



Summer 2016
Newsletter

New Beginnings and Thankful Hearts



It is with pleasure that we announce our further expansion of Casa Nueva Vida! Our new sites in Dorchester and Lawrence, Massachusetts opened to house families in January and August of 2016. Casa Nueva Vida now has 10 sites in Massachusetts!

Combined, the new sites are able to house 8 new families. Our expansion brings us closer to our mission: "To help homeless families gain the education and skills needed to permanently pull themselves out of poverty and into stable affordable housing."

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Our years-long Partnership with the PULSE Program
- Incorporation of our new STEMB Classes
- New Site Opening in 2016
- Donate through Paypal and Amazon.



WHAT IS PULSE?

The PULSE program is part of a curriculum at Boston College. According to BC, “The mission of the PULSE Program is to educate our students about social injustice by putting them into direct contact with marginal-

ized populations and social change organizations and by encouraging discussion on classic and contemporary works of philosophy and theology.”

The PULSE program has been serving at Casa Nueva Vida for over 10 years! We are fortunate enough to have amazing students from Boston College come each year and help us out!



“Casa Nueva Vida is one of the warmest and most welcoming places I have been. Going to JP twice a week quickly became the highlight of every week for me, just as the kids and their parents grew to feel like family.”

-Sara Piwowarski

WHAT THEY DO

The pulse program allows students from Boston College to come in and have some first hand experience working with the Children’s Educational Program here at Casa Nueva Vida. Volunteers choose two days per week to come, and will work directly with the children and the director of education to move the educational program along and help out by educating the homeless community we serve.

This year, our volunteers divided their time between many jobs. We had tutors and home-

work helpers who were readily available to help children thoroughly complete and understand their assignments. We had reading partners, the ones that read stories aloud and also helped kids advance in their reading skills through their school year. We had volunteers that acted as mentors and guidance towards our teens. And we had teachers that helped plan and teach our Children’s Safety lessons, STEMB lessons, and our Adult ESOL Classes.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS....

“We hear the word resilience all the time; but when I started volunteering at Casa Nueva Vida I realized that I'd met the people that deserve to have their picture next to that word in the dictionary. In just one short semester, my growing comprehension of the effects of constant disruption on the kids at Casa altered my view entirely on the uphill battle that these children face everyday. This volunteering experience has been unlike any other that I have taken apart in because it values teaching just as much as helping.”

-Isabelle Stone

“My experience at Casa was eye-opening, impactful, and inspirational. Each and every one of the children that I worked with taught me so much about happiness and positivity. Despite the challenges that each one of them face outside the playroom, the kids always come in all smiles and play/interact with each other on a daily basis. The community at Casa is so strong, and the kids are a big part of that community. I did not expect to the immense amount of love, compassion, and generosity that I found at Casa, both inside the playroom and out. I am so thankful for my experience there this past year, and that there is such a wonderful organization available to these kids.”

-Megan Kay

“My experience at Casa Nueva Vida genuinely changed my life. I thought it would be interactions similar to what I experience when volunteering at a soup kitchen, but I could not have been more wrong. I actually developed relationships with the children that I will carry with me forever and that have helped dictate the kind of difference I want to make in the world.”

-Kyla Nwede

“I was reminded of how beautifully intelligent every child's mind is. Every child at Casa struck me with their own personality, but what was common among them all was a really remarkable sense of curiosity, charm, and warmth that I got from these kids that I wasn't necessarily expecting. I had a terrific experience just being with these children and learning about their stories. I'm so fortunate to have stumbled upon this opportunity through BC to talk, learn, and play with them even if just for a few hours each week.”

-Josh Ghofrani



SQUASHBUSTERS AT CASA NUEVA VIDA

SquashBusters is a sports-based after-school youth enrichment program located in Boston and Lawrence, Massachusetts. The SquashBusters squad reached out to us in hopes of learning more about Casa Nueva Vida and eventually visiting the Children's Program.

SquashBusters has visited Casa Nueva Vida twice this year. In their visits, they brought their generous and energetic selves! After throwing a pizza party,

the team followed the kids at Casa Nueva Vida outside to play with them. It was the beginning of a new partnership.

This new friendship started out so well that SquashBusters and Casa Nueva Vida planned a day in August where they will bring the kids at Casa Nueva Vida to their facility in Boston!

Stay tuned to our next newsletter to see how it went!

“Play is the highest form of research.” – Albert Einstein



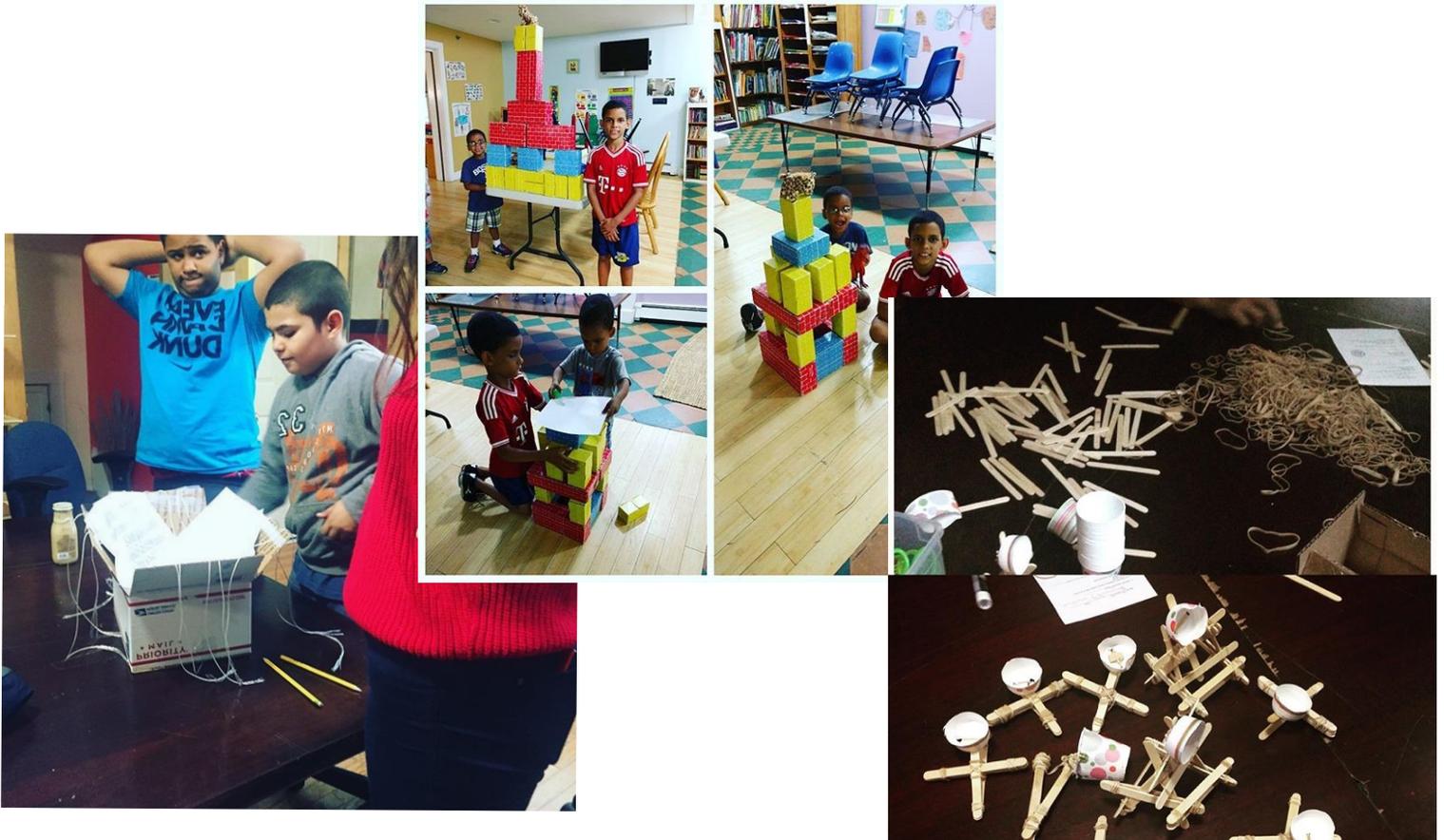
NEW STEMB LESSONS

This year, we have replaced our Safety lessons for kids and teens to STEMB lessons (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Business.) Our typical class includes a lesson with an explanation of one of the STEMB topics, following a short quiz to ensure the kids understood the core concept, and finishing with a hands-on and interactive project.

Thus far, we have covered projects that have made the kids and teens think critically, be creative, and explore STEMB subjects with an open mind!

Here are a few of the projects we have done:

- * *The classic Egg Drop Challenge*; with a focus in Engineering
- * *Building Mini Catapults*: with a focus in Physics
- * *Shark Tank Project*: with a focus in Business
- * *Online Lemonade Stand Simulator*: with a focus in Business and Math
- * *How Airplanes Fly*: with a focus on Engineering and Physics





MAKING MUSIC

In November of 2015, Marianne Ryan, founding director of *Discover Music and Art*, contacted Casa Nueva Vida in interest of providing music classes for our kids! To make this possible, we received donations of musical instruments from *Sing 2 Give!* They generously gave us a variety of instruments from little sticks, to mini-cymbals, to harmonicas, to maracas and more!

Each Thursday, Lucy Bocchiaro, our music teacher, would come in with her guitar and sing with the children. Her bright personality and musical enthusiasm mixed in perfectly at Casa Nueva Vida! The kids loved the music hour.

We are so thankful for this opportunity that was given to the Casa Nueva Vida children and for all who made it possible!

“Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent” - Victor Hugo



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