

City Links Newsletter

MAY, 1999 Volume 1, Issue 1

Attention Everyone, City Links Is Here!

Denise Ramos

Rushing to your next class, you have no time to stop and read the posters on the walls. Especially when you just have three minutes. I remember that on my way to Chemistry, I would pass by this big poster that said "City Links" and I always wondered what City Links was about, but never had the time to read it. Than one day, Sandra Cañas, who is a lady I've known since elementary school, came up to me and said "Denise, I have this great program that I know you will like. It's called City Links..."

Now, I have about three weeks of being a member at City Links. Although it has been a short while, many things have happened. With City Links, I got a job at the Translations Services in Cambridge Hospital. There I work for Verena Sampaio who is the coordinator and also my supervisor, and Kate Costello who is the secretary. My role is to help in the process of translating medical information into the languages of Portuguese, Spanish and Haitian

Creole.

City Links also holds seminars once a week in which members of the program are expected to attend. In the seminars, we discuss different situations on our jobs, we have guest speakers, and most importantly we discuss about getting into college. (The majority of us are juniors and seniors).

We also go on field trips to universities and colleges. On February vacation we visited U-Mass Amherst. It was a great experience because we got a tour of the place, discussed the environment and I got a closer look on how students and teachers treat each other. Basically, it gave us an idea of how colleges and universities are. So, as I said before, I have only a few weeks of being in City Links and I am happy to be in City Links, everyone is so welcoming. I know we will be happy to have more people with us.



What is City Links?

Maudeline Aubourg

Everybody wants to know what is City Links. I believe this is a strong question. Why a lot of people want to be a part of City Links or why they want to know what it is all about. City Links is a program for bi-lingual students who are learning English as a second language. Cambridge Community Services and other people in the community put their minds together to form a beautiful program. You have so many things to learn from it and the program gives you many opportunities.

When you become a part of City Links you understand it better than if someone else was to tell you. For example, I'm a member of City Links, I have a class, seminar, tutoring, mentoring, work site, and go on many field trips. You and your mentor are like daughter and mom, and also like girlfriends because you go out. It's an opportunity to go somewhere you may never have had the opportunity to go before. You can talk to a lot of people about everything you feel, and do lot's of networking. Being in City Links is fun because you learn and at the same time you make money.



“Coming to this country for the first time in 1993”

I also have enjoyed meeting different people, different cultures and most of all I enjoy being with my mother.

Delmy Juarez

Since I have been in this country, I still remember the day when I saw the real United States. In my country the people would say that New York was a beautiful place in the whole world but, that is not true because when you come to this country you see the real world.

reunited with my mother. I have enjoyed meeting different people, different cultures and most of all I have enjoyed being with my family.

My mother came to this country for me and my four sisters and am proud of her and grateful that she came here for us. I'm glad I came here because I have learned about the U.S. a lot more.

I arrived on December 13, 1993 and I remember when I had to say good bye to my family, friends and my grandmother. My grandmother was the most special person in the whole world for me because she was the one who took care of me and my little sister. I had been in this country for four years and still remember the bitter sweet of that day. Not everything is sad because I came to this country to be



Sandra Cañas

Sometimes people ask me how long have I been the City Links Coordinator? When I tell them that it has been seven years and that I love working for City Links they ask me why. To me the answer is very simple: I LOVE WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, especially City Links students. To me the students who join City Links every year are the “heart and soul” of this program. The students in City Links are unique not just because they are learning to adapt to a different culture and learning a new language, but also because they have faced great obstacles

to be where they are. City Links students demonstrate their strengths and abilities through their hard work in class and at their internship sites. Even though they come from different cultures and backgrounds they all have one goal in mind: to succeed and take advantage of all the opportunities their new home land has to offer them. I feel extremely lucky to be a part of their daily lives. They are my inspiration, but more than that they are my teachers.

In recognition of the achievements of the City Links Students

In My Own Words

Herold Bazile

What is City Links?

City Links is something nice,
It pushes people to be something in
life.

I remember one day,
I was looking for a job.
I needed it so bad, but I could not
find one.

I went every place, to McDonalds,
KFC, and Star Market.

You know how these places will
treat you, as a low class, and feel
embarrassed by your sight.

I wanted to do something,
where I could learn more.

Have fun while doing it,
and learn other stuff.

I was telling Filomena about my
feelings.

That I really need a job and not just
any kind.

She told me about a program called
City Links.

It's internship program,
and it is going to help you in life.

So you see, It was time, for me.

My first job was working with
little kids, which I liked.

During the summer I changed my
mind, and switched to another job,
Which was working with adults.

When school opened this fall,
I started working at the City Clerks
office.

So, you see all this experience
I have gotten in this program.

If I was working in other places,
I would not get.

My Mentor

Sandra Cabral

When I heard that City Links was going to give all the students who are involved in the program a mentor, I thought that it would be the most boring thing ever. Days passed by, and at last the day I was trying to run away from came. It was the day for me to meet my mentor.

I couldn't run away from it even if I wanted to, because it was part of the program. So, by thinking twice I decided to give it a try, because maybe my mentor wouldn't be so boring as I possibly thought.

Our first meeting was at CCS. My mentor was tall, pretty, funny and energetic. Her name is Michele. By just talking to her I found out that I was wrong about the idea of having a mentor would be boring. She showed so much excitement which I never thought possible. I never thought that someone like her, who's busy doing her own things, would have time to spend with a high school student without getting pay or something.

During our second meeting we came up with the idea of going to see a physic, to see if everything about what the physic would say in the card or palm reading would be true. It was fun and a little bit scary. We couldn't believe that we had the nerve to do it, but we also admitted that some parts of what the physic said was

right. For Christmas we went Christmas shopping. She was patient with me in the mall she even helped me choose what to buy my family because I had no idea what I would buy them. But thanks to Michele my family loved their presents.

At our last meeting she met me at the high school, so we could spend some time together. I had the most wonderful time with her. We went to eat at a restaurant and then we went to the movie theater to see "Payback".

If anyone asked me my opinion about having a mentor, I would say that it is a fantastic idea. Not because you and your mentor could go places and have fun but also because you can see them as your best friend or just a friend that you trust a lot. For you and your mentor to have a great time you guys should find out something for sure you

might have in common. One of the things that Michele and I have in common is that we like to talk a lot, we are always laughing, and we both like to hang out at places where we know we wouldn't be bored for sure, like the mall.

So, as you can see instead of me being bored like I said in the beginning, I happen to have a lot of fun with my mentor.

**"Days passed by,
and at last the day
I was trying to run
away from came. It
was the day for me
to meet my
mentor."**

WHAT IS CITY LINKS?

Carolina L. Perez

Everyone wants to know what the internship City Links is. City Links is an internship program given to all immigrant students in Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. The class teaches about government and public sector careers and it prepares us for leadership positions. The Cambridge Community Services, the CRLS bilingual program, and the Office of Workforce Development all collaborate with the City Links

program. The program also includes a seminar that takes place every Wednesday that focuses on leadership, public sector, community development, government, and immigration. The students work in places like City Hall, Human Services, police department, and the city hospital. Every student that has ever been in the program says that the program has helped them in the things that they will need in their future.

The students of City Links have brought a global perspective to the classrooms of our educational institutions thereby enhancing the learning experience for all children.

Maudeline Aubourg: Haiti

Herold Bazile: Haiti

Sandra Cristina Cabral: Cape Verde

Victor Cardoso: Portugal

Rachel Clerge: Haiti

Jose DaCosta: Cape Verde

Claudia Geradin: Haiti

Tenzin Jiampa: Tibet

Delmy Juarez: Dominican Republic

Fereweni Kahassai: EastAfrica

Carolina Perez: El Salvador

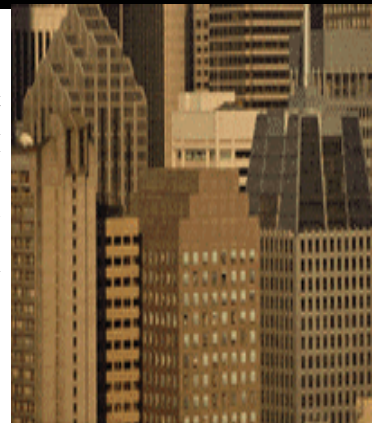
Clara Rodriguez: Dominican Republic

Khadijo Salad: Somalia

Magdaline Viltus: Haiti

Andre Yazmin: Haiti

THE CITY LINKS STUDENTS



“Pre-College Experience”

Clara Rodriguez

Sometimes it is difficult to think that you are going to reach what you want in the future. However, if you think that you are going to reach it, you reach it no matter what happens.

I have been through a lot of things this year because I am getting ready for college. It is a lot of work when you are thinking about college, but if you do it with joy and you look for help when you need it, you will find it. Everybody in school is always there to help you when you are talking about the future and about reaching your goals.

I feel that I have gotten all the support from my guidance counselor, my teacher, the City Links team, and some of my friends. Sometimes I feel so proud of myself. I thought that I would not be able to have the courage to apply for the colleges I wanted to.

When I first heard people talking about college, it sounded really scary for me. I was always thinking that if I apply I would not get accepted. However, I found the courage to believe in myself, and that made me

apply to more than the colleges I have chosen.

If I get accepted to some of the colleges I applied, I plan to major in business administration and management. One of the things that brought me to choose this career is that I like to do office work. I also would like to have my own business. I did not apply to colleges out of state or far away from the city where I live because I do not want to live on campus. I want to stay where I live for now.

Although it is difficult for me to make decisions, when it is about something that will make me successful in the future, I am always willing to try anything that comes to me. In this case I will be willing to go to college and get what I want to get because I have been working very hard getting my applications and other things ready on time.

I have heard from people that you do not know what you can be or do, until you try it. I would like to discover what I could be in the nearest future. I have learned a lot of things about college that I did not know before by talking to people. They told me that if I want to be a successful person, I will, but I just have to follow the rules of success.

What City Links has done for me?

Yasmine Andre

I joined City Links in October 1998. I found out about the program when Sandra came to my Math class and talked to the class about it. Over the summer, one of my friends got me an application. The students involved in the program are bilingual, go to CRLS, and are at least in 10th grade.

I am from Haiti. I have been here for a year and three months. I am a big fan of natural stuff like plants, rivers and things related to it. In front of my house in Haiti, I used to enjoy the smell of a certain plant named “Jasmin”. My favorite animal is a cat because I used to have a couple of them at home. I often played with them and I’m sure they liked it.

Well enough about me. In City Links I have met people from Cape Verde, a place which I never heard of before as well as people from different parts of the world. I learned how to greet people in other languages and learned of their culture.

We do some fun activities like college trips and we had a party for New Years. We really enjoy ourselves. City Links helps you learn more about your community, other countries and cultures.

City Links has helped me become a confident person that has a goal, to succeed.

“Why I Like to Hang Out at the CCS office”

Tenzin Jampa

Whenever I am lonely or when I need to do something or need help, I go straight to the CCS office where City Links office is also located. The City Links program is part of Cambridge Community Services and the program is for bilingual students.

City Links program is one of the city programs that offers students the opportunity to prepare for the future. The program places students in offices of the City of Cambridge to learn about the public sector. It also offers positive advice and solid friendship and provides a mentor for each students to make sure that he or she is doing fine. Mentors are to rely on if you need help on a certain subject that you are having trouble with.

When I go to CCS, there is always somebody ready to listen to me or help me with a troubling subject. The volunteer tutors are there to commit an action, ready to teach whatever they know best. The faculty there are very friendly, they offers positive advice to students and asks them what’s going on.

I think it is wonderful to be in the City Links program. I really have learned a lot. I also think that I have achieved one of the goals I was aiming at, which is learning to communicate better with other people.

Ever since I came here, one thing that troubles me a lot is my lack of communication because of my poor conversation skills. Nowadays, my conversation skills are much better than before and I tend to communicate with almost everybody around me because I have a confidence that my speech is as good as other classmates in my City Links class.



“MY GRANDMOTHER”

Magdalyne Viltus

My grandmother was born in Haiti on August 22, 1933. I used to live with her when I was a baby and I called her mother. We were very close and used to do a lot of things together such as cooking, playing and going to the beach.

My grandmother was also my best friend and helper. She was my adviser when I needed advise and I could always count on her. She always encouraged me to finish high school and wanted me to reach the highest level of education. I remember

when I first came to Boston, she was the one to look for a school for me. When I first attended high-school, she kept telling me not to give up.

She was the only person who really cared about me. When I came home from work a little bit late, she wouldn't be able to do anything before I got home. She would stand at the window and wait for me. I never knew that she was going to leave me so early. That's life, sometimes it brings bad things to people. But, we have to deal with it, because it is part of our life.

It would take me years to remember all the things that we have done together. She was a Christian, and I know that she is with God now and doing well. I hope one day I will be with her again and we will never separate again.

MY MENTOR

Rachel Clerge

I used to think that I would never do community work. I didn't know that it was the best thing that you can do for someone, by helping him or her, giving them your time, advising them, listening to them and being a good friend. My mentor Cora has been everything that I have written about above to me and more. She has helped me with my academics, my college applications, essays and my scholarship application. My tutor Sacha has helped me with my academics as well. I appreciate it Sacha, you have been good to me.

Cora is 24, she has a sister named Remle and she is 15. Cora is a graduate from Wesleyan University. She has a major in Latin American Studies. She is working as an immigration specialist partnered with healthcare. She is going to graduate school in May to major in Bilingual Elementary School Teaching.

I remember one night she was helping me with my scholarship application, it was around 10 o'clock, I could see how tired she was and I asked her why are you doing community work. I thought that she would say that I need more credit to go to school or something but, she said that she does it because it makes her feel good inside. I was so happy to hear that from her. I know that I cannot pay her for what she has helped me accomplish but, I will try to do the same as she by being a good mentor to somebody else. And, if one day that person asks me why I do community work I will feel more than happy to tell her, "Because it makes me feel good inside."

State House

Sandra Cabral

As always, every Wednesday City Links students have something different and extremely exciting to do. Sometimes we play games which we all seem to enjoy because, we have so much fun and a little part of our childhood comes out. Other times we have speakers who come to talk or teach about things that we don't know about. For example, Mrs. Elisania Morales a union organizer who we had the pleasure to talk to, she came to our class and seminar to teach us about the rights we have at our worksites. We always learn a lot from the speakers and we do not get bored because we play games about whatever the topic is we are learning about.

We also go on a lot of fun field trips. Last week the City Links students went to the State House. You may think that it was extremely boring, but you are wrong because we learned so much about the State House and how they pass laws. We got a marvelous opportunity to talk to one of our representatives, Timothy J. Toomey. Representative Toomey was so delighted to answer our questions which I am sure he thought were very smart questions, and that the program City Links really teaches students about the state.

Representative Toomey was really nice to us, not just because he answered our questions but also by trying to

make conversation with one of the students about Portugal and the soccer team. He also told us that right now the House of Representatives is working on a few bills. Some of the bills are: a bill for public school students to wear uniforms, a bill for students to wear seatbelts on school buses and a bill that says that if you are under the age of eighteen and you miss five days of school without an excuse you won't be able to get your drivers license. We all shared excellent ideas about new bills with Representative Toomey who was really pleased to hear them. Later we visited the chambers where the Senators and the House of Representatives meet to discuss bills. We also saw the governor's office, but we could not go in because it is a busy office and visitors are not allowed. After visiting a lot of rooms at the State House and learning about its history we all had our favorite part about the trip. One of the students favorite parts was the big fish hanging in the Senate and the House of Representatives room which is called the "Sacred Cod". Other students favored the top of the roof of the State House which we could not believe was made of gold.

In short, we had a very interesting afternoon at the State House, and we are looking forward to going back one of these days to witness a debate with the House of Representative and Senators while they are passing bills.

“Life is Beautiful”

Vitor Cardoso

This past St. Patricks Day some of the City Links students and I went to the movies to see the new Italian movie “La Vita es Bela”. It was a very funny comedy, but it was also very sad. Some of the students even cried. The story happened in Italy during the Holocaust. The main character and his family were brought to the concentration camps, and the only goal of “Guido”, the main character is to save his son’s life and to keep him from knowing that his life is in danger. It is a very good movie and I advise everybody to see it. What did the students think about this movie? Sandra said it was nice but it was sad. Carolina said it was very good, but she didn’t like when the character died. Claudia said it was interesting, funny and sad, and Tenzin said he liked it because the main character did everything he could to save his son’s life.



Entertainment for teenagers in the Big and Small Screen

Vitor Cardoso

Since the beginning of television, “Teen Movies” have been teen favorites. Some of the most recent and famous teen movies hits are “Scream” and “I Know What You Did Last Summer”. These movies were appreciated by teen audiences so much that sequels were made, “Scream 2” and “I Still Know What You Did Last Summer” which both coexist with the return of the “Serial Killers”. After these teen horror movies more like them came out to the world’s theaters such as “The Faculty” and “Disturbing Behaviors.”

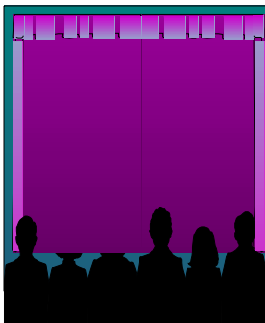
The sequels of the classics “Halloween” and “Carrie” have also been made recently, with the names of “Halloween H2O” and “The Rage: Carrie 2.” But enough with horror movies, comedies are also very acceptable among teens such as “Can’t Hardly Wait” and “Jawbreakers.”

Dramas and romances, the ones with less fiction and more realism are always the best ones. “She’s All That” and “Varsity Blues”, came out to the theaters almost at the same time. That was enough

to divide girls and boys; girls wanted to see the romance of the dorky girl who became beautiful, and the boys wanted to see the drama of a football team in Texas. In my opinion, the best teen movie so far has been “Cruel Intentions.”

“Dawsons Creek” the television program that every teenager knows about has one of the largest audiences in the United States. Teenagers say that the reason why they like this show so much is because they can relate to the characters’ personalities, backgrounds, and their way of life. Other very successful shows are “Felicity”, “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and the comedy “Zoe, Duncan, Jack and Jane” which, are all from company W.B. Personally my favorites are always the ones more realistic and with stories that are believable.

This is just the beginning for teen entertainment, there is no doubt that more teen movies and shows are going to be a success for many years to come.



Jose Da Costa

Cape Verde is where I am from. Cape Verde is located on the coast of Africa about 500km from Senegal in Africa. Cape Verde is just ten islands but there are a lot of people from different parts of the world living there. I come from the biggest island called Sanago.

My father is from another island called Fogo. Fogo is where the volcano that erupted in 1994 is located. Some people say that there is also a volcano in Santiago. During slavery, the Portuguese brought lots of slaves to Cape

Verde. Even now if you go to this place you can see where they kept the slaves.

Almost all the islands in Cape Verde have the typical food. The typical food from my island is Cachupa. Cachupa is made out of corn, meat, vegetables and other ingredients. One of the biggest problems Cape Verde has is the problem with rain. It does not rain a lot in Cape Verde. Some people say its because Cape Verde is located close to the Sahara desert in Africa. In Cape Verde we listen to music from different parts of the world.

CAPE

VERDE

My Experience At City Links

Claudia Gerardin

In February 1997, I came to this country, and in September I was here at C.R.L.S. In the same year, I could understand some sentences in English. So, when Sandra Cañas came to my class I understood everything she said about City Links. I asked her if I could apply and she said that I should wait for next year because I was a sophomore and the program only accepts juniors and seniors.

Meanwhile I told two teachers that I was eager to be a part of City Links. They said that if I'm interested they would talk to Ms. Cañas. They did, and Ms. Cañas made an exception. Since that first day, I have felt like I've achieved something really important. It has opened many doors for me.

Now I have a job which I wouldn't have gone for if it wasn't for City Links. I have a mentor who helps with everything she can. I'm in a City Links course which has improved my English skills, including writing, reading and speaking.

And, I go places where I never thought I'd go for example, the State House, Umass Amherst and many other nice places. And, because of City Links, now I'm applying for other programs.

It has pushed me to do more, to want more in life, to do everything I can with the day I have, don't say there's tomorrow or wait for it. Now I'm proud to put City Links in every application that I'm filling out.



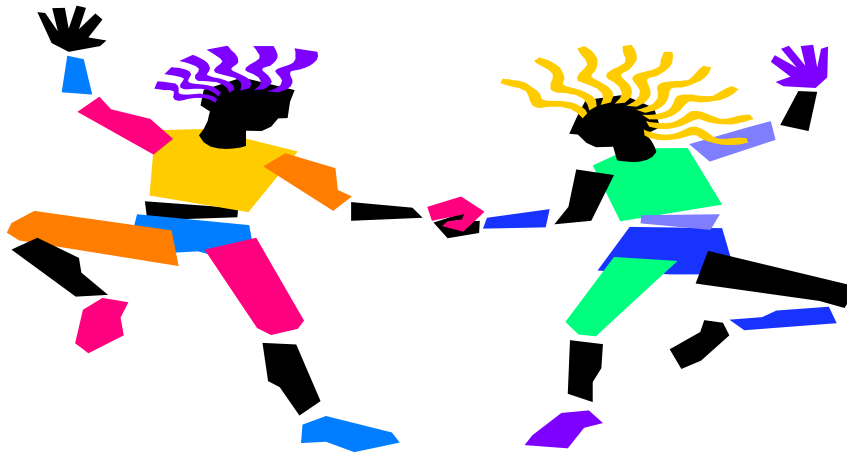
WHY WE CHOSE TO WRITE FOR THE CITY LINKS NEWSLETTER

- ▽ WANT TO LET PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT OUR PERSONAL LIFE.
- ▽ TO TALK ABOUT OUR EXPERIENCES IN THE UNITED STATES.
- ▽ WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW WHAT STUDENTS ARE DOING.
- ▽ TO GIVE PEOPLE INFORMATION ABOUT CITY LINKS AND ITS DIVERSE GROUP.
- ▽ TO HAVE PEOPLE BE AWARE OF CITY LINKS.
- ▽ FOR PEOPLE TO LEARN OF STUDENTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

City Links Newsletter

Cambridge Community Services

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**WANT MORE INFO ON CITY LINKS?
IF YOU KNOW OF ANY STUDENTS INTERESTED**

IN JOINING CITY LINKS PLEASE CONTACT:

SANDRA CAÑAS, CITYLINKS COORDINATOR 876-52174

MS. MAGGIE HUG, CITYLINKS TEACHER CRLS RM. A205

