

July 2019

abcd INSIGHT

Monthly News & Updates

ABCD welcomes new and returning board officers and members



ABCD continued to strike a productive balance between invaluable experience and fresh perspectives when we elected new and returning board officers and new directors at our June 26th Board of Directors meeting. The organization also recognized [Jean M. Babcock](#) who joined the board 44 years ago and stepped down from the role of Treasurer after 20 years. She remains as an active member.

As a community action organization, ABCD has a tripartite board structure consisting of members from the local private sector, public sector, and low income community. Consequently, a diverse roster of leaders from each of these groups collaborates on developing responses to local needs for our most under-resourced and at-risk neighbors.

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ABCD and Animal Rescue League partner to bring Wellness Waggin' to Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan communities

Recognizing the emotional value pets bring to people who struggle to get by, ABCD announced a groundbreaking partnership with the Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) to bring high-quality, low-cost pet wellness care to residents of Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan.

On July 10th a ribbon cutting ceremony took place for the new Wellness Waggin', a mobile veterinary clinic equipped with an exam room and surgical suite. For just \$10, owners can book an appointment for their pets to receive a physical exam, rabies and distemper vaccines, flea treatment and a microchip implant in the Wellness Waggin'. These services would normally cost upwards of \$300.



ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew said, “Our dogs and cats are part of the family. The people we serve face serious financial barriers, and their pets bring much-needed joy into their lives. Unfortunately, veterinary care is expensive, and when a pet gets sick, it can lead to real financial hardship. He went on to thank ARL President Mary Nee and ABCD EVP/COO Sharon Scott-Chandler for making this unique partnership a reality. And of course the program wouldn’t exist without the generosity of PetSmart Charities and the Mable Louis Riley Foundation.

The Wellness Waggin' is hosted at the ABCD Roxbury/N. Dorchester NOC on Mondays, the ABCD Dorchester NSC on Wednesdays and starting August 30th at the ABCD Mattapan FSC on Fridays. Visit the [Animal Rescue League website](#) to learn more or book an appointment, and click below to watch our new video!

[Watch Now](#)

Hearing loss awareness campaign addresses overlooked health risk



Do you crank up the tunes in your earbuds? Attend noisy sporting events? Work in a noise-polluted environment? A recent [New Yorker article](#) cautions that noise pollution may be the next big health crisis. Having anticipated that, ABCD Health Services and ABCD Board Vice Chair James A. Owens, Jr. created the “Lower the Sound, Save Your Hearing” public awareness campaign.

Hearing loss – which is permanent – is the third most common chronic health condition, affecting 28 million Americans. This comes as a surprise to many. Researchers are devoting more time to understanding the causes as well as the extensive range of health issues arising even from brief exposure to loud noises such as sirens (one minute can cause damage) or rock concerts (just two minutes can impair hearing).

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President/CEO John J. Drew receives AACJA Social Justice Award



Congratulations to ABCD President/CEO John J. Drew for receiving the Social Justice Award from the Asian American Civic Association (AACA). Drew was honored at the AACA “Their Courage to be New” Gala held on June 30.

“Social justice to me means we’re all in this together,” Drew told a gala audience of about 400 guests on the Spirit of Boston cruise ship.

Thank you to the AACA for recognizing Mr. Drew’s many years of work in social justice.

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Program Spotlight

ABCD SummerWorks Prepares Hundreds of Boston Youth for Future Career Success

For most young people, getting their first job—often a summer job—is a fundamental step as they move toward adulthood, laying the foundation on which they can build future careers. However, in many low-income neighborhoods, summer job opportunities are almost nonexistent. ABCD’s SummerWorks program responds to this problem, helping hundreds of low-income Boston teens every year to get a summer job—their first step on their pathway to a future career. In addition, the wages earned by these teens can help ease tight family budgets during the summer months.



This year, thanks to generous funding through grants, the agency’s signature Field of Dreams event, and individual donations. SummerWorks has enrolled some 650 diverse under-resourced Boston youth, giving them an opportunity that can change the trajectory of their lives. The program starts with a week of intensive work readiness workshops ,,,

Upcoming Events



AUGUST 7, 2019 | 4 to 7 pm
ABCDCentral Office | 178 Tremont Street, Boston

Explore ABCD's many opportunities for a rewarding job — and excellent benefits! Meet with hiring managers for positions in our Head Start early education program, case management, housing, health services, and more! Visit careers.bostonabcd.org and [register here](#) for the August 7th career fair.

ABCDCareerFair

Tuesday, September 3rd
Auerbach Center



Join us for **ABCDCareerFair**. This year our iconic charity basketball tournament takes place at the Celtics' state of the art training facility.

Tuesday, Sept. 3rd
Start time - 5PM
Auerbach Center

Your company can score big! Draft your team now. Contact **Liz Gillis** at elizabeth.gillis@bostonabcd.org or 617.348.6244

abcdhoopdreams.org

ABCDCareerFair

Friday, November 8th
Boston Marriott Copley Place



Get your tickets now for ABCD's Community Heroes Celebration honoring this year's extraordinary volunteers -- the ABCD heroes!

Featuring multiple **Tony, Grammy and Emmy Award** winner **Audra McDonald** in performance.

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

abcdheroes.org

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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