



ROOTED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD...

"Casserly" - The House at 42 Stellman Road
a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2017

Mission

Our mission is to provide learning experiences and caring support services to the multicultural and underserved people of the Roslindale community, allowing them to nurture their individual gifts and potential.

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Newsletter*

Immigration Challenges Continue.....

by Mary Beth O'Sullivan

Daily we read and hear about immigration and the news is often confusing and contradictory. At Casserly House we walk with immigrants and are committed to continuing this journey by assisting students in learning English and becoming citizens. Our responsibilities evolve to meet the challenges of our students. In light of our current political climate, our motivation to remain a safe and welcoming place for immigrants of all cultures is more apparent than ever. We do what we can to make the environment at Casserly House low stress for our students and not to bring the current anxieties into the classroom. There is a need for a safe environment where people can sort out facts from fiction, and we have recently addressed this need with our own students.



On Wednesday March 8th students and staff members of Casserly House attended the two hour workshop, "Know Your Rights," sponsored by the Roslindale Adult Literacy Community Planning Group at the Roslindale branch of the Boston Public Library. Representatives from the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project (PAIR) presented the information in three languages: English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. The presenters clearly explained the rights of immigrants under the United States Constitution. Lawyers were available after the presentation for individual questions. Everyone, lawyers, advocates and immigrants alike, is struggling to keep current on the changing immigration policies and enforcement.

A Time for Everything

by Sister Nancy Braceland, CSJ

Casserly House began in 2000 with so many dreams for the neighborhood - dreams for the immigrants, dreams for the children, dreams for a safer neighborhood. These years have been so fruitful, thanks to the partnering with neighbors, with the police and the city. Now it is time for us, the community at 42 Stellman, to celebrate these positive changes in our daily lives. Everyone who has walked through the doors of Casserly House has been gift to all of us who live and work here at number 42. Now is the time for me to say thank you for the gift that you are to me and to entrust this sacred ministry to someone else. Even as I leave the first floor, know you will continue to be well received and cared for with the same warm welcome.

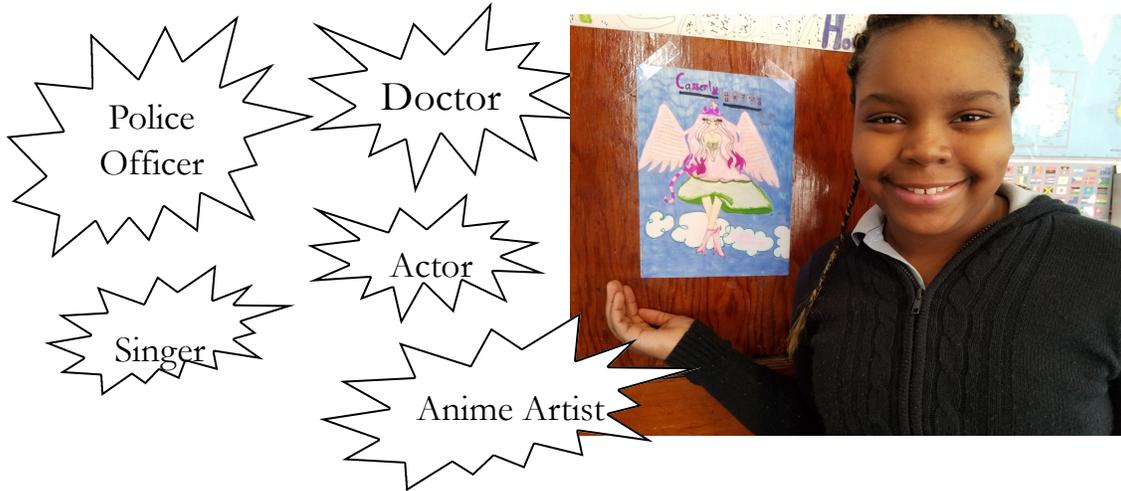


Sister Nancy with after-school children

Kids' Corner

One of the greatest things about childhood is being able to dream without limits. At Casserly House the after-school children are continually encouraged to be inspired and think about their promising futures. When asked the question, "What do you dream of being when you grow up?" the answers we received were a broad spectrum of vibrant visions and hopes for lives and careers of fulfillment.

When I grow up I want to be a...



Dear Neighbors

by Paul Swett, board member/teacher

On Friday, January 27, the adult students and volunteers at Casserly House were taken on a most interesting and educational field trip to the local Vietnamese Buddhist Temple which is a short walk from Casserly House. I was not quite sure what to expect. I was most impressed! First, the physical appearance of the temple, a former child care center, was striking. In the hallway, we were asked to remove our shoes which is the custom in a Buddhist Temple. As we entered the temple area, we witnessed a large tree. Hanging on the branches of that tree were numerous red envelopes. Our guide explained that on the first day of Tet, the New Year, the children all received a red envelope containing money from their elders.

We then stopped at the room directly behind the main altar. This was the room of remembrance for the members of the temple community who have passed away. The picture of each deceased member was included on the wall, the men on one side and women on the other. Special gifts offered up lay on tables in front of the pictures. Our tour included a stop in the main temple to listen to the monk lead us in a typical prayer chant for 15 minutes. We were served a chocolate treat in the kitchen. The monk then gave each of us a red envelope as a special gift.

For me, this was a wonderful experience! The warm welcome of the monk, our tour guide and the other members of the temple who were present was an excellent representation of what I consider to be, "Dear Neighbors."



Village Connections Continue.....

by Djenabou Bah, student

There wasn't a school or a hospital in the village of Djoukoun in Guinea, West Africa. People died on the road traveling to the nearest hospital. If there were papers to be read, one had to find someone who could read them. Today there is a school where children learn both Arabic and French and a hospital is currently being constructed. Change occurred because of the self-determination of a group of villagers.

Villagers initially gathered together to build a new mosque because the old mosque was far away. After that, the building of a school and hospital was tackled. There were obstacles, but villagers donated land and labor. Money for these projects come from former villagers who now live in the United States, France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Gabon, West Africa, Abidjan and Senegal. These people contribute \$20 to \$100 per month, and are currently being updated by pictures on their phones of the current hospital construction. These immigrants, while building new lives in new countries, remember those in their former village.

Tenders of the Roots (honor and memorial gifts received since November 2016)

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You Can Help Us to Fulfill our Needs and Dreams

Please utilize the enclosed envelope to make a contribution to Casserly House. Please make checks payable to "Casserly House"

www.casserlyhouse.org

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Annie Casserly

Mother Mary Regis, CSJ
(1843-1917)



Casserly House is named for Annie Casserly (Mother Regis), the foundress of CSJ Boston. Mother Regis was a teacher herself, and also worked to establish schools and provide education for teachers. Casserly House strives to emulate her courage and commitment to new ventures on behalf of people.

Rooted in Boston — Open to the World

An Expression of Gratitude

by Brenda Martinez and the Santos family

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Casserly House, the staff, Sisters, volunteers, and Boston Police Officers in the neighborhood. I have lived in this neighborhood for 18 years. The impact that Casserly House has made in this community and in our lives has been enormous in a way that I can't describe. Casserly House has been a great support system to my children and family in many ways, including the after-school program, Christmas donations, school supplies, Thanksgiving meals, basic home staples and much more.

The impact on my children's education because of the Casserly House program is incomparable with any other after school program. At Casserly House they were given the learning tools to be successful. The staff gave my children a safe learning environment where, as a result, my oldest is now at Northeastern University, and my other four children are in great schools in the city of Boston. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We Couldn't Do It Without

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
The Spirit of Life Community
The Paulist Center
Highland Street Foundation
Deputy Supt Nora Baston, BPD
Walnut Park School
Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield
Boston Police District E-5

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Kiwanis Club of Allston/Brighton
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Episcopal Church of Our Savior
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Boston College 4Boston Volunteers
Imago Dei Fund
Rev. Robert Clark
People of the Promise Community
Corrib Pub Charitable Trust
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St. Vincent de Paul - Holy Name
St. Vincent de Paul - West Roxbury

Upcoming Events

- Driveway Picnic
Sunday, June 4th
- Summer Camp
June 26 to July 6

Congratulations to New Citizens

Congratulations and welcome to Kadiatou Diallo (Guinea, West Africa) and Jose Cupul Aguilar (Mexico)

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