



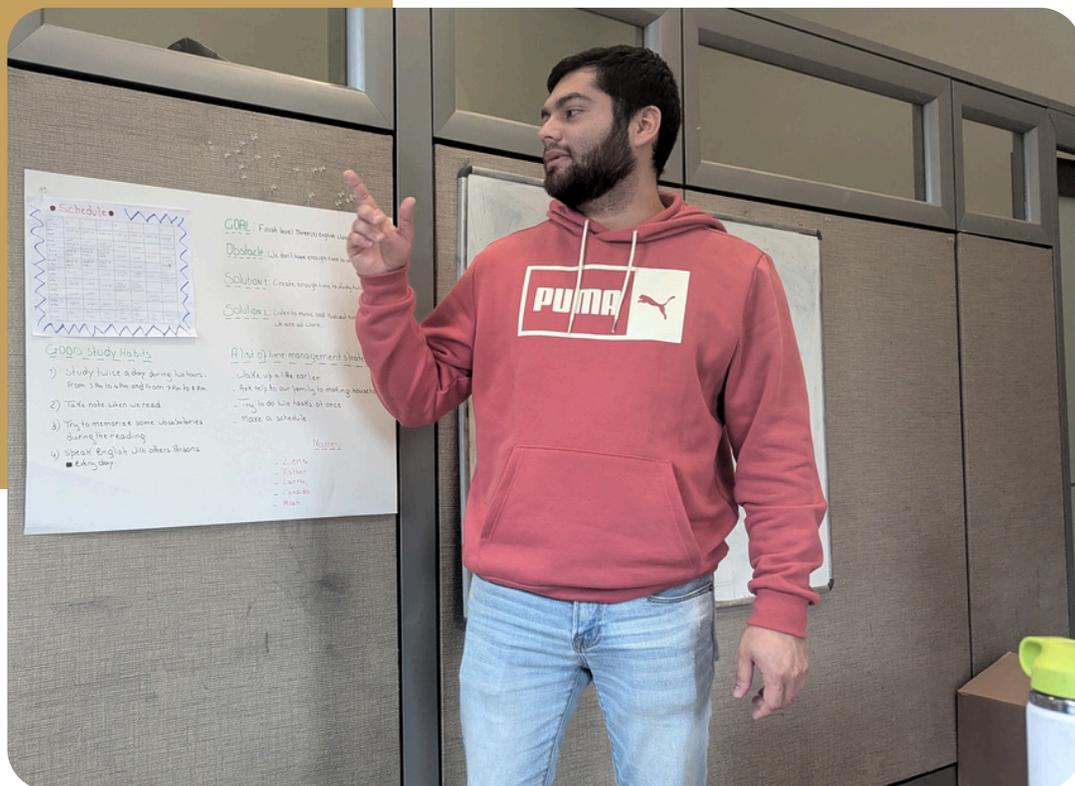
**JAMAICA PLAIN  
COMMUNITY CENTERS  
ADULT LEARNING  
PROGRAM**

# FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

[WWW.JPADULTED.ORG](http://WWW.JPADULTED.ORG)



October 18th, 2024



## GETTING READY FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

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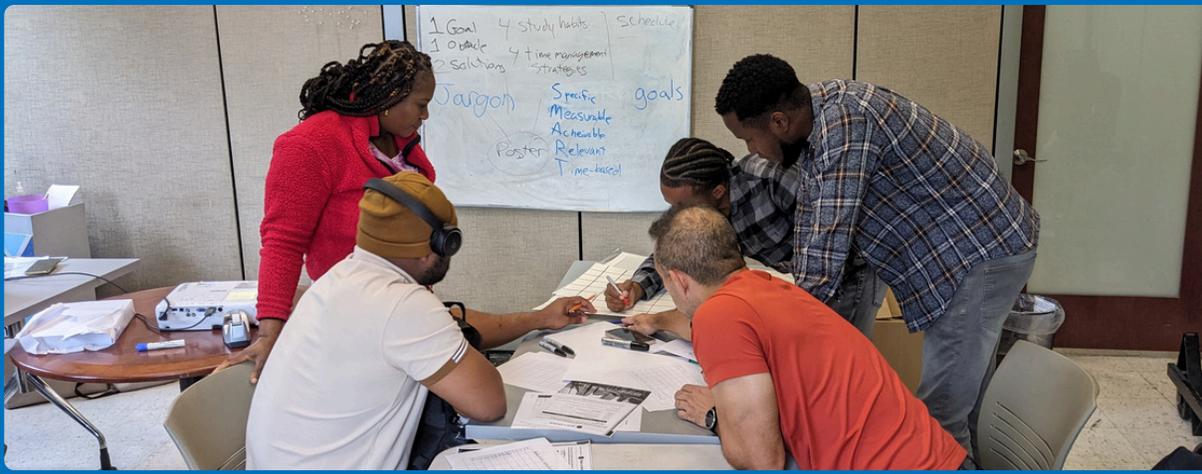
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## WELCOME BACK ALP!

To our wonderful students: Whether you are continuing your journey or joining us for the first time, we are excited to say, welcome! As adult learners, we understand that balancing work, family, and education is no easy task. Your commitment to improving your language skills is inspiring, and we are ready to help you reach your goals.

ESOL students, this term focuses on building English skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. You will gain the confidence to communicate effectively in everyday situations and open up more opportunities in your personal and professional life.

HiSET students, as you take a major step toward earning your high school equivalency diploma, remember that it can unlock doors to further education, career advancement, and new possibilities. Our curriculum is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to succeed on the HiSET exam.

CNA students, this training will provide a pathway to stable employment, personal growth, and better integration into society. CNA training includes language support, which helps ESOL students improve their English skills while learning healthcare-specific terminology.

Here is what all students can expect this year:

- **Dedicated Instructors:** Our teaching staff is here to guide you through your learning experience, answer any questions, and provide the support you need.
- **Flexible Schedules:** We offer various class times, including online and in-person sessions, to accommodate your busy lives.
- **Support Services:** Need extra help? We have tutoring, counseling, and resources available to ensure you are successful both in and out of the classroom.
- **A Welcoming Community:** You are joining a group of diverse learners, all of whom share the goal of self-improvement. We encourage you to engage with peers, ask questions, and take advantage of the support around you.

As we begin this new chapter, remember that progress takes time, and every step you take brings you closer to achieving your goals. Do not hesitate to reach out to your instructors or staff for help. You are not alone on this journey. We are so proud of the effort you have made to be here, and we cannot wait to see what you will accomplish this year.

Welcome back, and cheers to a successful year!

Best,

Dr. Joyce E. Henderson

# National Adult Literacy and Family Education Week

National Adult Family and Literacy Week shines a spotlight on the importance of literacy in fostering both individual growth and family success. JPCCALP dedicated this week to highlighting resources available to adults, families, and communities to improve their literacy skills, with the goal of enhancing career opportunities, family dynamics, and overall quality of life.

To begin the week, JPCCALP invited Fabian Lira, an ESOL Career Coach, to speak to students and share his personal journey. As a former ESOL student at JPCCALP, Lira detailed how learning English through our program played a significant role in his career development. The skills and support he received throughout helped him secure his current position at English for New Bostonians, where he now helps others in similar situations improve their English proficiency and navigate the job market. Lira emphasized the profound impact that literacy had on his own life, showing that learning English not only opened up new career opportunities for him but also allowed him to be a more active participant in his community.

Shane Gellerman, a librarian from the Boston Public Library, also spoke later in the week. Gellerman shared resources available to learners, particularly the ESOL programs and family literacy initiatives, and stressed that literacy efforts must encompass the entire family. He shared the resources--such as free or discounted museum passes, conversation groups, and free computer access--that the library provides and explained how family literacy includes children as well, because when adults become more literate, they are better equipped to support their children's education.

The library encourages family reading time, parent-child literacy activities, and programs that focus on multi-generational learning. By addressing literacy at both the adult and family levels, these speakers highlighted how building skills in one area can have a ripple effect across generations, improving the lives of both parents and children. The combination of community support and literacy education creates a powerful pathway to success for families as a whole.



# Teacher Spotlight: Meghan McBain

Meghan McBain is a dedicated ESOL teacher at JPCCALP, where she has been an integral part of the program for several years. Known for her commitment to education and her students, Meghan teaches virtually, allowing her to connect with learners from around the globe.

Meghan's unique teaching setup reflects her adventurous lifestyle, as she splits her time between Georgia and Chile throughout the year. Despite never meeting her students or colleagues in person, Meghan has established strong relationships with the JPCCALP community through her engaging and supportive teaching approach.



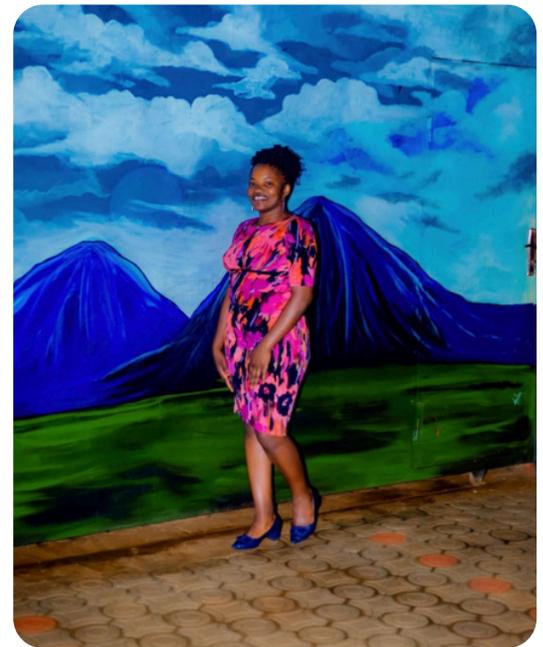
This past summer, Meghan made a special trip to Boston to meet with the ALP staff and students in person for the first time. Her visit was a testament to the connections she has built virtually and her dedication to the success of her students.

Her ability to teach across borders and cultures has made her a vital part of the JPCCALP, and she continues to inspire students and fellow educators with her passion and innovative teaching methods.

## Student Spotlight: Chance

Chance was a Certified Nursing Assistant student in one of ALP's first CNA cohorts. Since completing her training, she has passed her clinical rotation, Nurse Aide Certification, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Nursing Assistant Certification. "I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for the time and effort you invested in ensuring the success of the first CNA-cohort," she said in an email to JPCCALP Staff. "Your dedication has been invaluable, and I deeply appreciate it."

Congratulations, Chance! Because of your hard work, your commitment to furthering your learning, and your determination, we are proud to recognize your achievements and know that you will find success in your future endeavors.



# THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS...

Dear Volunteers,

Welcome back to all returning volunteers, and a warm welcome to those joining us for the first time! On behalf of the Jamaica Plain Community Centers Adult Learning Program, we are excited to have you as part of our team.

To our returning volunteers: Your commitment and the time you've already devoted as in-class assistants, tutors, and conversation group facilitators have truly advanced our mission and left a lasting impact.

For those joining us for the first time: We are thrilled to work alongside you as you begin your journey with us and look forward to the contributions you will make.

A special thank you goes out to Allies for Immigrants for their continued support in providing us with dedicated volunteers. Together, we look forward to an incredible year ahead.

With sincere appreciation,

Mark E. Henderson

Volunteer Coordinator / Project Manager

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with ALP please contact Mark by emailing him at [mark@jpadulted.org](mailto:mark@jpadulted.org)

## ... AND TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**The Jamaica Plain Community Centers**

**Board of Directors**

**Curtis Hall Community Center**

**First Literacy Lab**

**Department of Elementary and  
Secondary Education**

**Mayor's Office of Workforce  
Development**

**MassSTEP**

**City of Boston New Jobs Trust**

**English for New Bostonians**

**Allies for Immigrants**

**VolunteerMatch**

**Jewish Vocational Services**

**BaneCare**

**AllHeart**

**Hernandez K-8 School**

**Curley K-8 School**

**Hurley K-8 School**

**Margarita Muniz Academy**

**Rogerson House Memory Care**

**Assisted Living & Day Facility**

**Enos Home Medical Supply**

**Codman Square Neighborhood**

**Development Council**

**Hebrew Senior Life/Harvard Medical  
School Affiliate**

**Printify**

**Action for Boston Community  
Development**

**Asian American Civic Association**

You make all of our programming possible and help change our students' lives for the better. We are proud and grateful to be a part of your community. Thank you. We look forward to working with you again this year!



**English for New Bostonians**

BOSTON, MA



**City of Boston  
Mayor Michelle Wu**



**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION**