

IOSC Newsletter



Immigration Outreach Service Center

Volume 1 / Issue 3



CONGRATULATIONS!

We are proud of our newest Naturalized Citizen, Jackline Steema! On Friday, June 19th, Jackline, originally from Uganda, passed her USA Citizenship test. That same afternoon, Jackline was sworn in as a Citizen of the USA! In 2019, Jackline graduated from high school and began her new journey continuing her education at CCBC. What an amazing year for Jackline! We asked Jackline to share her thoughts of what it means to be a Citizen of the U.S.A. In Jackline's own words:

"Being a citizen means to vote in elections, volunteer in your community, and to educate oneself on the issues within your local community, national community, and world community. Being a citizen means to be concerned, and to care about the world around you, and then act on the problems and become a part of the solution, because a strong minority can make more of a difference than the majority, and that is the beauty in America. We are a country of change, and most of the changes in our history started in a small community. Being a citizen means having faith in your community and to keep helping it to progress. Since I came to the United States I see my church community doing a great job by helping immigrants."

There are events in life, which can change yourself or your way of thinking. As for me, I think the major change in my life occurred when I moved from Uganda to America. This change has entirely affected my personality. Why? I arrived in the United States during the summer of 2012. It was really challenging for my family, learning how to speak English, to know this American society, environment, and culture because everything is so different from Uganda. And I have since then, but we have to come through and I have been challenged a lot to reach out to people more and become more open in Uganda. At home walking up to someone and introducing yourself can be perceived as impolite in certain settings, though here it is not so much the case. Being around forward, opinionated, expressive people has helped me express my thoughts and opinions more, especially in a public setting. In 2015-16, I was in high school and could at least start having a conversation with you, or how to make friends, so it wasn't really that bad of a challenge for me."

There comes a time in life when you'll have to leave everything behind and start something new. I had to adapt to another country which was completely different from mine, but I'm happy living here now. I missed my old life but I understand that I now have to think about my present and work hard for a good future. My church was another thing that helped my social life and my family to get better in our English. Everyday gets better and better as I learn how to live the American way. I learned many things that can really help me in the future like how to go to college, how to achieve my career. American life is just if you are a hard worker anyone can succeed and have a better life. Sometimes life throws you into places you never want to be but it's important to reflect on a challenging experience afterward and ask yourself what you learned. Not having the important materials around me did not stop me from living; I still made a lot of memories."

Over my lifetime I would like to achieve many things, but one main thing I would like to accomplish is to be a registered nurse. I have been exhilarated by my dream, from the day I knew why I came into the world so far and even in the future, which is making me different from others. When I started nursing class back in high school I simply believed that nurses were at the bedside performing assessments on treatments."

Congratulations Jackline, Welcome to America!

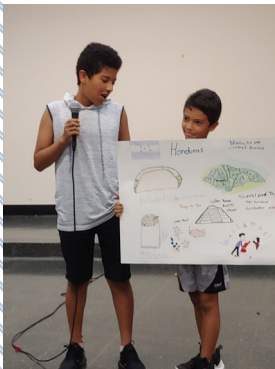


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Beyond the Boundaries Tutoring is Now on Zoom

On June 27, the Beyond the Boundaries Tutoring Program launched the Summer tutoring program focusing on reading and writing skills via Zoom. On Saturday afternoons, we hold three sessions for K-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade and 6th-12th grade students.



Our K-1st graders are reading books such as *Mouse Paint*, *A Dozen Dogs*, and *A Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Students are learning about colors, counting, and rhyming words during these sessions. Our 2nd graders are reading *Stone Soup* and *Bone Button Borscht* sharing similarities in the stories. All are learning story comprehension and sequencing. Some students are growing plants provided by the IOSC.

Our 3rd-5th grade students are reading *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* together. Several students and tutors take turns reading and using creative voices to take on roles of the characters. Students learned about character, magic, origami, and comprehension.

Our 6th-12th graders are participating in a vibrant discussion on the history of race relations in the U.S. and current events, The tutors continue leading this discussion utilizing poetry including Langston Hughes' *"I Too"*, Claude McKay's *"America"*, and *"The Tropics in New York"*. Students have weekly writing assignments guided by thought provoking questions. Students are encouraged to complete a Capstone Harlem Renaissance Project individually or with a group creating an artistic depiction of the poem they select.

Special thanks go to *Sr. Bernadette, Bill, Elaine, Jennifer, Jill, Joshua, Kate, Kathy, Peter, Rick, and Zipporah* for planning and leading all of us through such wonderful lessons and discussions.

If you are interested in the Tutoring Program please contact Elaine at elaine@ioscbaltimore.org.

#Canceltherent

On Thursday, July 9th, IOSC staff and volunteers, organizers from United Workers, and Most Precious Blood Catholic Church provided assistance for Baltimore City neighbors to register for Temporary Rent Assistance. Translation was provided in Arabic, French, Kinyarwanda, Nepalese, Spanish, Swahili, and Tigrinya. We welcomed approximately 45 people and also provided space for attendees to complete the Census.

Wear Masks, Stay Safe!
Social Distancing Saves Lives

ESOL Classes

We will begin classes again in the Fall, offering three course levels - beginning, intermediate and advanced - for people with varying English proficiency. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Cynthia at cynthia@ioscbaltimore.org.

Career and Resource Fair

Our Second Annual Career and Resource Fair sponsored by the IOSC and Our Daily Bread Employment Center is planned for Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at St. Matthew. COVID-19 protections will be practiced at this event. Please see the flyer here to register: <https://www.ioscbaltimore.org/career-and-resource-fair/>