

Mujeres Unidas Avanzando's "Volunteer in English" ESOL Through Service-Learning

First Literacy Lab Project
Dorchester, MA
2018-2019



Who We Are



- Adult Education Center in Dorchester
- Started in 1979: Happy 40th Birthday, MUA!
- Day program is open to all women; New night program is open to women and men
- Two main programs: ESOL (three levels) and Hi-SET Exam Preparation (in Spanish)
- Additional programs: Computer Trainings, Healthcare Trainings (Home Health Aide and Phlebotomy), Citizenship Preparation, social services, on-site child care, career coaching, workshops, etc.

Our Students

- First-generation immigrant women and men
- Primarily Hispanic, but not exclusively!
- Majority low-income
- Majority parents (many, single parents)
- Most in the 20-50 year age range



Our Goals

- 1. Civic Engagement
- 2. English Development
- 3. Resource Education
- 4. Skill-Building

The Pilot Group

- 2 sections of **ESOL III**: One taught by me, Caitie, and the other by our NAIP AmeriCorps service member, Stazi



Our Initial Plans

- Stazi and I met to develop a calendar of in-class discussion topics and external service-learning sites
- These topics and projects were intended to supplement, not replace, the existing ESOL III curriculum
- Main focus: How can we connect global social issues to our lives in Boston and which of these issues are most important to our students? How can we make their ESOL education as relevant to their individual experiences as possible?

Our Initial Plans

- *Some of our ideas included:*
 - **ESOL III Topic: Housing**
 - Issues: Homelessness; Housing insecurities; Income disparities; Low-income housing options
 - Service-Learning Site: Cradles to Crayons
 - **ESOL III Topic: Health & Nutrition**
 - Issues: Food scarcity and food waste; Hunger; Low-income healthy food options; Food resources in Boston
 - Service-Learning Site: The Daily Table; Greater Boston Food Bank; Community Servings
 - **ESOL III Topic: Civics**
 - Issues: Our role and our agency in the community; Civic responsibility; Environmental issues; Civil rights and inequality
 - Service-Learning Site: MUA (on-site clean-up); Local community garden or park clean-up

Challenges in the Beginning

- How do we introduce a concept so large as the idea of “service learning”?
- Furthermore, how do we get our students excited about it?



Guiding Resource

- We found a “Service Learning Lesson Plan” online from Purdue University that helped us develop a framework for introducing this concept to our students
- <https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Documents/Volunteer%20IN%204-H%20Toolkit/Service-learning%20Lesson%20Plan.pdf>
- Our main take-aways: How is service learning different from standard volunteering; Three types of service learning: “direct service, indirect service, advocacy”; How to identify and execute a project

Initial Success

- Much to our relief, our students were really excited about it from the beginning!
- We asked them to discuss in pairs: "Why could service learning be beneficial to you?"
- Without prompting from Stazi or me, they themselves mentioned all four of our project goals: Good English practice; Learn more about resources in Boston; Advocate for change for my community; Learn more skills (and they added my personal favorite: "Helping others is the right thing to do!")
- We asked them to brainstorm projects or areas where they would be interested in serving: Many of their ideas overlapped with my and Stazi's initial outline → These are the ones we decided to focus on most closely

Additional Challenges & Set-Backs

- **Timing:** We knew we were planning for probably too much for one academic year, and we did not have enough time to do as much as we would have liked; a lot had to get cut as the year progressed
- **Logistics:** Students having to leave at 12 PM to go straight to work; Child care scheduling; Transportation
- **Winter:** We lost some class days to snow, but we were also forced to cancel some external opportunities due to the freezing temperatures
- **Two Groups:** We weren't planning on having this project involve two classes, and we often ran into planning conflicts based on our students' strengths and weaknesses and our pace at progressing through the curriculum

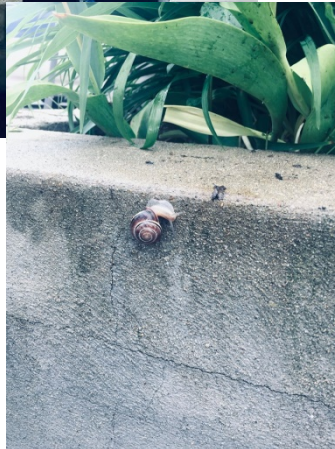
Lessons Learned & Our Class-Specific Solutions

- **My group:** Weaker in speaking and listening; Able to leave MUA during class time (no child care conflicts); Able to carpool; Eager to learn more about Boston and its resources → We went out to the community for service projects and the students practiced speaking in authentic situations
- **Stazi's group:** Weaker in reading and writing; Most were unable to leave MUA during class time due to child care; Strong speakers and very passionate about current event topics → She focused more on in-class discussions, readings, vocabulary development, and she developed a special unit focused on the Civil Rights Movement and its impact on contemporary U.S. culture

The Greater Boston Food Bank



“Spring Cleaning” at MUA



Housing: Tenants' Rights in MA



Affordable Housing

Find information about public housing, rental assistance programs, emergency housing, and other state resources to help you find safe and secure shelter.



Mass.gov

Search Mass.gov

LIVING ▾

WORKING ▾

LEARNING ▾

VISITING & EXPLORING

OFFERED BY [Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation](#)

RELATED TO [Renting in Massachusetts](#)

Tenants' Rights in Massachusetts

- Warm-Up: See what you already know about tenants' rights... True or false? (Self-Made)

True or false? See what you know about tenants' rights in Massachusetts... It's okay if you don't know the answer yet; just write what you think is correct! We will talk about the correct answers at the end of class.

_____ 1. If there are damages in your apartment that have not been fixed, you are not required to pay your rent for that month.

_____ 2. A landlord can enter your apartment at any time.

_____ 3. It is illegal for the landlord to make you pay for a lock and key when you first move in.

_____ 4. A landlord can begin to charge you interest if your rent payment is just one day late.

_____ 5. Snow removal is the responsibility of the landlord and maintenance staff.

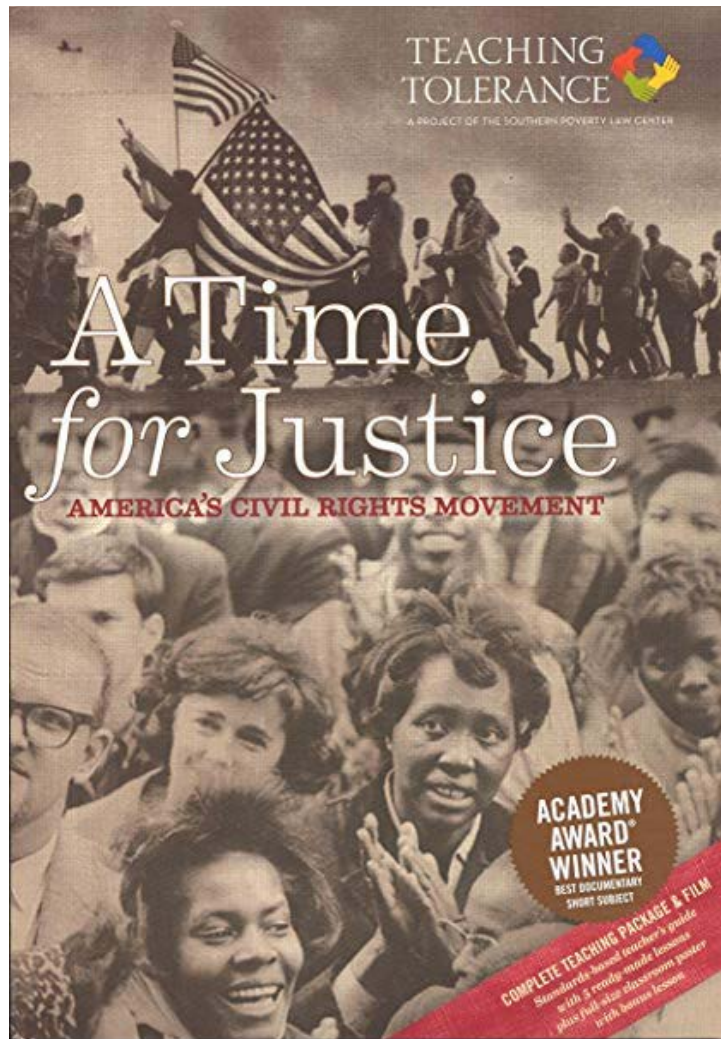
Tenant rights

Tenants should be aware of their rights and the remedies available to them as a tenant in Massachusetts. Learn the most common types of tenant rights in this guide.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Feedback

The Civil Rights Movement & Today's Culture / Students' Experiences



Still I Rise

Maya Angelou, 1928 - 2014

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Food Waste & Food Resources

Open with Google Docs

Service Learning: Food Waste & Food Insecurity

We have been talking about stress and ways to cope with stress. Tomorrow, some of us will be visiting the Daily Table. Stress and food may seem disconnected at first, but in reality they are very connected.

For thousands of people in Massachusetts, finances are a chronic stressor. Because of this, thousands of families do not know if they will be able to afford their next meal. Many people suffer from hunger and homelessness. This is one example of a social injustice that greatly affects Boston and its residents.

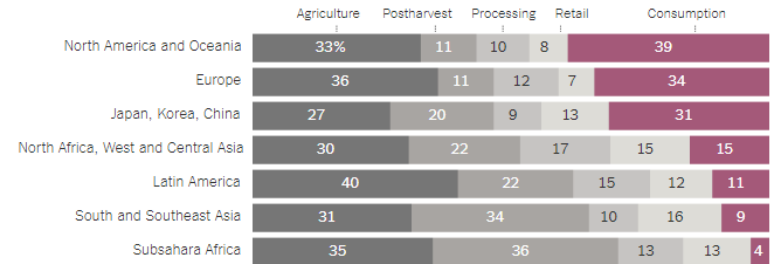
Today we are going to discuss "food waste" and "food insecurity." Then, we will talk about ways to access healthy and affordable food in the Boston area.

First, see how much you already know about food waste. Complete each of the following statistics with a number. It's okay if you don't know for sure!

- _____ % of food in the United States is wasted each year.
- The average American wastes _____ pounds of food each year.
- Approximately _____ % of food on the plates of the average American is wasted each year. This would be enough food to feed an extra _____ people that year.
- Americans waste _____ pounds of food each day.
- _____ pounds of food is wasted each year worldwide.

(Resources: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/christinatroitino/2018/04/23/americans-waste-about-a-pound-of-food-a-day-usda-study-finds/#40b6bcd4ec3b>;
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/apr/18/americans-waste-food-fruit-vegetables-study>;
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/13/climate/food-waste-emissions.html>)

How food is lost varies by region



Notes: Totals may add up to more than 100 percent because of rounding. Percentages based on weight.

Source: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization

By The New York Times

CITY of BOSTON

FOOD RESOURCE LIST & MAP

GENERAL INFO
 For questions and comments about this map, please call 311
 Please call sites for hours and any restrictions that may exist.

SNAP APPLICATION ASSISTANCE
 Bostonabcd.org
 (617) 348-6000

SENIOR MEAL SITES

MOBILE MARKETS
 TheTrustees.org/mobile
 (508) 785-0339

Freshtruck.org | (774) 213-1936

GENERAL FOOD ACCESS RESOURCES
 Project Bread
 FoodSource Hotline
 1-800-645-8333
 TTY 1-800-377-1292
 M - Fri 8am - 7pm
 Sat 10am - 2pm

NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIFIC MAP

● = All locations that are accessible to people with disabilities.

DORCHESTER

FOOD PANTRIES

- 27. Codman Square Food Pantry** ●
378A Washington Street,
Dorchester, MA 02124
(617) 825-9660
Tue 8:30 - 10:30am
- 28. Eglise Baptiste Haitienne** ●
1 Dix St, Dorchester, MA 02122
(617) 287-8351
1st & 2nd Wed, 6pm - food runs out
- 29. Dorchester House Health** ●
1353 Dorchester Ave.,
Dorchester, MA 02122
(617) 288-3230
Wed 8 - 10am
- 30. Neponset Health Center** ●
398 Neponset Ave.,
Dorchester, MA 02122
(617) 282-3200
Tue 8 - 11am
- 31. Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Ctr.** ●
895 Blue Hill Ave.,
Dorchester, MA 02124
(617) 825-3400
- 32. Holy Trinity Church**

- 36. Salvation Army/ Boston Kroc Center** ●
650 Dudley St,
Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 318-6936
Tue, Wed & Thu, 9:45am - 12pm

- 37. Pilgrim Church**
540 Columbia Rd,
Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 282-0456
Wed 10am - 12pm

- 38. USCCB/Blessed Mother St.Teresa Parish of Calcutta**
800 Columbia Rd,
Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 436-2190
Thu 11am - 1pm, Sat 9 - 11am

- 39. Boys and Girls Club of Dorchester (kids only)**
35 Deer St, Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 288-7120

FARMERS MARKETS ACCEPTING SNAP/HIP

- 40. Ashmont Farmers Market** ●
1900 Dorchester Ave,
Dorchester, MA 02124
Fri, 3 - 7pm, June 29 - Oct 10
- 41. Boudoin Geneva Farm Stand** ●
230 Bowdoin St,
Dorchester, MA 02122

- 46. Upham's Corner Farmers Market** ●
559 Columbia Rd.,
Dorchester, MA 0212
Alt. Wed 3 - 7pm, Jul

- ★ SENIOR DINING**
- 47. Kit Clark Dorches Codman Apt.** ●
784 Washington St,
(617) 825-5000
Mon - Fri, 11am - 1pm

- 48. Kit Clark Ctr.** ●
42 Charles St, Dorch
(617) 825-5000
Mon - Fri, 11:30am -

- 49. Kit Clark Dorche Peabody Building.** ●
1875 Dorchester Ave
Boston, MA 02124
(617) 825-5000
Mon - Fri, 11am - 12p

- 50. Kit Clark Dorche Keystone Apt.** ●
151 Hallett St, Dorche
Boston, MA 02124
(617) 825-5000
Mon, Thu & Fri 11am

- 29. Dorchester House**
1353 Dorchester Ave
Dorchester, MA 02123

The Daily Table



Our Most Immediate Success...



Future Intentions

- Continue to incorporate these lessons and social issues into the ESOL III curriculum: Stazi and I both noticed a peak in students' interest when they could connect the class content to issues that affect their lives (food banks, affordable housing, immigrant rights, etc.)
- Continue partnerships with local organizations such as the Daily Table and GBFB

For More Information

- Johannah Malone, Co-Director:
johannahmalone@gmail.com
- Caitie Shalvey, Lead ESOL Instructor:
cjshalvey17@gmail.com
- www.muaboston.org
- www.facebook.com/muadorchester
- 617-282-3500

In Conclusion



- A very sincere thank you to **First Literacy** for their support for this project



- And thank you all for your attention today!