



NEWSLETTER

Fall | 2018

HARLEM

## New Americans Initiative

### HUMAN IN HARLEM: WELCOMING WEEK 2018

On September 18th, 2018, the Harlem New Americans Initiative hosted a celebration of food and culture for 2018's Welcoming Week. About 50 community members came by to enjoy a mix of Caribbean and Arabic food, as well as a terrific dance performance from our own Mohamed Papa Bakary Fall. Also in attendance were several community partner organizations who provided valuable resources and information for attendees. These included Manhattan Legal Services, African Services Committee, Ponce Bank, Hot Bread Kitchen, Workforce 1, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, Dominicanos, The Door, Catholic Charities and the NYPD Community Outreach department. Thanks to all who helped organize the event! Harlem is proud to welcome people from all over the world!



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Citizenship Drive /  
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New Americans Welcome Center Goals  
and Vision

*"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity."*

*- Douglas Adams*



## CUNY Citizenship NOW! – Citizenship Drive in Harlem



On October 10<sup>th</sup>, NAI hosted a mini citizenship drive with the partnership of CUNY Citizenship Now! It was held from 1- 5pm. CUNY Citizenship Now was able to provide pro bono lawyers and volunteers to help with the flow of the event. The purpose of the drive was to help people who think they are ready to apply for the naturalization test. The pro bono lawyers were able to review their documents and inform them about their next step. All services were free of charge. The New Americans Initiative throughout the YMCA will continue to host CUNY Citizenship drives to help as many people as possible.

## Alumni Spotlight: Hot Bread Kitchen Graduates

Over the past two years, the New Americans Initiative has worked with Hot Bread Kitchen to help some of our students receive high quality training as bakers, and to help place them in jobs. Each year, several of our students have entered their training program and graduated. We're very proud to announce the following students have graduated from Hot Bread Kitchen's training program this year:

\*Mina Garif

\*Rokhaya Gueye

\*Rahinatou Sidi Younoussa

Congratulations you guys!



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# ASK YOUR NAI

**Q:** I take classes that are ending in December. What will I do during the Winter?

**A:** We have a Winter session just for you! Registration is January 7th!

**Q:** Oh no! I missed registration, now what?

**A:** Certain classes may still have room for new students. Stop by the office to see if you can register! If not, we will add you to our contact list for the next cycle.

**Q:** All the classes are full... but I want to get started NOW!

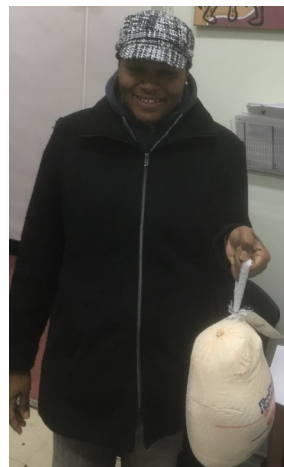
**A:** Join our evening Language Skills Class! It meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-8:30 pm. Walk-ins welcome!

**Q:** You don't have the class I need right now. Can you still help me?

**A:** Yes we can! Schedule an appointment to meet with one of our case management volunteers and we'll help you search for what you're looking for.

## Happy Turkey Day!

This year for Thanksgiving, the YMCA partnered with Ponce Bank to donate turkeys to families in the Afterschool programs and the New Americans Initiative. Three lucky families in our program were very happy to get their turkeys! Thanks Ponce Bank!



## Coming Soon at your NAI

### Opioid Community Awareness Forum

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, the NYPD Community Outreach department will be coming to the YMCA to hold an information session about recognizing signs of opioid overdose, and how to use Narcan nasal spray to help reverse an overdose in progress. Come join us for this important community workshop on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm!

### Winter 2019 Class Registration

The New Americans Initiative will host registration for Winter 2019 classes on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Students interested in morning classes should arrive at 10 am; students interested in evening classes should plan to arrive at 5:30 pm.

For the Winter cycle, we will also be adding two new Job Readiness ESOL classes. These classes will improve your English while also enrolling you in a workforce training program to prepare for a career in healthcare. For questions, contact our office at (212) 912-2163.

*New York City's YMCA is here for all. Our New Americans Initiative is a safe haven for immigrants looking for support and services. We never turn anyone away — or inquire about immigration status.*

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## The Goals and Vision of the New Americans Welcome Centers by Dio Gica

**“The goal of the YMCA is to be recognized by every New American as a “safe haven” that provides multilingual information, resources and referrals and a wide range of services... to help them attain their goals...”**

Program Goal and Vision: The YMCA of Greater New York is committed to serving the immigrant population of the City, and, in response to their needs, has opened New Americans Welcome Centers to help immigrants achieve literacy, cultural competence, and self-sufficiency. In 2010, the YMCA will have opened Welcome Centers in areas where immigrant communities are most underserved. The Chinatown, Staten Island, Harlem, Prospect Park, and Bronx YMCAs have already served their communities through these centers. In line with its commitment to better serve the immigrant population of New York City, the YMCA of Greater New York is opening a sixth location to serve Queens, the Flushing YMCA New Americans Welcome Center. The goal of the YMCA is to be recognized by every New American as a “safe haven” that provides multilingual information, resources

and referrals and a wide range of services (instructional, vocational, recreational, and family support) that will help them attain their goals.

The YMCA recognizes the need to build capacity and develop support and networks among new immigrants. As of the 2000 census, more than 35% of City’s residents are foreign-born and 43% of the City’s workforce are immigrants. Nearly 70% of the total immigrant population in New York speak a language other than English. Within this group 23% do not speak English well and about 10% do not speak English at all. Most of these immigrants live in population clusters that are underserved for informational, education, recreational, vocational, advocacy and human services that the YMCA of Greater New York is in a position to provide directly as well as in collabora-

tion with other human service and immigrant agencies.

Program Components: The New Americans Welcome Centers serve as multilingual information resource and referral centers, and provide immigrant families with a wide array of instructional, vocational, recreational, family support, and social services. Instructional services include English as a Second Language, Cultural Orientation, Citizenship Preparation, Job Readiness, and Computer Literacy. In addition, some of our Centers offer Adult Literacy and GED preparation classes as well as Substance Abuse and Alcohol Prevention Counseling.

For more information on the YMCA New Americans Welcome Centers please access our website at [ymcanewamericans.org](http://ymcanewamericans.org).

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