

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

Fall 2016, Issue 5



Dear Reader,

We hope that you had a fantastic summer with family and friends. As the school year starts, the Community Engagement Team Outreach Worker team wishes each of you a happy academic year.

There are many resources and opportunities in Cambridge. The CET Outreach Workers are from many different Communities in Cambridge. We are here to provide the support that you need to benefit from all that is available for you in the city.

In this newsletter, you will find helpful information about outreach worker activities and also valuable information on the importance of afterschool activities for children and youth.

CET PARENT STORY

What I learned from a Community Engagement Team Outreach Worker



My name is Denise Haynes. I was born, raised and still reside in Cambridge. My mother and father were very astute when they decided to live and raise their family of four girls in Cambridge. What I learned from the wonderful, Community Engagement Team (CET) Outreach Worker, Nicole Meehan, came as a result of her invitation to participate in a focus group.

The discussion was to understand more about the needs of African Americans living in Cambridge, and how the City addresses those needs. It was lively and informative discussion, where many of us walked away with the understanding that there is a “gap” in communication of what services are available to our families. I was glad to be able to participate in that focus group and have since been involve in other meetings. And I have encouraged other fellow Cantabrigians to participate in “community” meetings. I didn't know about the CET program prior to speaking with the Outreach Worker, Nicole and think it is a great way to make sure that people know what services are available, whether they are long-time, or new residents to the City of Cambridge.

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Marc Aubourg, *Envision Cambridge Outreach Intern* for the Haitian Community in Cambridge

I am Marc Daniel Aubourg, and I am an Envision Cambridge Outreach Intern. I reach out to the Haitian community in Cambridge to get their ideas about the future of Cambridge. I have been working in that position for six months. It is an interesting job that is getting me socially active.

I learned about this job at the Community Learning Center (CLC) where I am taking advanced English classes. The teacher informed the class about six intern positions for these communities: Haitian, Ethiopian, Bangladeshi, Chinese, and Arabic and Spanish speaking.

Envision Cambridge is an action plan aimed at developing the city of Cambridge on some issues in specific areas identified by community members. It's a long-term project that will last over three years.

In the first year, *Envision Cambridge* will gather information

from community members through surveys, community meetings, and focus groups. The second year, *Envision Cambridge* will list the priorities and think about recommendations. In the last year, *Envision Cambridge* will make a plan to work on the priorities with some useful strategies.

Envision Cambridge is a very exciting project based on socio-economic development and innovation in Cambridge. My first task as an intern was to survey Haitians who live or work in Cambridge. It was very challenging to have community members fill out the survey because of their work schedules and other activities they might have. I say challenge just because some of them are not people I know. It could be tough to meet them. Fortunately, we received some excellent training sessions which helped us to understand the community members. We were also matched up with a mentor who is an experienced Community Engagement Team Outreach Worker. The survey is one of the most valuable tools community members can use to express their feelings, desires, needs, and priorities. The Community Development Department will use information from surveys to create a shared vision for the future of the city. Please help the interns from your community to find out what is important to you by filling out the surveys, and participate in *Envision Cambridge* community events.

Thank you for taking the time to read about my ideas and experiences in the city-wide plan.

For more information about *Envision Cambridge* go to: www.cambridgema.gov/citywideplan



CDD Outreach Intern Team from L to R: Ibrahim Mohamed, Shelpi Devi, Yitsy Ooi, Zuriashwork Mega, Marc Daniel Aubourg.

Technical Assistance

The Community Engagement Team Outreach Workers provide technical assistance to organizations and programs in Cambridge to help them better serve the community. We provide technical assistance through workshops and also through consulting with providers to help improve their outreach strategies. Last winter and spring, we did workshops for staff of Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee (CEOC), the Cambridge Employment Program (CEP) and Cambridge Works, the Center for Families (CFF), and the Men’s Health League. Outreach Workers also met with Tittle IX Girls Running Club staff, Big Brother and Sister Organization and the Cambridge Police Department (CPD) to help these groups with strategies to reach diverse families. In addition, we planned a forum on special education with Cambridge Public Schools and with the Multi– Service Center, a housing search workshop for foreign language speakers.

To request technical assistance contact Carole Sousa at: csousa@cambridgema.gov or 617-349-6268.

Five Reasons to Enroll Children and Youth in Afterschool Programs:

- Afterschool activities reinforce and extend the learning that your child is doing in school – and many have homework help options so that he/she can get into good habits of doing homework before they get home.
- Structure social time with peers and friends is good for social skills and developing new talents (things they wouldn’t learn in school!). It is better for their overall growth than spending time unsupervised or sitting at home.
- All children benefit from making positive relationships with caring adults and youth workers in the community who run, teach and work in afterschool programs.
- Many programs are free or offer financial aid to make them affordable. Cambridge Public School (CPS) offer buses that can help students get transportation to and/from home and programs. Start looking into programs soon so you can figure out the best situation before things fill up!
- Trying new things is a habit and skill—teaching your child to take advantage of opportunities to expand their learning and horizons is an important lesson!

You can find additional information about different afterschool and out-of-school time (OST) options at this website:

<http://www.cpsd.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3042869&pageId=5575059>

Middle School Network puts out a Fall Guide of opportunities for middle school students that is posted on the Agenda for Children website:

<http://www.agendaforchildrenost.org/middle-school-network.html>

Find it Cambridge

Find it Cambridge is a new online resource that empowers families, youth and those who support them to easily find the activities, services, and resources they are

looking for in Cambridge. Today, parents looking for afterschool, summer or other enrichment programs find themselves searching multiple sources to find information,. Find It Cambridge will serve as a one-stop-shop website for those who live and work in Cambridge. To get started, visit www.finditcambridge.org.



JOB OPENINGS

Part Time Outreach Workers

CET has immediate openings for outreach workers to engage underserved Haitian, Chinese and Spanish-speaking families (3 positions).

Hours: 12-14 hours per week, with a flexible work schedule, must be able to attend a weekly Thursday morning meeting.

Qualifications: Must be a Cambridge resident and parent. Must speak language of underserved families.

Rate: \$15.04 per hour

Please send 2 copies of your cover letter and resume to:

Personnel Dept., Room 309, City Hall,
795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139

Fax: (617) 349-4312. Email: employment@cambridgema.gov Review of resumes October 2016.
Positions open until filled.

FREE CLASSES FOR ADULTS at the Cambridge Community Learning Center

- Learn English
- Become a U.S. citizen
- Earn a High School diploma
- Prepare for College
- Prepare for healthcare training program

Call: (617) 349-6363

**Visit: 5 Western Avenue, Cambridge,
MA 02139**

Website:

www.cambridgema.gov/DHSP/clc



MORNING AND EVENING CLASSES

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.