

As a Lewis Hine Fellow, I am working with College Bound Dorchester (CBD), a non-profit service organization in the Boston's Dorchester neighborhood. Dorchester is an under-served area of Boston and its residents struggle to stay on the college-track while they confront poverty, underemployment and violence. The organization hopes to provide a safe place to alleviate some of these stresses. CBD is celebrating its 45th anniversary by making many new and exciting changes. Along with a shift in name from the Federated Dorchester Neighborhood Houses, the organization has narrowed its mission to focus on supporting the community's schooling and promoting higher education. CBD provides educational assistance to a population with a wide range of ages and needs. From day care to adult education, the students range in age from 2 months to 70 years old. CBD enhances the education received in the Boston school system, provides an alternative education for those who are no longer in public school, and offers the social and emotional support to help its students succeed both in education and in life beyond the classroom.

In my year at CBD, I will provide photographic assistance for some of the organizations development needs, such as the Annual Report and press releases. I will also teach photography and video to elementary school and high school aged students in the community, as well as to some of the ESL students in the Adult Education courses. I plan to use the materials created in these classes to form a collaborative final project comprised of various mediums to celebrate the organization and its community.