

NEARI NEWS:

TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

An Essential Tool for Professionals Working with those who Sexually Abuse or... A Great New Way to Stay Current with Cutting Edge Sexual Abuse Research.



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Featured Jump-Start



Click [Jump-Start Video](#) to hear Derek, who has attended Jump-Start for 5 years, talk about the importance of the Jump-Start Program. We need your help to keep the Jump-Start Program alive.

To donate, you can [click here](#).

Or send your tax deductible donation to:

NEARI Jump-Start
70 North Summer Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Colleague,

For nearly two years, we have been sending out a free newsletter that takes cutting-edge research and translates that into practical information about what you need to know for your work with kids. We love offering this free service because it matches our values: being the best we can be for the kids we care about. We hope you are finding this useful.

In this month's issue, we are asking a favor of you.

Many of you may not know that in addition to our nationally recognized books and online workshops, NEARI also offers services for inner-city kids in our hometown of Holyoke, Massachusetts. We need help with a very special program.

Ten years ago, NEARI started a unique after-school program called Jump-Start. Without any identified resources we opened our doors to inner-city, at-risk Latino/Latina youth who live in the neighborhood surrounding the NEARI School in Holyoke, MA, the poorest community in Massachusetts. The kids needed the service, we had the knowledge, and somehow, we felt the money would come. Through grants, state support and resources from our NEARI Press, we have sustained a unique after-school program that has become a vibrant, rich, fun-filled community offering a safe haven for some very special young people.

But, today is a very different economy. With state cutbacks, diminishing grant opportunities and severe pressure on our core school services as well, we may have to close the program. In my entire career managing the economic ups and downs of NEARI, I have never faced a more difficult decision. Over and over I attend celebratory events and hear the testimonials of these kids. And, now that they know the program may close, here is what they are saying:

"Jump-Start is the best program ever--and it's really made my life

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Questions/Feedback

Please email us at info@neari.com or call us at 413.540.0712 to let us know if you have a question or a topic you would like us to cover.

If at any time you no longer want the e-newsletter, just let us know and we will remove your name from our list.

We value your trust. We will not sell or give your contact information to any other organization.

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way better. They took me away from my boring apartment and gave me so many things--like staff I can talk to and trust, a group of neighborhood friends that I love, trips to places I never have been, help with my schoolwork, ways to make money when I need it, and all kinds of holiday celebrations that I never had before. If the program were to get closed I wouldn't have any of those things anymore."

Eric V. (16, Dean Tech, Junior)

"I've never been to a program like this. The kids here feel like we're a part of a very special family--and we're treated much different than the way we're treated in other places. If they took my program away, it would feel like they were taking my family away. That should never happen to a kid."

Fernanda F. (13, Kelly School, 8th Grader)

"I love the program for many reasons but how it helps me with my school work is probably the most important one. Whenever I have a hard assignment or project to do, they always give me the help I need to get it done right. Thanks to Jump-Start my grades are pretty good now. With all the talk about how important it is to get a good education around Holyoke, how can they close a program that helps us so much to succeed?"

Radame J. (15, Holyoke High, Sophomore)

I can't close this program without looking everywhere possible for the funds we need to keep it alive. We are writing grants, seeking out donors, trying to organize a race event, and reaching out to anyone and everyone we know, to help in any way they can.

So, I am also reaching out to each of you as colleagues in this work, to ask for your help. As you make your end of year decisions about holiday donations, please consider a donation of any size to our Jump-Start program. If everyone receiving this e-mail donated \$10.00, the program that means so much to Eric, Fernanda and Radame would survive another year, while we seek alternative funding to sustain us over the long run. Just click on the "donate" link and follow the instructions. Your donation is tax deductible.

To donate, you can [click here](#) or send your tax deductible donation to:

NEARI Jump-Start
70 North Summer Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Thank you for your help and I wish you each and all a wonderful, meaningful, healthy, and joyous holiday season and New Year.

With deep appreciation,

Steven Bengis
Executive Director

NEARI

P.S. In January, we will return to our regular monthly e-newsletter.