAI Adult Learning Center’s third annual mock interview event. This event is designed to help people verbally articulate their best employment-related skills, abilities, and knowledge in an interview setting.

CAI thanks the following individuals from the local business community for participating as volunteer interviewers this year: Dede Tully, Assistant Vice President and Mortgage Underwriter, Haverhill Bank; Christine Soundara, Initiative Director, Mt. Washington Alliance; Stephanie Pacheco, Supply Chain Staffing Group Manager, Moore Staffing Services; Ancel Tejada, Mortgage Development Officer, Santander Bank and Angel Burgado, Vice President/Community Partnership Manager, Santander Bank. CAI acknowledges the English for Work students for their hard work, preparation, and performance.

Students Earn Certificates for Completing English for Work Program

The CAI Adult Learning Center is happy to announce that seven students earned certificates for successfully completing the evening English for Work ESOL program.

Shown in photo: In front, seated, Teresa Salerno, ESOL Instructor. Standing from left to right: Cynthia Faulkner, Director of Education and Training, Cleidiane Ribero Ventura, Rosanna Gonzalez, Ariisleidy Santos, and Ariela Gomez. Students unable to attend: Sander Mendez, Letycia Molina, and Rosalba Marrero. Not shown in photo: Peter Espiefs, Adult Career Pathways Advisor. Congratulations to the English for Work students for their commitment, motivation, and resilience in completing this English for Work session.

First Time Home Buyer Training Offered

The CAI First Time Homebuyer Education Program will offer first time homebuyer education classes for area residents beginning Tuesday, August 7 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Presidential Gardens Community Room, 140 Evergreen Drive in Bradford. Participants receive:

- Comprehensive information offered by housing professionals including bank lenders, buyer/seller real estate brokers, housing attorneys, insurance agents home inspectors and credit counselors;
- 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 three- night course. The program is also approved by MassHousing.

The dates for the course are Tuesday, August 7; Thursday, August 9 and Tuesday, August 14. The cost is $60 per household. There are no income requirements to take the training. For more information contact Richard Lynch at 978-373-1971 or Susan Collins at 978-317-8998.

To register online, please visit:
https://www.communityactioninc.org/programs/housing/development

~

July/August 2018
Mt. Washington Alliance - Continued from Page 1

Mt. Washington resident and business owner of Muscular Therapy, Carmen Johnson; Mt. Washington Alliance Governance Board Member and resident, Hartell Johnson and State Representative, Andy Vargas. The ideas included: Narcan availability and education in the Mt. Washington area, transformation of a vacant lot on Grove Street into a small park, a summer youth basketball tournament at Swasey Park, a bilingual summer reading program and an emergency alert system for the neighborhood.

The judges awarded the top three winners each with a check for $1500 to move forward over the summer months. CAI thanks Christine Soundara and Abigail Perez, Mt. Washington Alliance project coordinator for bringing the community together and making the Summer Pitch Contest a reality for residents.

The Mt. Washington Alliance brings together local community members to expand opportunity and improve living conditions in the Mt. Washington neighborhood of the city of Haverhill. With a Working Cities Challenge grant from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and strong local support from individuals and organizations, the Alliance works to provide access to services and resources in education, employment, housing, health, and other essential areas. Learn more about the alliance: https://mtwashington-alliance.org

Mt. Washington Alliance - Continued from Page 1

Mt. Washington resident and business owner of Muscular Therapy, Carmen Johnson; Mt. Washington Alliance Governance Board Member and resident, Hartell Johnson and State Representative, Andy Vargas. The ideas included: Narcan availability and education in the Mt. Washington area, transformation of a vacant lot on Grove Street into a small park, a summer youth basketball tournament at Swasey Park, a bilingual summer reading program and an emergency alert system for the neighborhood.

The judges awarded the top three winners each with a check for $1500 to move forward over the summer months. CAI thanks Christine Soundara and Abigail Perez, Mt. Washington Alliance project coordinator for bringing the community together and making the Summer Pitch Contest a reality for residents.

The Mt. Washington Alliance brings together local community members to expand opportunity and improve living conditions in the Mt. Washington neighborhood of the city of Haverhill. With a Working Cities Challenge grant from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and strong local support from individuals and organizations, the Alliance works to provide access to services and resources in education, employment, housing, health, and other essential areas. Learn more about the alliance: https://mtwashington-alliance.org