



Community Reach
of Montgomery County

NEWSLETTER February 2021

In This Issue:

Thank You to Our Volunteers

Save the Date - Reach Annual Gala

COVID Information * Meet a Volunteer

Artwork from a Senior Reach Participant * Food Security Survey

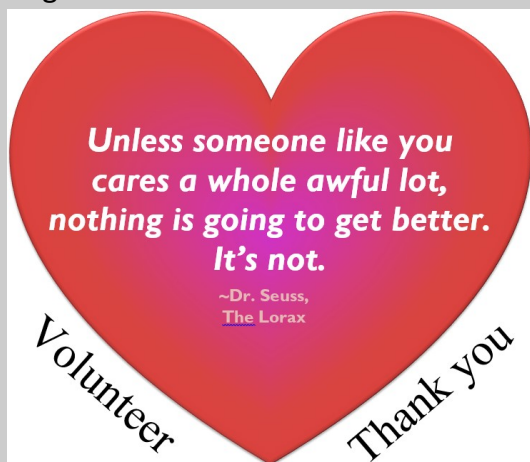
Worth Noting * Volunteer Opportunities

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Although National Volunteer Week does not take place until the third week in April, Reach has traditionally celebrated our volunteers in the winter. For many years, Reach has held a Volunteer Reception at the end of January. This year holding an in-person event to recognize the work of our volunteers was not possible due to the pandemic and safety considerations. Although we cannot meet in person, Reach wanted to thank all those who have given their time and talent, especially those who have done so during 2020.

The challenging year meant that volunteering often looked different and the tasks with which volunteers could assist changed as well. In the fall, a number of groups heard the call to action and spent a morning raking leaves for our Senior Reach Program clients. Volunteers with our Rockville Emergency Assistance Program began to work from home, checking messages and returning client calls to get and provide basic information, saving our program director precious time as demand for our assistance increased.

Many volunteer interpreters for our Kaseman Health Clinic also worked virtually, present in our examining rooms via Zoom screens rather than physically there. Groups that had provided monthly dinners for our housing residents had to revamp their cooking and delivery methods to protect everyone. Much of the office duties volunteers had performed, assistance with childcare and tutoring of Language



Outreach Program, and help with our events had to be set aside.

For all our volunteers who were unable to join us, thank you for your commitment to our clients and our organization. For those of you who found new ways to volunteer, thank you for your creativity and interest in trying new things. For those who were able to continue volunteering in the ways you have done in the past, thank you for your persistence.

Reach board and staff are well aware that our work could not be accomplished without the work of volunteers. Thank you for all you do now and have done in the past. We truly look forward to the time when we will be able to work with more of you in person and can also celebrate you with an in-person event. Hopefully both of those situations will take place not too far in the future.

For more information about volunteer opportunities with Reach, check out CMRocks.org [Volunteer Page](#).

SAVE THE DATE for the REACH 2021 ANNUAL GALA **"Come REACH with Us...to Meet a Greater Need"**

Please plan to join Reach on Saturday, April 24th for our second virtual Gala! Catherine Leggett serves as the Gala Chair for a very active Gala committee. Montgomery County Councilmember Craig Rice will be the very entertaining Auctioneer for the live auction that is again expected to have four or five opportunities to engage the audience.

The "official" invitation will be emailed in mid March. Please keep up-to-date as the event is organized and new details are posted at [Gala 2021](#).

Sponsorship opportunities are available. A sponsor form with all information will soon be up on the [website](#), and will provide the benefits of each sponsor level. Reach staff is happy to discuss the specific interests of potential sponsors and tailor an agreement that works best for everyone. Please contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#).

Follow Reach on Facebook (@CMRocks.org) and Twitter (@CMRockville) as well.

Community Reach  of Montgomery County

Come **REACH** *with us*
...to meet a greater need

Annual Gala Saturday, April 24, 2021

COVID TESTING AND VACCINE ADVOCACY, AVAILABILITY

The COVID-19 pandemic spotlighted inequities in our healthcare system and our economy. Those issues are of concern as COVID-19 vaccines are administered as well. Our Black and Latino communities have statistically seen the highest numbers of infection and death, yet those communities are not currently being vaccinated as

quickly as those in the White community. Maryland Nonprofits is advocating for more vaccine access to populations most affected by the pandemic and will be sending a letter to Governor Hogan with that request. Please read the [Vaccine Letter](#) and consider signing it in support of this issue. For additional information about who is being vaccinated in Montgomery County, see the new County [Data Portal](#). Page two provides most of the data broken out by demographic.

There are now two open mass vaccination sites in Baltimore (the Baltimore Convention Center and the M&T Bank Stadium) and one in Prince Georges County (Six Flags). Representatives of the Montgomery County government and in the MD State Legislature are lobbying for a mass vaccination site in Montgomery County. One of the locations they are recommending is the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg. On Tuesday, Governor Hogan announced the opening of a fourth site in Charles County.



For those who want to pre-register for the vaccine, but cannot easily do so online, there are two options to get help with a phone call. Montgomery County will assist residents who call **240-777-2982** from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week to pre-register for doses delivered through the County run sites. An operator who speaks English and/or Spanish will complete the electronic form for the caller, and if the caller is unable to receive email or text messages, they will receive a phone call and assistance when it is their turn to make a vaccine appointment. The Maryland Department of Aging (MDOA) has set up a COVID-19 Vaccination Support Center that is accessible seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. at **1-855-MDGOVAX (1-855-634-6829)**. The MDOA Secretary is Rona Kramer, who provided a video clip for the REACH 2020 Virtual Gala. For more information about the Maryland center, see this [MyMCMedia article](#).

For those who wish to pre-register online, find out who is currently eligible to pre-register, or to learn about other vaccine opportunities in Montgomery County and Maryland, see [Montgomery County Vaccines](#).

Testing to slow the spread of disease is still recommended by Montgomery County Health Officer, Dr. Travis Gayles. Testing locations and schedules are available at [MoCo Testing](#). Kaseman Clinic has resumed testing in the Rockville United Methodist Church parking lot at 112 W. Montgomery Avenue on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. On the first and third Sunday each month, testing is available in the Rockville United Church parking lot at 355 Linthicum Street from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

MEET KASEMAN HEALTH CLINIC VOLUNTEER JORGE MURILLO

Tell us about yourself: I'm Jorge Murillo, a child of Mexican immigrants. I was born and raised in Gilroy, CA - Garlic Capital of the World - where I also studied at Gavilan Community College. I went on to study cognitive science at the University of California, Davis where I became involved in memory research. I came to the Montgomery County area in 2019 following graduation to start a research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) where I continue to do memory research. I am an avid soccer player and meditator. I also love learning about different cultures and reading when I



can!

Why did you become a Kaseman Health Clinic volunteer?

While at NIH I decided, through my personal and academic experiences, that I want to be a physician and especially one that cares and treats patients in communities like the one where I grew up. I appreciate the Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic because it supports and cares for vulnerable populations that have difficulty accessing health care. Since I grew up visiting community health centers for my own treatment, I know that they serve as a bridge between the vulnerable and quality health care. Therefore, I have been proud to volunteer as a Spanish-English interpreter. I have

enjoyed serving as the linguistic and cultural bridge between clinician and patient.

Do you want to reach a specific goal through volunteering at the Clinic?

My goals at Kaseman Clinic were to make communication between patient and clinician more fluid and to observe how clinicians care for and treat diverse patients. I appreciate my volunteer experience as an interpreter at the clinic since I got more out of it than I planned. I also learned how a clinic functions from observing administration work on daily tasks and assisting with paperwork, calling patients, and setting up the initial COVID-19 mobile testing site. This additional experience served as good insight since I may want to open my own private practice or community clinic in the future!

Thank you, Jorge, for volunteering with Reach's Kaseman Health Clinic!

Find out more about our [Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic](#).

ARTWORK FROM A SENIOR REACH PARTICIPANT

A participant of our Senior Reach program recently moved from one unit to another in an apartment house in Rockville. Ms. Mackey emailed this piece of her artwork to our Senior Reach Program Manager, Will Mohan. She wanted to especially thank him for the additional help the program provided during the pandemic.

Artist statement:

"A new way of living means a new way of giving. As we give, we share our souls. In my art, there is a picture of who I am."

Find out more about our [Senior Reach Program](#).



Pamela Mackey, 2020

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOOD SURVEY ENDS SOON

The Montgomery County Food Council survey that had been shared in previous communications is only available until March 17. If you have not completed the survey, please do so at mocofoodcouncil.org/survey. It is now available in five languages -



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FOOD COUNCIL

have enough to eat.

English, Amharic, Chinese, French, and Spanish. The Council wants to get an accurate picture of current community needs as they have changed since the pandemic began. Please consider sharing this information with your Montgomery County network so the organization can get the clearest picture possible to help shape the County government and nonprofit response to assuring all residents

Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, April 24, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

"Come REACH with Us...to Meet a Greater Need"

Reach 2021 Annual Gala

Virtual on ZOOM

Sponsorship Opportunities [available](#)

Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

COVID-19 TESTING

Rockville United Methodist Church

112 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville

1st & 3rd Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

COVID-19 TESTING

Rockville United Church

355 Linthicum Street, Rockville



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN A REACH COMMITTEE - Development, Finance, Faith Advisory, and Governance currently all meet online as standing committees. Help determine the success of Reach through your service. Short term committees also need new members. The Annual Gala committee is currently meeting every Tuesday evening to plan the April 24th Virtual Gala.

WRITER/EDITOR/INVESTIGATOR to help build out our procedures manual for a few departments and programs that are not yet completed. Interview staff to determine how tasks are accomplished and who is responsible for what. Help them explain their work in layman's terms and then put it in writing for them.

CLIENT INTAKE COORDINATORS for Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP). Are you a compassionate, detail-oriented person with a desire to help those in need? Work a four-hour shift weekly during business hours (ideally from 9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm) to help us assist Rockville residents facing eviction; provide County residents with referrals for low-cost dental and other services; and much more. Training is provided. **DURING COVID CLOSURES**, volunteers can assist remotely by collecting information from callers and providing basic answers to questions.

INTERPRETERS at the Kaseman Health Clinic are needed for four-hour shifts once each week between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Openings currently on Monday afternoon, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday. Help us ensure that our providers and patients can communicate clearly. Confidentiality is required.

DONATIONS REQUESTED:

For Kaseman Health Clinic & Housing Program:

C-Fold Paper Towels, Paper Towels, Hand Sanitizer,
Antibacterial Hand Soap, Trash Bags, Disinfecting Wipes,
Scouring Powder, Window Cleaner, Facial Tissue, Bleach,
Disinfectant Spray, Dishwashing Liquid

For more information about these opportunities and others, please visit our [Volunteer Page](#) or contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#) at 301-637-0172.



Thanks to Our Reach Board of Directors!

Board Chair Paul Love, Vice Chair Judy Ackerman

Rae Pearl Canizares, Lou Kallas, Rouzanna Oganissian, Suzanne Rotbert,
Nancy Sushinsky, and Lihua Zhang

Ex-Officio President and Executive Director Agnes Saenz

Ex-Officio Donna Perry, Chair, Kaseman Health Clinic Board, *Ex-Officio* Jody Eccleston, Treasurer

MKHC Board of Directors

Board Chair Donna R. Perry MD, Barbara Courtney MS RCEP FAACVPR, Lynnette Gannaway, Angeline Lazarus MD, Jackie Lobien RN, Bridget Plummer RN, Stephanie Wright FNP PhD

Ex-Officio Executive Director Agnes Saenz, *Ex-Officio* Paul Love, Chair, Reach Board,

Ex-Officio Sheila Levin MD, Medical Director

DONATE TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY

STAY CONNECTED:



Community Reach of Montgomery County
1010 Grandin Ave #A1, Rockville MD 20851
301/637-0730 | Info@CMRocks.org | CMRocks.org

