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July - October 2022

## ACEDONE's Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 3 | November 8th, 2022

### Summer Youth Programs

All of our annual summer youth programming wrapped up this August. This year, our Summer Learning Academy expanded our core principles of STEM, wellness, and leadership, to include dance and music for students. Students 1st-4th grade took a field trip to the Boston Harbor Islands, and had an exciting field day with the Hennigan. Our teens in the Youth in Charge program also had the opportunity to collaborate and were supporting staff throughout the summer.

This year, the Youth Ubuntu Project (YUP) in collaboration with Center to Support Immigrant Organizing (CSIO) helped emerging leaders in the community to team-build, grow socially and emotionally, and take initiative! They participated in workshops on anti-muslim racism, financial literacy, roots of migration, global health initiatives, activism

and resume building. Enriching, out-of-the-classroom activities included a trip to Hail Reservation, Border Board, Six Flags, volunteering at a food drive with the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), and helping with the field day at Hennigan. To sign up for the **After School Program**, [click here!](#)



### Update: Nubian Square Business Evictions

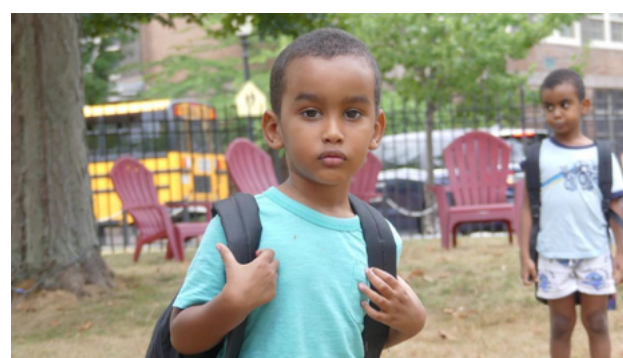
If you had a chance to read our last newsletter, you know that ACEDONE has partnered with Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston (LCR) to help Nubian Square Businesses owned by African immigrants fight against unjust eviction from 1127 Harrison Avenue in Roxbury. The matter is ongoing, but we are hopeful for the future. This work is critical to help close the racial wealth and opportunity gaps. Check out the picture of our clients in the law firm downtown:

**"The client walked away delighted with the legal expertise and awe-inspiring views. It doesn't matter how many times we do this, bringing clients downtown -- connecting the community and legal spheres -- never ceases to amaze me. And for the clients, it's an empowering and dignifying experience. They deserve this and so much more. I feel lucky and privileged just to be involved. Today, one of our client's put it best: 'Regardless of the outcome, we made our voices heard. We now know we have rights and we will not be silenced.'"**

It's truly special to see how magic happens when community-based groups, law firms, and LCR come together. It's beautiful. It's justice making. And it represents the very best of community and public interest lawyering. Every time, it helps to catalyze not just creative legal thinking, but also fosters the development of community precedent and legal literacy. To read more on the work we've been doing with LCR, [click here!](#)

### Equity Now & Beyond

Our coalition of grassroots immigrant organizations held vaccination clinics and food access drives. The first was our Back to School Health Fair held in early August. With the COVID19 vaccine being approved for children under 5, we wanted to get them back to school healthy, protected in a comfortable environment. The children received supplies, toys, snacks, masks, sanitizers, test kits and gift cards for being so brave.



In addition to this, we held a Vaccination Clinic this September at the Green Street Shelter. Early data from the CDC suggests that this flu season could be the worst one in several years, so we provided both COVID19 vaccinations/boosters and flu shots to the residents and visitors at the Green Street Shelter. We collaborated with Africans for Improved Access (AFIA) to provide HIV testing as well.

Health Equity team members took to multiple farmers markets in Boston to distribute city of Boston coupons to community members. The coupons come courtesy of the Mayor's Office of Food Access with the incentive program that aims to support families who experience challenges buying the food they need and want, and small businesses participating in the farmers markets.

### Small Business

While our Small Business Development has provided technical assistance in many different fields to its small business owners consistently, the department is reaching a new milestone by becoming its own financial institution this October. Our biggest goal is to secure and increase the budget of our micro loan, and to provide many more small business owners this program in the future. We are now providing economic support to our small businesses owners with zero interest, helping them to increase the capacity of their businesses.

### ACEDONE's 20th Anniversary Celebration



With gratitude in our hearts, ACEDONE was honored to host elected officials, friends and community members in our two-day extravaganza starting with a banquet at Hibernian Hall in Roxbury. A huge thank you to our longtime beneficiary and partner Ascia Kitchen & Cafe for catering the event with continental African-Mediterranean inspired food. It was inspiring to see many alumni come and participate in our pan-African fashion show, as it showed the transformative nature of our youth programming. The next day, we got back to work with elected officials from all over the country to discuss issues facing African immigrants globally, and collaborate on solutions for the future. We ended the celebration later that night at a dinner and Q&A session between elected-officials and community members. [Click here](#) for photos from all 3 days of events. Here's to 20 years of empowering our community, and many more to come!

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