



**FOR IMMEDIATE
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BELONGING BEGINS WITH US ORGANIZATIONS HELP RESIDENTS CALL MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOME

Rockville, MD – September 9, 2021 – Montgomery County Welcoming committee: [MCAEL](#), [CHEER](#), [Community Reach of Montgomery County](#), [English Now](#), [Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center](#), [Identity Inc.](#), [Montgomery College](#), [MCPS](#), [Office of Councilmember Gabe Albornoz](#), [Washington Center for International Education](#) are celebrating Welcoming Week September 10-19, 2021 under the theme “Belonging Begins With US.”

“We help people feel they belong by opening our doors and connecting people to their neighbors, resources and communities so that they feel like they can truly call Montgomery County home. All of the participating organizations in this year’s planning of Welcoming Week, offer essential resources that help residents, and their families succeed,” says MCAEL Executive Director Kathy Stevens.

Welcoming Week is an initiative to build strong connections across communities and affirm the benefits of welcoming everyone. With recent hate crimes against the Asian community and an influx of unaccompanied minors and resettlement of refugees, the committee invites the community to join in the everyday work of building welcoming places for all. As part of Welcoming Week, this year’s events include:

- **September 10-12** Friday 6-9pm, Saturday 11am-9pm Sunday 4-6pm Long Branch Festival. Visit our table at the festival!
- **September 15th 12pm-1pm** Crossroads Farmers Market; County Council joins us at the market to commemorate and celebrate Welcoming Week 2021 through a proclamation.
- **September 16 1-2pm** Twitter chat @MCAELTeam with participating organizations on how they help residents call Montgomery County home.
- **September 17 4-6pm** English Now Community Service Fair and Ice Cream Social, at Caroline Freeland Urban Park, 7200 Arlington Rd, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Follow us at <https://mcael.org/welcoming-week> for more event and community resource information. Join the conversation using the hashtag #MoCoWeWelcome.

About the Montgomery County Welcoming Committee

Participating organizations work on a range of services and resources that connect residents to English classes, homes, food and health assistance, education and academic support, affordable housing, workforce development, digital literacy and more.

MCAEL

MCAEL strengthens the community by advancing a coalition of organizations dedicated to enabling all Montgomery County residents to achieve their full potential by improving their English language skills.