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A Bridge of Hope



December 2023
Newsletter

The Holiday Season is for CELEBRATING
WHEN OUR STUDENTS WIN - WE ALL WIN.





OUR TOP 50/50 RAFFLE TICKET SELLERS!



Victor Martinez



Julian Sosa



Rosio Nunez





And the Winner is.....!!!!

**Congratulations to Valdineia Januszewski- the winner of
NDEC's 1st ever 50-50 Raffle!**

Our community raised a total of \$4,200 (that is 840 tickets sold!). Valdineia won \$2,100! Valdineia is a student in NDEC's ESOL program and came to the US from Brazil in 2016 looking for a new life and new opportunity. She opened her own cleaning business, Crystal Cleaning, and eventually, she met the man who would become her husband. Her goal is to continue to improve her English and go to nursing school. Valdineia intends to put her winnings towards citizenship application costs! We think the pictures above show the joy she exudes! Congratulations, "Neia"!!!!

**A REFLECTION and GRATITUDE
by Amy Hitchmoth,
Development/Social Media Manager, NDEC**

The winning ticket was drawn by the top seller and fellow student, Victor Martinez. Neia and Victor represent our students in so many ways. This was an INCREDIBLY SPECIAL event that brought all of us - students and staff - CLOSER as a team. We saw the Center come together over the last few weeks to raise over four thousand dollars for our Holiday Raffle. Our students showed up for us. They gave from their

hearts - and I would argue they gave from their souls. Each day we build our **BRIDGE OF HOPE** stronger - **TOGETHER**. I am grateful to be part of it. Let this be a reminder, and a beacon we have so much more light to shine. We have so much more we can do! We have a **COMMUNITY** that stands together - who faces each other and says: "What do you need? I am here to help."

It is not always easy to talk about money or 'fundraise', so it is with deep **GRATITUDE** I thank everyone who bought, sold tickets, shared the word, and supported us. **YOU INVESTED IN HOPE**. Here's to the upcoming 2024 year and to Notre Dame Education Center! Here's to **US**! Here's to our Staff! Here's to our Teachers! Here's to our Board of Directors! Here's to **OUR STUDENTS**. Here's to all of the people who believe in us, in what we do, and know that when faced with any challenge. We will all put our **HEARTS** and **MINDS** together and we will get the job done.

"Let us help each other with all our hearts and with all our prayers."
- Saint Julie Billiart

ESOL Nursing Assistant Program Graduation



FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER. MY JOURNEY: FROM KENYA - NDEC!

by Diana Onacha, ESOL Instructor, NAP Program

As an immigrant from Kenya and being very new to the American culture and workforce, it has been a challenging journey. But we all have to start somewhere despite having prior education from our native countries. So for me, I decided to embark on a journey into healthcare. Along the way I found myself having to care for family members. That's how I landed at NDEC-L pursuing the CNA course.

Three months down the lane, I finally graduated and as an alumni of NAP- NDEC Lawrence, my thoughts were to finish my Nursing assistant program and join the CNA's at the hospital, which I did.

Little did I know where I would be few months later!

An opportunity arose and I was contacted for an interview for the ESOL- ENAP instructor! I did not hesitate as I remembered while I was a student there we always wished to end up being as happy as the employees at NDEC seemed to be! I did the onboarding, and there I was - going for my first class! I will never forget how nervous I was, but the support I have gotten from my supervisor is immeasurable! I was given a soft landing and the anxiety I had disappeared. I was now the one pushing to conduct the classes myself. However, I never imagined myself teaching, but here I am preparing for lessons and enjoying it!

I have learned so much, and the greatest feeling is that of seeing my first class of students graduating!

Through the NDEC-L alumni- staff program, I am making a difference in my life and knowing that while I was planning my career path in Kenya, it did not go to waste. I'm using my skills and knowledge in my new position.

To the ENAP class, what I have gained from you is much more than what I could ever ask for. Having once been sitting on the same seat as you, I would like to wish you a very bright road ahead. Students: You now have a new beginning, just as you have given me.

Vanessa Acluche Ulysee



Hi, my name is Vanessa Acluche. I was born in Haiti, I came to the USA in 2019. Before I came and returned back to my country. I finished high school in 2008 in my country, after that I studied little things. Me personally I learn more during this CNA course, because become CNA isn't in my plan, it's was my husband idea. He tells me go Vanessa you can do it, sometimes I fall to abandoned and left everything he pushed me to realized it. It's was very difficult for me to adapt and understand sometimes but I did it again.

Anything does not surprise me because, I know it's really when you want or need to learn or become or realize your dreams, you are supposed to be tight and persevere in your goals.

Yes I would like to recommend this CNA to others already, because NDEC is my first experience in my career but it's the best school to become CNA, and I assure you that. They make the difference. Thanks NDEC



CLICK ABOVE TO READ ABOUT OUR ENAP 3 STUDENTS IN THEIR OWN WRITING!

Sisters of Notre Dame Receive the Cheverus Award



Sister Mary Farren (Former President of the Corporation), Sister Dianne Shaw (NAP Program Recruitment), and Sister Barbara Gutierrez (Former NAP Coordinator) (pictured left to right in the above photo) have all lent their considerable talents and heart to NDEC!

FROM THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME de NAMUR EAST-WEST PROVINCE FACEBOOK POST:

"Last Sunday, at a ceremony at the Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston, four of our Sisters were recognized with the Cheverus Award by the Archdiocese of Boston, recognizing their service to the Church and God's people."

CONGRATULATIONS SISTERS on these well-deserved awards in recognition of your lifetimes of service. We as a Center have benefited - and continue to benefit - from your passion, dedication, and commitment to EDUCATING under-served populations here in Massachusetts. We are grateful to be the recipients of your expertise, compassion, and service.

WAYS TO GIVE



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**We have a "wish list" on
Amazon if you'd like to
purchase materials for
our center**

Director's Note

Dear Friend,

As we launched our first 50/50 Raffle at NDEC, I reflected on how much the concept of chance and opportunity arise in our work. All of our students have taken a tremendous chance in coming to the United States, leaving their home countries and starting fresh in a place where they know few people, and do not know the culture or the language. The chance they take is thrilling, stressful, and often, lonely. It is a such big chance to take, to leave so much and travel so far, with no guarantees.

So each student success is a cause for celebration! It was my pleasure to congratulate our newest nursing assistant program graduates this month and to recognize all of our ESOL students who persist in their language learning. And it was incredibly exciting to be able to give the prize of the 50/50 raffle to a student who has worked so hard to make her American Dream. When our students win, we all win!

Thank you for the gift of your support of our community. We wish for you the happiest of holidays, full of love. And we look to 2024, with hope.



Hugs and pride of accomplishment are a big part of graduation!

Most sincerely,
Alisa Povenmire
Executive Director

OUR PROGRAMS

ENGLISH CLASSES (ESOL)
Building Bridges of Hope for Adult Learners

We have classes online and in person.

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Our upcoming INFO SESSIONS:
November 13th, 20th and 27th
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Training includes:

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Notre Dame Education Center - Lawrence
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Lawrence, MA 01843

NEXT SESSION:
JANUARY 8, 2024

www.ndeclawrence.net

NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING
WE HOST SEVERAL INFO SESSIONS PER MONTH!

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10 WEEKS with Sister Catherine

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★
IN PERSON CLASSES with Amy Hitchmoth

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