



### 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 two of our 2017 Biomedical Careers Program students: Prameela Khadkha and Mekdem Tesfaye. Both have already received job offers for full-time employment in September! Mekdem immigrated with her family to the U.S. from Ethiopia when she was a child. She graduated from Somerville High School in 1997 and held several short term jobs. For the past 14 years, she has been a ticket agent at the Greyhound Bus Station in Boston. Mekdem started the Biomedical Careers Program in January 2017 and just got offered a part-time job at Indigo which will transition to a full-time job in September after she graduates from the program. Prameela Khadkha also recently started in the Biomedical Careers Program's class of 2017. She immigrated to the U.S. from Nepal in 2010 and has been working as a server and bartender for a catering company. Prameela also just received a job placement! She will also be working part-time for Indigo Agriculture until she graduates in September when she will be hired full-time. We are so thrilled for these two students; stories like these show the important impact of the Biomedical Careers Program.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**402 Rindge BBQ, Thurs,**  
8/24, 4-7:00 PM

**JAS YouthBuild Graduation, Cambridge Public Library, 449 Broadway, Thurs, 8/31, 5-7:00 PM**

**Biomedical Careers Program Graduation, The Genzyme Center, 500 Kendall Street, Thurs, 9/7, 3-5:00 PM**

**402 Rindge Ribbon Cutting, Wed, 9/13, 11:00 AM**

**DONATE NOW!**

### JAS Celebrates 25 years of the Biomedical Careers Program



On June 22nd, Just-A-Start was excited to welcome alumni, current students, partners, and friends of the Biomedical Careers Program to celebrate the milestone of its 25th anniversary. Since 1992, this 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 Programs 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 Drapkin, 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 nearby 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 Counselling Workshop

In June, Just-A-Start's 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 collections, and building credit for young adults. Going forward, the Financial Capability Program will continue to develop partnerships to offer solutions to residents facing these issues.



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