

August 2019

abcd INSIGHT

Monthly News & Updates

ABCD Keeps Kids & Families Fed All Summer

This summer ABCD has expanded its food security efforts to make sure all families have their nutritional needs met.



In the Boston Public Schools 78% of all students qualify for free or reduced breakfast and lunch. Many families depend on these meals to provide their children with proper nutrition during the school year, leaving them vulnerable during the summer months. To help fill the gap, ABCD has partnered with the City of Boston and [Project Bread](#) for the Summer Eats program to provide all children, up to age 18, with free breakfast and lunch at the ABCD Dorchester and Parker Hill/ Fenway Neighborhood Service Centers. If you know a young person in need of a healthy meal, citywide Summer Eats sites can be found [here](#)...

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ABCD Head Start kicks off the new school year with summer Welcome Back Citywide

In a room filled with excitement and anticipation for the start of another new school year, the ABCD Head Start & Children's Services Summer Welcome Back Citywide event on August 14th successfully balanced business with pleasure.

Among the business items covered at the large gathering at the Marriott Boston Copley Place hotel were a presentation on the program's Five Year Goals and Action Plan, new program initiatives, the Perfect Attendance campaign and information on the Scholarship for Leadership program. For the first time, the annual meeting also allowed staffers to



use technology to provide instant feedback on work plans for the new school year.

“It was my Head Start experience that gave me a love of learning ... I am standing here today to show that Head Start is worth the investment!” Boston Public Schools Superintendent [Brenda Cassellius](#) told a captive audience of over 400 ABCD Head Start staffers ...

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ABCD’s 2019 YEA! graduates find their voice, take leadership skills to the community



This summer’s **Youth Engaged in Action (YEA!)** graduation was part celebration and part conference as groups from each Boston, Malden, Medford and Everett neighborhood shared their “Photo Voice” projects. YEA! is all about direct experience, and these **13-year-olds** conducted field research not only to identify critical issues affecting their communities but to recommend solutions.

The 2019 YEA! class of 100 completed an **immersive three-weeks of workshops and field trips where they learned about civic engagement** from leaders like State Rep. Jay Livingstone; career readiness from managers at Google and the U.S. State Department (thanks to new partner DreamWakers); personal finance thanks to Capital One, and so much more...

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ABCD Marks the Passing of Two Dedicated Board Members



With deep sadness, ABCD notes the passing of **Maryellen Monahan** and **Mark Nuccio**, both long-time members of our Board of Directors who also served as Chair. Maryellen, who served from 1980 to 1996, was a pioneer and champion of health equity, leading ABCD to begin and then expand services to the low-income community, especially in the fields of fertility and STI prevention. Her positivity, dedication and leadership inspired ABCD to continue striving forward during her terms as Board Chair.

A strong advocate for the low income community, Mark Nuccio, Esq. served from 1994 to 2014. He tirelessly offered his expertise, commitment, and compassion. He was an avid supporter of all ABCD programs, but he was a force for the ongoing success of ABCD’s Field of Dreams event at Fenway Park, where he led Ropes & Gray, LLC season after season.

We are forever grateful, and we send our deepest condolences to their family and friends.

ABCD In the News

[Meet Yvette Rodriguez of Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.](#)

[On the Precipice of a Critical Clippers Season, Doc Rivers Takes a Trip to Boston](#)

[Doc Rivers compared a member of the 2008 Celtics to Tom Brady](#)

ABCD Videos



**Youth Engaged in Action (YEA!)
Program 2019**



**ABCD & Animal Rescue League
Wellness Waggin'**

Program Spotlight

ABCD Health Services host Summer Vibes: Poems and Pizzas Event



It was a fun summer evening looking over the city for participants who took part in the ABCD Health Services Sister2Sister Summer Vibes: Poems and Pizzas event with Sam Casseus. The workshop which catered to beginners, focused on teaching attendees about creative writing, poetry and spoken and written word techniques. The collaborative atmosphere allowed attendees to build, learn and provide open and honest feedback to each other. More than 40 people came to the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building in Roxbury to learn more about creative writing, meet up and support overall wellness through creativity.

ABCD Health Services Sister2Sister is about meeting young women where they are. They’re in the **community working with young women 15-25 years old** one on one to teach them about vital information, develop a personalized prevention plan to help keep them healthy and safe, and connect them with other resources for additional support.

Upcoming Events

ABCD Hoop Dreams

**Tuesday, September 3rd at 5PM
Auerbach Center**

Join us for **ABCD Hoops Dreams**. This year the annual charity basketball event will take place at the Auerbach Center.



Community Heroes Celebration

**Friday, November 8th
Boston Marriott Copley Place**



Join us in honoring this year's extraordinary ABCD heroes at our 45th annual celebration!

Featuring **Tony®**, **Grammy®** & **Emmy®** Award winner **Audra McDonald** in performance.

For ticket & sponsorship information, contact **Liz Gillis** at 617.348.6244 or elizabeth.gillis@bostonabcd.org

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WHILE YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE
EVERY DAY.**

- \$1,000 signing bonus!
- We'll pay for your CDA
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**Apply by Sept. 15, 2019
at careers.bostonabcd.org**



HELP A CHILD FIND THEIR
LOVE FOR LEARNING

Become a volunteer with the **ABCD Foster Grandparents** program

Are you 55 or older and retired?

Do you have the time and desire to give more to the children in your community?

Can you dedicate a minimum of 15 hours per week and become a mentor to a young child?



Volunteer Today!

Stipends are awarded to those who qualify. Training and monthly peer support opportunities provided.

To learn more, visit bostonabcd.org/foster-grandparents or call **617.348.6784**

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Give Today.

Your gift supports ABCD in its mission to empower low-income people by providing them with the tools to overcome poverty, live with dignity, and achieve their full potential. Interested in other ways of giving? Please contact the Planning and Grants Department at 617-348-6559.

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