



FAMILY FUN NIGHT AND OTHER FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

Our Family Program has been up to exciting things lately. On Friday, February 21, we had our first Family Fun Night of 2020! It was a packed evening, full of activities for families and delicious food! Norton Children's Hospital came and hosted their "Fruit and Boot Camp", which consisted of a group physical activity

game that got the whole family moving. They also shared some delicious smoothie activities and recipes that we can make at home. In addition, our beloved volunteer, Alejandro, brought five more bicycles to distribute among the families via raffle from

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Backside Learning Center
AT CHURCHILL DOWNS



DISTANCE LEARNING TO EMPOWER OUR STUDENTS

Henry Lima has been a very dedicated student with us for several years. When he learned that the BLC is offering a distance learning curriculum through Duolingo, he was very excited. He is able to continue practicing English while he's in Florida with his cell phone.

"It's important for me because I feel like I'm taking classes, even though I'm far away." Adult Education and Services Coordinator Arianna Del Toro includes lesson plans with each assignment, and requires the students to check in with her. Henry mentioned he's doing

activities based on vocabulary with greetings, travel, food, family, shopping, education, relatives, etc.

The fun aspect about setting up curriculum through Duolingo is that it can be competitive with the other students. "I like it a lot because it's a challenge for me because I'm not the only one doing it. I'm trying to be the best." He said that he's in the "silver league" right now and in 4th place among his peers. "I need to practice more and more to get to first place."

Henry has recommended distance learning to his friends. "I hope they see it the same way I do." We remain connected with our students across the miles and cannot wait for them to return to English classes in the spring!

A QUICK THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SERVED WITH SPECIAL PROJECTS IN FEBRUARY

SACRED HEART MODEL SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE HONOR SOCIETY
HOLY NAME CHURCH
ECHO



BACKSIDE WORKERS AND FAMILIES MAKING THE MOST OF THE OFF-SEASON

In addition to Family Fun Night, our adults from the Family Program have been busy with activities of their own. With more than 20 adults currently enrolled in English Classes, they're fuller than ever!

Nayeli Sanchez also came in on February 27 from the Center of Women and Families to discuss resources they have to offer. In addition, our advanced English

teacher, Pam Conway, brought activities including reading a bread-themed activity, and Valentine-making materials, to spice up her class. Ed Wong also keeps his class entertained with his enthusiastic method of teaching.

A lot of our students will be back at work on the Backside soon, some in just a few weeks!



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his "Back Wheels Project." We were also able to distribute the books "Lo Que Hay en Mi Corazón" to the families who shared their stories and artwork, and give a formal thank you to Maria-Elena Ottman and Janet Dake who made the project possible.

In addition to Family Fun Night, our Front Runners have been getting excellent training on Body/Cybersafety and Healthy Relationships from ECHO (Exploited Children's Health Organization), and have gone rockclimbing with ECHO (Louisville is Engaging Children Outdoors). ECHO rock climbing adventures are made possible with the help of our partners at Beechmont Community Center. They plan on taking more field trips with Louisville ECHO in the coming months.





**ALTHOUGH THE FAMILY PROGRAM
AND EVENTS PRIOR TO APRIL 7TH ARE
CANCELLED, WE ARE STILL HERE TO
SERVE THE WORKERS OF THE BACKSIDE.**

BLC ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING COVID-19

Although Family Program is suspended until April 7th, and other events cancelled, we are still here to serve the workers of the Backside and their families.

In light of the concern of COVID-19, and the health and safety of our clients and staff, we are halting Family Program and Adult Classes until April 7th at our second location, where we will then reassess based on the guidance of Gov. Andy Beshear and Mayor Greg Fischer. Our plan

is to resume the Family Program on Tuesday April 7th, and to hold our Fiesta Final on Friday, April 24th. Because things seem to be changing on a daily basis, we have to remain flexible and will update you as soon as those changes occur.

However, our building at the track will remain open and staffed. The racetrack officially opens for horses and workers to return starting Tuesday, March 31. We typically see a slow trickle of workers throughout the month of March, and larger numbers returning throughout April. Our English program at the track will begin on Monday May 4th, at which time we hope to be back to business as usual! We will receive clients for services throughout March and April but will limit group gatherings.

We are taking every precaution to maintain a clean and safe environment, for our clients, staff and visitors. We will post signs outside with instructions for those who have any symptoms whatsoever to not enter the building, but to call instead so that we may assist with any need. We will be disinfecting our building daily, and we will try to do as much as we can over the phone and internet in order to reduce contact while continuing to serve our community which needs our support as much as ever.

To learn more, please visit kycovid19.ky.gov.

BLC NOW PARTNERS WITH FACE IT CAMPAIGN

In other news, the Backside Learning Center is now officially a partner with the Face It Movement to end child abuse (with Kosair Charities). According to their website, "Face It directly addresses the unacceptable

incidences of child abuse and neglect in Kentucky, with the promotion of best practices in child abuse prevention and intervention, engaging the community, and advocating for effective policies to improve

the child welfare system." They plan on ensuring children are protected and safe through partnerships. We look forward to working with them to ensure our children are safe.

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