

Victoria Fleischer
Lewis Hine Fellow

Progress Report (March – May)

When I started at College Bound Dorchester (CBD) last September, I was struck by the level of dedication and passion among the staff. CBD is a large non-profit organization teeming with staff who regularly go above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference amongst some of the most at-risk populations in Boston. Since arriving, I have taken hundreds of photographs for CBD's communication materials. As my primary Hine project, I am producing multimedia profiles of four remarkable individuals; collectively, these pieces tell the larger story of CBD.

As I hit the mid point in this project, I am about to enter the final stretch of my fellowship. I have edited two of the four profiles and have begun to work on my third individual. My first piece tells the story of Ismail, the lead instructor for the 16-24 year olds at CBD who are seeking their GED. Ismail, like his students, has faced some very large challenges, yet he has drastically turned his life around for the better. Because of his experiences and honesty, his students relate to and respect him and aspire to his example. Leslie, my second subject, is the Co-Director of Adolescent Education; she is responsible for the social and emotional support for the 12-24 year olds in a variety of different programming at CBD. In addition to her work at CBD, she has opened her home to a few teenagers who were living in environments that impeded their success. Her faith and her upbringing urge her to share her resources and to love and support those around her, especially those in need.

The piece I'm currently producing follows the life of Susan, a Dorchester-born woman who has worked for the last 25 years with the Early Education and 6-11 year olds at CBD. My final piece will tell the story of Mila, an immigrant woman from Cape Verde who teaches English to immigrants living in Dorchester, primarily from Cape Verde and other West African countries. The four pieces will be displayed on a website, screened for the CBD community at an event at the end of June, and used by CBD in the future.

Another large focus of my time has been the Annual Report. Acting as the on-staff photographer for CBD, I shot all the photographs used in the report, which was printed last week in combination with an online version (found at www.collegebounddorchester.com/annualreport). I also created a short video that is used in conjunction with the report to provide a deeper look into the organization and some of its students. The report and the video were the result of a close collaboration between the development associate, Sherrie, and I. Sherrie is my direct point of contact at the organization and worked with me throughout the photo shoots and interviews to ensure that the final product was exactly what the CBD development team desired.

As my fellowship begins to wind down, my primary focus will be my four profiles. However, I will also be the photographer for the Annual Event in the beginning of June. When I end my 10 months at CBD, I will be leaving behind my two projects, described

above, as well as a large archive of photographs taken throughout the year. Before I depart, I plan to print an exhibit to be displayed around the 4 main CBD buildings. In addition, many of these photographs will be displayed on the walls at the aforementioned CBD event to screen my primary Hine piece. I hope this event will provide a space for everyone at the organization to celebrate their collective work over this past year.