



## A Message from the Executive Director

Happy New Year! As the year unfolds, JAS is excited for the community development goals that we plan to achieve this year. We are kicking off our Financial Capability Program, funded by a grant from Santander Bank. The first service provided by this program will be free income tax preparation for JAS residents and our YouthBuild students


In December, Katy Gall joined JAS to serve as the Program Coordinator. In addition to tax services, we will be providing coaching and education around credit scores, credit repair and banking.

We are very excited to welcome four new members to the JAS Board of Directors: Barbara Aiken, Gustavo Gallego, Diane Ghartey and Tara Dendy. Please click [here](#) to learn more about them.

I look forward to a prosperous new year where we are able to affect even more families and students in our community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 31, 2017,  
7:30 AM to 3:45 PM,  
BERKSHIRE YORK  
COMMUNITY: JAS will be hosting a community meeting for the residents of the Berkshire - York community to provide updates on the fire. This event is only open to residents of the Berkshire York community.

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## Welcome to New Biomedical Careers Program Class!



JAS is happy to welcome the Biomedical Careers Program's 25th class, which started in January 2017! The new class consists of 18 students who will receive

instruction in biology, chemistry, medical terminology, and computer and laboratory skills from January through September, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, five days a week. We are also excited for this to be the first class with our three new staff members: Karla Talanian (Program Manager, Eileen Dolan (Biology Teacher), and Gillian Tietz (Chemistry Teacher). They join long-time staffer and program graduate, Brenda Comeau (Data and Program Coordinator), bringing together a team with expertise, energy, and passion to serve our students.

## St. Patrick's Place Update

JAS is very proud of the depth of support that our residents affected by the December fire at St. Patrick's place have received. Due to the tremendous amount of help from the community, the City of Cambridge and the dedication of our staff, seventeen of the nineteen displaced families/individuals have new permanent affordable housing (16 of which are in Cambridge, and one in Boston). We are continuing to work with the remaining 3 households. As of today;

- 8 households were relocated to JAS housing
- 7 households were relocated to other affordable housing
- 2 households were relocated to private housing that accepted Section 8 certificates

Thanks to the amazing response of the community, the City of Cambridge has been able to provide each family with financial assistance from the Mayor's Fire Relief Fund.

## New Supporters for JAS

In December of 2016, JAS was thrilled to receive grants from two new funders to support the development of new programming!

Capital One provided a grant of \$15,000 to help JAS YouthBuild to expand its financial education programming, including offering students a matched savings opportunity accompanied by one-on-one financial coaching.



Additionally, JAS was awarded nearly \$60,000 by ECMC Foundation, supporting the development of a new education and workforce training program that will allow individuals to develop occupation-focused IT skills and gain post-secondary credit, thus increasing opportunities for careers with growth potential. During 2017, JAS will undertake an extensive planning process to ensure this new program's success

