

OCTOBER 2021



Samuel is Just Getting Started!

Samuel Mamo, originally from Ethiopia, came to **Just A Start's Biomedical Program** after being laid off from his job at a hotel during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a father of three, he has a family to support and wanted to further his career to gain reliable, sustainable employment. Samuel worked very hard in the program and despite all the challenges the pandemic brought to him and his family, he graduated as the class valedictorian.

In his graduation speech he said, **"This graduation has already shown us how capable we all are of achieving our goals when we commit ourselves to them."**



Samuel and his family at the Biomedical Careers graduation in September of 2021.

Samuel landed a reliable job as a Biobank Technician at Brooks Life Sciences only one month after graduating. In addition, his hourly wage is 16% higher than his previous job, providing him and his family with a much needed financial boost to help them meet their goals. *Photo Credit: [Ethi Al-Mahdi](#)



 **Eastern Bank**
JOIN US FOR GOOD®

On October 26th, 52 New Street was the first project presented to the City of Cambridge Planning Board under the recently enacted **Affordable Housing Overlay (AHO)**. We appreciate this bold initiative that Cambridge has taken to address the housing crisis, and we're honored to be the standard bearer for this innovative policy.

Since 2016, Eastern Bank Foundation has supported Just A Start's programming through the **CITC program**. We are grateful for their support again this year to help us build homes, careers, and futures for people in our shared community. Thank you!

YouthBuild Just A Start Alumni Club

The **YouthBuild Just A Start** alumni club gathered in the beginning of October, their first time gathering in person since the onset of the pandemic. **The purpose of the meetings is to connect alumni not only with the robust resources that YouthBuild Just A Start offers, such as career networking and college tours**, but also with members of



different cohorts. While enjoying good food and company, alumni also discussed ways to give back to their community and its members.

Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) Program

The season of giving is upon us! Your gift to Just A Start qualifies for the CITC program, which:

- provides a **50% refundable state tax credit to donations of \$1,000 or more**
- enables donors to **double the impact of their contribution**, helping to support our many programs in a significant way



Your gift can go even further! Cambridge Savings Bank is matching all donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$50,000. **A donation to Just A Start helps make Cambridge a vibrant, caring, and equitable community for all.**

**DONATE
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Our mission is to promote equity by creating access to stable housing and building pathways to economic opportunity.



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