

What's New With Community Engagement Team (CET) Outreach Work?

Fall 2017 Issue 7



Congratulations to Tagesech Wabeto

in her new job as the Immigrant Services Liaison for the Commission on Immigrant Rights & Citizenship (CIRC)!

Tagesech worked as a CET outreach worker for ten years. In July, she moved to her new position with CIRC.

CIRC focuses on the legal rights of immigrants living in Cambridge. In addition to helping immigrants find legal help, Tagesech also provides referrals to local services and resources.

We at CET wish Tagesech the best of luck in her new position.

For more information about CIRC or to request help from Tagesech, please contact with her at:

Tagesech Wabeto
51 Inman Street (2nd floor)
Cambridge MA 02139
617 349-9718 or through email at twabeto@cambridgema.gov.

The Community Engagement Team is a multi-agency collaborative that reaches out to underserved Cambridge families and connects them to community events and resources, develops community leaders, and supports agencies in working with a diverse community .

CET PARENT STORY

What I learned from a Community Engagement Team Outreach Worker



I came from Ethiopia five years ago. I knew no one in this country except my husband. I am really thankful for the Community Engagement Team, because I am one of the beneficiaries who is provided information about how to adjust to life in America when I was new and had no friends to ask, and did not know what to do or where to go. I am grateful about the services I am offered for free. I want to mention some of the services CET introduced to me, that I used effectively and changed my life.

My family is now:

- Going to school events, checking my children's backpack and communicating with the teachers, the school staff, and other parents
- Attending English class at the Community Learning Center

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Meet the NEW Community Engagement Team (CET) Outreach Workers



My name is **Thurya Beek**. I am an outreach worker for Arabic speaking community members. I moved from Sudan to the United States to look for a better life. I have been living in Cambridge since 2008. I have four children. My oldest son is in my country.

When I first came here I had little knowledge of the English language. I have been studying English at the Community Learning Center. I also took the Certified Nursing Assistant training and child development classes. I received certificates for both programs. I have worked as a student ambassador as well. Now I feel very happy and satisfied, because I am able to reflect on what I learned to help others and to give back.



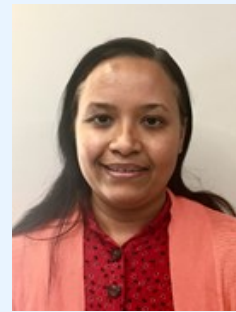
My name is **Min Shi**. I am an outreach worker for Chinese families. I was born and raised in Shanghai, China and since my early 30s have lived in Cambridge. After coming to the United States, I got my associate's degree in accounting from Bunker Hill

Community College. My husband and I had a small business for more than ten years and previous to that, I worked at State Street Corporate as a Portfolio Administrator for three years. In 2015, I started to work with the City of Cambridge Parking, Traffic and Transportation Department as a cashier aide before I took on this role with the Community Engagement Team. I have one daughter who recently graduated from college. I love my community. I am very excited to do this job where I can help people meet their needs and be their representative voice in the city.



My name is **Danie Pelissier**. I am an outreach worker for the Haitian community. I am from Haiti and I have two sons respectively in college and elementary school. I have two bachelor's degrees: one in communication and the other one in law. In my native

country, I worked as a program assistant in the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for eight years. I am currently studying English at the Community Learning Center. As a new outreach worker, I have committed myself to helping Haitian families in need to get necessary benefits.



My name is **Kaniz Fouzia**. I am an outreach worker for Bangladeshi families. I grew up in Bangladesh and came to the U.S. in the summer of 2008. Since moving to the U.S., I have lived in Cambridge. I am very proud to be a resident of this

wonderful city. I completed my Master of Science (M.Sc) degree in Geography from the National University of Bangladesh. Before moving to the U.S., I worked for two years in an administrative capacity and one year as an assistant teacher at Chittagong Grammar School in Bangladesh. I have been working part-time with MIT graduate housing since 2009. I volunteered one year with the Head Start program in Somerville. My family had an opportunity to attend the Baby University program – one of the many great programs that the city offers. I am blessed with a son and a daughter both attend Cambridge Public schools.

The College Success Initiative

The College Success Initiative (CSI) is a collaboration led by the City of Cambridge's Office of College Success, focused on increasing the college completion rate of graduates from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS), Just-A-Start YouthBuild (Cambridge/Chelsea), and the Community Learning Center Bridge to College Program. The initiative is comprised of City, non-profit and higher education partners.

The Goals of CSI are:

1. Coordination of Services among City of Cambridge, CRLS, Non-profit and Higher Education Partners
2. Promotion of College Readiness for Low-income Students
3. College Access and College-focused Financial Education for Low-income Students and Families
4. Post-secondary Supports for Low-income Students

For more information about CSI contact:

Emily Singer, Coordinator

College Success Initiative

City of Cambridge Office of College Success

51 Inman Street, 3rd floor, Cambridge, MA 02139

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PARENT STORY continued

- Using public libraries
- Attending different activities for children like Family Fun day, Danehy Park day, swimming, summer reading, and other fun filled events for children
- Attending summer school and afterschool programs
- Attending soccer night program, Free Fun Fridays, and other summer activities for kids
- Attending parenting workshops and learning how to parent in America

Going to my kids' school, communicating with the teachers and attending school events were completely new experiences, which I learned through CET outreach worker's guidance and advocacy. Now I know my children's teachers very well and I ask them about their academic progress at school. I attend school events, parent/teachers conference, and meet other parents.

I am taking English classes at the Community Learning Center, so that now I can speak English with American parents, they give me information and I am happy about the connection I have with the school as well as comfortable with the communication with other American and immigrant parents. Through my English class, I also learn about health, my rights in America, jobs, and get other useful information.

Through parenting workshops, I have learned how to read books and talk to my children, how fast their brain grows at early ages and how I can help their brain development, the advantages and disadvantages of TV for my kids, the importance of being bilingual, and the benefits of storytelling to children.

My friends who have young children have also been helped by CET outreach workers. They helped them find people who do home visits and teach their young kids, they find preschools for their kids so they are able to go out and work. They learn about baby massage, self-care, they go to museums, on field trips and the CET people help them with whatever problem they have, by giving them information.

Again, I would like to thank this wonderful agency because I would not be able to use these resources, learn about all these things and change my life if I did not meet the CET outreach worker.

You Are Invited to Workshops for Parents

The Community Engagement Team (CET) Outreach Workers facilitate community-based parenting workshops in **Amharic, Arabic, Bangla, Chinese, English, Haitian Creole, and Spanish**. The outreach workers would like to invite all parents, grandparents and guardians of young children, living in Cambridge to these workshops. Each workshop is one and a half hours long.

If you are interested in attending any of the workshops below, please contact the outreach worker listed or contact : **Carrine Bury at: 857-235-9262 or cbury@cambridgema.gov**.

Month	Outreach	Workshop Topics	Language
December	Maria Chavez	Screen Time	Spanish
	Rabeya Akther	Story Telling I	Bangla
	Seble Kidane	Children's Brain Development	Amharic
	Danie Pelissier	Screen Time	Creole
Month	Outreach	Workshop	Language
January	Thurya Beek	Let's Talk It Makes a Difference	Arabic
	Seble Kidane	Let's Talk It Makes a Difference	Amharic
	Min Stephanie Shi	Let's Talk It Makes a Difference	Chinese
	Nicole Neehan	Let's Talk It Makes a Difference	English
	Danie Pelissier	Let's Talk It Makes a Difference	Creole
Month	Outreach	Workshop	Language
February	Nicole Meehan	Screen Time	English
	Rabeya Akther	Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice	
	Thurya Beek	Reading Party	Arabic
	Min Stephanie Shi	Reading Party	Chinese
Month	Outreach	Workshop	Language
March	Carrine Bury	Reading Party	Creole
	Seble Kidane	Reading Party	Amharic
	Maria Chavez	Story Telling I	Spanish
	Rabeya Akther	Screen Time	Bangla
	Thurya Beek	Reading Party	Arabic
	Danie Pelissier	Reading Party	Creole
Month	Outreach	Workshop	Language
April	Maria Chavez	Story Telling II	Spanish
	Carrine Bury	Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice	Creole
Month	Outreach	Workshop	Language
May	Seble Kidane	Screen Time	Amharic
	Nicole Meehan	Making the Healthy Choice the Easy Choice	English

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