

Earth Day 2022 was this past Saturday and we hope you were able to participate. We had a blast at 'Party for the Planet' hosted by the Buttonwood Park Zoo! Together, with about 30 other community organizations, we took part in engaging with zoo attendees and spreading the love for our Mother Earth! We handed out wildflower seedbombs to the eager kiddos.




**BIOMED
PROGRAMS**

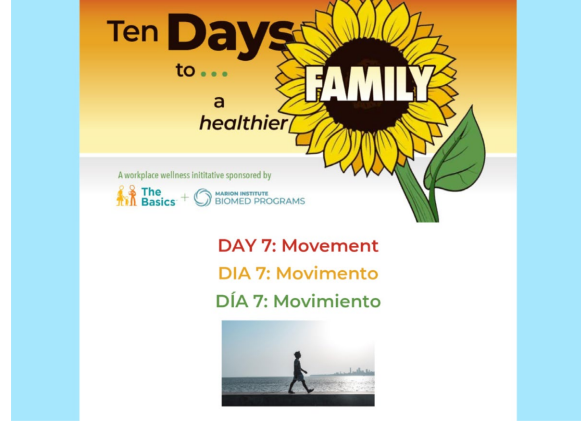
BioMed Expands into Worksite Wellness Programming

by Katie Mannix, BioMed Program Manager

When it comes to the workplace, so much depends on health. According to a 2012, pre-pandemic survey conducted by the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott

Children's Hospital, "as many as one-third of parents with kids in child care worry about losing wages or their jobs because of missing work to take care of their sick children." And according to the National Partnership for Women and Families, an estimated 40% of private-sector workers and 80% of low-wage workers lack paid sick leave benefits.

Thanks to the financial support of the Polaroid Fund, a discretionary fund of the Boston Foundation, the Marion Institute has consolidated its BioMed resources on immune support and healthy living into a new **Worksite Wellness** program, marking a new chapter in the way that our BioMed Program is supporting healthier communities.



The Worksite Wellness program was successfully piloted last month at Sid Wainer & Son in New Bedford, MA. In partnership with NorthStar Learning Center and with translation work provided by Philomene Koenig, the Marion Institute provided Sid Wainer & Son employees daily health and wellness-related emails for two weeks on topics known to correlate strongly with positive health outcomes.

Communications also included complementary guidance from The Basics for supporting the healthy development of young people ages 0-5. With these resources - available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish - employers have a new tool in creating a culture of health in the workplace.

Interested in partnering with the Marion Institute on a wellness program at your worksite? Contact Katie Mannix at katie@marioninstitute.org to learn more today.

[Click here to register for our May 3rd BioBites event](#)

"What's Growin' On?" April updates from Grow Education

by Adam Davenport, Grow Education Program Manager



**GROW
EDUCATION**

Throughout this past month, Grow Education supported a series of events that we called Community Recipe Meetings. The purpose of these events was to gather local parents, guardians, and families to share family and cultural recipes that they would like to see on the school menu.

Working with the school district's Family Engagement Specialists, Grow Education, in partnership with the NBPS Food Service Department, welcomed neighborhood families to come together for a delicious meal of Caldo de Pollo. This recipe, a Central American soup, was prepared in the school cafeteria after being shared by the Mujeres Victoriosas resident mothers group, and then modified by NB food service for USDA compliance. [<<< Click here to read the full newsletter text >>>](#)



Positions available in New Bedford!! <https://foodcorps.org/apply/>

SFPC Highlights Very Big Accomplishments this Month!

by Christine Smith, Southcoast Food Policy Council Program Manager



**SOUTHCOAST
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**

The Southcoast Food Policy Council (SFPC) accomplished much this month. We hosted our second quarterly meeting for SFPC Members-at-Large on April 14, began meeting with our SFPC Working Groups, and recruited and met with three Food Equity Advisors.

The SFPC Quarterly Meetings provide an opportunity for us to report on the current work of the SFPC's Community Advisory Board (CAB) and garner feedback from the larger network of food policy council stakeholders. During April's meeting, we shared the process we used to identify Working Groups and the priorities within each, invited feedback from participants, and encouraged people to join one of the Working Groups during our open enrollment process. Additionally, we provided a policy update and shared recent successes of the first Advocacy Action of the MA Food System, and urged people to act on behalf of specific advocacy that aligns with their interests. Lastly, our CAB Co-Chair, Emily Breen, updated participants about a health and environmental grant opportunity from the MA Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds. You can [read the notes](#) and see the [PowerPoint](#) (insert PPT) from the Quarterly meeting. [<<< Click here to read the full newsletter text >>>](#)



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