A Message of Solidarity

We were horrified and saddened by the events in Charlottesville earlier this year, and by the continuing climate of violence and hatred that daily assaults our hearts. In the wake of similar events in the past we have looked to our national political leaders for inspiration and guidance, but our present leaders have fallen woefully short. It is therefore all the more important for us to focus our attention on our local communities and do everything in our power to make sure that all of us are safe where we live. CAAS remains committed to the principles of equality and social justice for all without exception, and we will continue to serve all who seek our help. I encourage you to reach out to us, or to any of the many other wonderful organizations that are working to keep Somerville safe and welcoming, and find ways to get involved. Now more than ever, it takes all of us to make a difference!

Sincerely,
David Gibbs, Executive Director

CAAS Community Organizing

On September 14th, 9 Clarendon residents, Clarendon Residents United (CRU) members, and two CAAS Community Organizers met with Mayor Curtatone. CRU leaders expressed their concerns about the Clarendon redevelopment project, particularly around families with kids in Somerville Public Schools getting to stay in Somerville during the renovation process. The residents asked the Mayor for a public statement of support and asked that he come to Clarendon for a tour of the apartments at an upcoming community event. Mayor Curtatone agreed to both requests. Residents are now following up with him to ensure follow through.
Homelessness Prevention - A Success Story

One recent success story from our Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) involves a client named Abeba** and her two young daughters. Abeba was a victim of domestic violence and applied for Emergency Federal and State Housing with the assistance of HPP Advocates. Somerville Housing Authority (SHA) stated that there was not enough hard evidence of her domestic violence situation and she was denied Emergency Housing. Abeba and her young daughters continued homeless. CAAS’ HPP Advocates were able to find a lawyer to take her case. They worked together to gather more evidence like supporting letters from her friends and family detailing the history of her abuse. On the hearing date, SHA overturned the original denial and Abeba and her daughters were approved for Emergency Housing. Abeba and her daughters are now in a local shelter and within the next few months will move into public housing in Somerville. Abeba learned about the HPP program because her child is in the Head Start program and she knew she could count on CAAS for help. **names have been changed to respect our client’s confidentiality

A New Year for Head Start

Our Head Start Program is off to a great start in this new school year. Our preschool classrooms all resumed for the Fall and our parent classes are starting up in October. This fall for adults we are offering: sewing, jewelry, ESOL, computer, and cooking classes, and guided library trips. Regular parent meetings have resumed for all classrooms and some of the upcoming workshops include: Buying Healthy Food on a Budget, Nutrition, Early Literacy, and School Transition. At the October meeting, parents will elect classroom representatives and alternates to the Policy Council from each classroom. Contact gsanders@caasomerville.org for more information.

CAAS’ New Website

After a lot of hard work, this month we are rolling out our new website! It will still be located at www.caasomerville.org but will feature more information about our three programs, our staff, and more!

Volunteer with CAAS!

Spend time helping us out at the CAAS office in Union Square or volunteer to help with an event!

Host a House Party or other event to help raise money for CAAS’ programs!

Email info@caasomerville.org today to find out more!