A Message from the Executive Director

While we are all enjoying the warm summer weather, I'd like to share exciting news about the success of our 2017 Biomedical Careers Program students. Pnamesia Khadka and Sema Marilena Telfaia both have already received job offers and are employed in September! Both students immigrated to the U.S. from Ethiopia when they were children. Pnamesia graduated from Somerville High School in 1999 and held several summer jobs. For the past 14 years, she has been a student aid at the Greyhound Bus Station in Boston. Marilena started the Biomedical Careers Program in January 2017 and just got offered a full-time job at Indigo which will transition to a full-time job in September after 6 months of employment at the program. Pnamesia is also recently starting in the Biomedical Careers Program this year.

JAS Celebrates 25 years of the Biomedical Careers Program

On June 22nd, Just-A-Start was excited to welcome alumni, current students, parents, and friends of the Biomedical Careers Program to celebrate the milestone of its 25th anniversary. Since 1992, the innovative workforce development program has been providing local residents the knowledge and skills they need to enter the biotech, healthcare, and medical research industries. As illustrated by the photos above, everyone had a fantastic time catching up and reflecting on the program's impact on their lives and the community. Thank you to those of you who joined us to celebrate, and to everyone who has played a role in making the Biomedical Careers Program's long-term success possible! All of us at Just-A-Start look forward to continuing to provide this vital program for the next 25 years, and beyond!

JAS Board member wins Greater Boston Association of Realtors Good Neighbor Award

Lisa Draghni, a member of Just-A-Start’s volunteer Board of Directors was awarded Good Neighbor by the Greater Boston Association of Realtors. The Good Neighbor Award recognizes real estate professionals who have made an extraordinary commitment to improving their communities through volunteer work. Lisa has been a champion of Just-A-Start as an asset to Cambridge and nowhere communities. Lisa’s volunteer contributions include helping raise awareness and visibility for JAS as well as philanthropic donations in support of the organization. The Good Neighbor award included a $2,500 grant for JAS. We are honored to have Lisa on the Board.

JAS Introduces Credit Counseling Workshop

In June, JAS and its Financial Capability program offered a workshop for residents to learn how to access and understand their credit reports. Twenty-six residents attended the workshop and had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with staff. For some, it was the first time they had looked at their credit reports. Common concerns included outstanding student loans, dealing with debt collectors, and building credit for young adults. Moving forward, the Financial Capability Program will continue to develop partnerships to offer solutions to residents facing these issues.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Family Fun Day, Linwood Court, Sat, 8/12, 1-4:00 PM

JAS YouthBuild Graduation, Cambridge Public Library, 448 Broadway, Thurs, 8/31, 5-7:00 PM

JAS YouthBuild Graduation Program, The Gateway, 506 Kendall Street, Thurs, 9/7, 1-4:00 PM

Biomedical Careers Program Graduation, 402 Ridge St, Thurs, 9/7, 11:00 AM

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