



Fall 2015 Vol. 2 No. 2

FRIENDS OF PORTLAND ADULT EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Street Academy gives area youth a second chance

Friends of Portland Adult Education proudly supports the extraordinary work of PAE's Street Academy which works intensively with Portland's homeless youth and young adult population. Street Academy staff, Joline Friedman and Joel Beaulé, began the program in 1994 to bridge the gaps for students unlucky enough to find themselves without a home and/or familial support. Joline and Joel work with more than 200 homeless students per year to reach their educational and employment goals.

By design, the Street Academy is in a unique partnership with *Day One*, *Portland Public Health* and the *Preble Street Teen Center* (where it is housed). Through this collaboration, students receive supportive services which allow them to concentrate on their educational and employment goals. Among the services provided are: case management, mental health and substance abuse counseling and healthcare.

Student needs determine the services they receive including guidance in school enrollment, advocacy to reduce barriers common to homeless youth, HiSet testing, one-on-one tutoring, assistance setting up school transportation and post-secondary searches, applications, financial aid and placement.

The *Learn to Earn* employment training program at

the Street Academy works with motivated young adults who wish to develop and expand their employment skills. Students must first participate in employment training. Once

they have completed the training, students are placed on a job site that matches their interests. Students receive a weekly stipend through the program. At the end of the placement they have work experience to add to their resume and a positive work reference. Often they are hired directly by the business.



One of the biggest changes in the program is the large number of unaccompanied youth coming from Central Africa. In the 2014-2015 school year, 14% of participants reported Portland as their last school of attendance; 25% were new to the country as unaccompanied youth primarily from Central Africa; 33% were from another area of Maine and 13% were from out of state. In response to this increase in unaccompanied youth the *New Mainers* support group (see photos this page) was created. The group meets weekly with professionals from the community to discuss such topics as education, housing, health, mental health, and legal issues. This group has youth from Portland high schools, PAE, USM and SMCC, and new arrivals to the Greater Portland area.

Street Academy is funded through federal *McKinney-Vento* funds, *Portland Public Schools*, generous grants from the *Nine Wicket Foundation* and individual donors. FPAE provided more than \$12,000 in funding to assure that Joel and Joline can continue to provide critical student services and FPAE provided their new computer and printer.



Director's Update

I am looking forward to the 2015-16 school year. It is an exciting time to focus on student outcomes, program performance measures as well as enhancing our teaching methods and course content in preparation for the changes coming our way.

My priorities for Portland Adult Education are providing a safe place to foster student success and ensuring our continued financial stability. In my first year at PAE, it took a lot of time and energy to learn about this complex organization and its financial structure.

As I begin my second school year, we are in strong financial standing and I am now able to expand my focus. The laws and rules that govern our work and the grants that support our programs are changing at both the federal and state levels. There are going to be even more changes as we enter 2016. We need to be ready!

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), implemented on July 1, 2015, guides our Academic programming. WIOA will shift how we do our work and how our success is measured. Key changes include:

- **Integration of adult education with occupational education and training**
- **Development of career pathways systems**
- **Integrated education and training**
- **Workforce preparation activities and**
- **Integrated English literacy and civics education programs now may provide workforce training**

In addition to the Academic and Jobs Skills courses at Cathedral school, PAE programming is also offered

throughout the city with ESOL courses offered on-site at Portland Housing at Riverton and Franklin Towers; Enrichment programming in most Portland public schools and the Reiche Community Center; Intensive

Language programming at Sacred Heart Parish Hall; our Street Academy at Preble Street Teen Center and the Life Skills program at DHHS.

Other PAE priorities include providing professional development opportunities for teachers and increasing the intensity of our programming to help students meet their goals. This summer we piloted an intensive language program for ESOL levels 1,2,3. Teachers collaborated among levels and took joint field trips so students could practice reading, writing, speaking and listening.

The Maine Department of Education (MDOE) provided funding for 10 people to attend *Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol* training in Lewiston this summer. The program helped non-ESOL teachers learn a framework for teaching both content and language for language learners in their classes.

In two days of intensive training in September, 28 people worked to align our ESOL curriculum to reflect the Career and College Readiness Standards. Maine is one of 12 states working on this and PAE will be leading the way with the assistance of MDOE.



Beth Campbell, Director of Adult and Community Education

News from Portland Adult Education

Technology Advances at PAE Thanks to PretiFlaherty and Simmons Foundation

Portland Adult Education has made significant advances in the technology available to teachers and students this summer. A donation of laptops, desktops, and software programs provided by the *Portland law firm of PretiFlaherty* made this possible.

Friends of Portland Adult Education also received a \$4,000 technology grant from the *Simmons Foundation* which helped purchase projectors for every classroom. FPAE matched the grant to ensure every classroom had the mounting materials for the projectors.

**THANK YOU
PRETIFLAHERTY
AND THE SIMMONS FOUNDATION!**



Updating classroom technology at PAE.

University of New England Nursing Department Donates Textbooks

The University of New England Nursing Department donated a significant number of textbooks to the New Mainers Resource Center which has created a medical lending library. It is available to NMRC (New Mainers Resource Center) students who are health professionals or interested in pursuing careers in the health care field. These books are a great resource for students who can use them to become familiar with English medical terms and health care practices.

**THANK YOU
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND
NURSING DEPARTMENT!**

Friends of PAE Board President's Report

What a great summer and early fall! Amazingly, amidst vacations, fishing expeditions, and family visits, the FPAE staff and Board members accomplished a great deal. Here are the highlights:

- With a generous gift (\$12,000) from the *Evergreen Foundation*, the PAE scholarship fund was replenished.
- FPAE garnered second year funding (\$25,000) from the *Betterment Foundation* for New Mainers Resource Center.
- FPAE matched a \$4,000 *Simmons Foundation* grant for updating classroom technology. Combined with computer donations from *Preli Flaherty*, every classroom now has a projector and computer.

■ FPAE held an early October gathering of the PAE Leadership Team and the FPAE Board to brainstorm programs strengths and needs.

■ FPAE and PAE began to research a larger *Sewall Foundation* grant for 2016.

■ FPAE submitted a PAE nomination to FAME for its Showcase Maine – Education at Work for Maine Award.

FPAE is making a difference for the students and staff of PAE. Thank you for your support.



Rob Wood, President FPAE

Meet Fahad Alzefiri, PAE Graduate and Volunteer

The students in my ESOL 2 class lit up when they learned that one of our classroom volunteers, Fahad Alzefiri, is an immigrant who graduated from Portland Adult Education just two and a half years ago.

Fahad, now a student at SMCC, comes in weekly to lead a reading group and to assist students in the classroom. He gives students hope that they, too, can learn enough English to complete their high school credential and go on to college.

Fahad came to the United States with his family from Kuwait. He enrolled at PAE and received his diploma in the spring of 2013.

The following spring, he decided to return to PAE as a

volunteer. "I'm trying to help everyone here who came to the U.S. and aged out of school, because I am one of them," he said. "I want to support them so they don't give up on an education."

PAE has three reading and discussion groups led by volunteers, including Fahad. That gives students more individual attention.

Fahad brings the invaluable knowledge of someone who has learned English as a second language.

During his first month in the class, students were preparing to take the CASAS test. Fahad insisted that I find the answer sheet and use that for the practice tests. I didn't understand why that was so important until students actually took the test.

They had to choose which of four possible answers was correct, then find the letter that corresponded with that answer on the answer sheet, then color in the bubble next to it. That multi-step process is confusing even for fluent English speakers. If we hadn't practiced, it would have been very difficult for beginning English students, especially those who had little or no experience taking standardized tests.

Fahad brings another important perspective to our class - that of a young person. He recently showed the class how to use Kids A-Z, an app created for English language learners by a Deering High School teacher. The young people in our class seemed especially eager to try it.

Fahad is a role model for the students in ESOL2. I hope he also becomes a role model for other PAE graduates, inspiring some of them to volunteer.

Thank you, Fahad.



Fahad Alzefiri

More PAE News

Portland Adult Education Participates in International Visitor Leadership Program

This summer several staff members from Portland Adult Education hosted Said El Kaokaji, a participant in the International Visitor Leadership Program. Said is an English teacher from Casa Blanca, Morocco who visited a number of locations in Portland in an effort to learn and discuss different strategies for teaching English. He was accompanied by a representative from the State Department. Arrangements for the visit were made by the World Affairs Council of Maine.



Teaching by Example

Arline Saturdayborn has been an ESOL teacher at PAE for ten years. As a consummate adult learner, she sets a wonderful example for her students. This summer she graduated from the School of International Training Graduate Institute with a Master of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She has also taken workshops at the Apple store. "I have dived headlong into the school year with joy and enthusiasm and am thrilled with the computers and LCD projectors and screens in every classroom."



Arline Saturdayborn

For the first day of class Arline made slide shows to welcome students back using photos and music. Each day she creates a slide show to review what the class did the day or week prior, and weekly vocabulary. As part of her master's program, she worked with PAE teachers to find ways for them to renew their energy and reduce stress. This "Call to Care" program for teachers is continuing this fall. Thank you Arline for all you do to support student learning and teacher enthusiasm!

Please join us: Community Night to benefit FPAE

Tuesday, December 8th
5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Flatbread Company

Whether you eat-in, take-out, or order delivery,
Flatbread will donate \$3.50 for every large pizza
and \$1.75 for every small pizza to FPAE.

FPAE Board

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