



Community Reach  
of Montgomery County

**NEWSLETTER March 2021**

**In This Issue:**

**What Does Reach Do?**

**You Are Invited to the Reach Annual Gala**

**Our FY20 Annual Report Is Here!**

**A Volunteer Story \* COVID-19 Vaccination Updates**

**Worth Noting \* Volunteer Opportunities**

*For those observing the many religious holidays occurring in the coming days and weeks, Reach wishes you a meaningful holiday celebration!*

**WHAT DOES REACH DO? HERE IS ONE STORY**

An active MCPS parent contacted Reach for information about financial assistance to share with a Latino family in their community. The main breadwinner had been hospitalized for the past 80 days due to COVID.

Reach's Rockville Emergency Assistance Program ([REAP](#)) offered information to pass on about rent and utility assistance. A Reach supporter had previously inquired about helping families affected by COVID, so Reach asked the parent if there was anything else the family needed. The answer: food would be greatly appreciated. With the family's approval, our Spanish speaking Language Outreach Program ([LOP](#)) Director called to collect a grocery list. Fourteen bags of groceries were delivered to the family the following day by the supporter and Reach's Deputy Director. Mom expressed the family's heartfelt thanks and apologized that her English was not better. They all laughed as the Deputy Director said Mom's English was by far much better than her own Spanish.

When the active MCPS parent was notified of the food delivery, she replied:

*“That’s wonderful! Thank you for letting me know. Thank you to REACH and the ‘just want to help’ family from a kindred spirit.”*

***YOU ARE INVITED:***  
**REACH VIRTUAL ANNUAL GALA, APRIL 24TH**

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Gala Chair: **Catherine Leggett** Master of Ceremonies: **Michael Bobbitt**

Auctioneer: **Montgomery County Councilmember Craig Rice**

**Saturday, April 24th 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Zoom**

**Live Auction \* Audience Participation**

To **ATTEND** or **SPONSOR** the event see [EVENTS](#)

Community Reach  of Montgomery County

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

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Annual Gala Saturday, April 24, 2021

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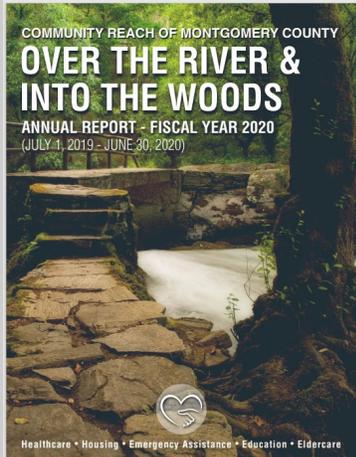
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**READ OUR FY20 ANNUAL REPORT**

Read about Fiscal Year 2020 that began as the usual trip with some bumps and challenges (over the river) and ended with a trapeze through the obscurity of a path through the woods.

See the electronic version of the FY20 Annual Report [HERE](#). It can also be downloaded from the link.



If you would like a printed copy mailed to you, please send an email with the mailing address to [JFagnani@CMRocks.org](mailto:JFagnani@CMRocks.org). Let us know what you think, as well! Please send comments about the Report and our work to [AndreaKWink@CMRocks.org](mailto:AndreaKWink@CMRocks.org)

## MEET SENIOR REACH PROGRAM VOLUNTEER, RHONDA HARRIS

**Tell us about yourself:** I am originally from Maryland, but have called many places home. I have been a resident of Virginia, Michigan, South Carolina, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In 2018, I returned to Maryland and currently reside in Montgomery County. I am a “retired” speech language pathologist who might, one day, return to the workforce because I truly miss the professional responsibility of connecting clients to their communication abilities. I love books, especially historical fiction. I love dance, especially ballet. And I love to spend time with my family, especially my husband, my two daughters, my two sons-in-law, my granddaughter, and my dog!

**Why did you become a Senior Reach volunteer?** I was raised in a family where the spirit of providing service to others was a natural and necessary part of being a member of the community. In all the places I have lived, I have made an effort to find volunteer opportunities that allowed me to utilize my skill set as a speech language pathologist and to focus on my passion for enhancing literacy. In my professional life and volunteer experiences, I have enjoyed working with our youngest and our oldest citizens, helping to maximize their ability to use language for reading, writing, listening and speaking. I was drawn to the idea of volunteering with Senior Reach as a Friendly Caller because it would, indeed, allow me to support a familiar population by encouraging them to communicate, offering a listening ear and sharing vital community information.

**Is there a specific goal this work will help you reach?** I hope to have the client indicate, “I am so glad that you called.” I hope to be able to hear them smile through the phone and to give me a sense that our interaction was beneficial. I know that offering a very small portion of my time each week to check on our seasoned senior citizens has given me a sense of connection to our community and I hope that my clients feel that same connection through their time with me.



**Thank you, Rhonda, for volunteering with Reach's Senior Reach Program!**  
Find out more about [Senior Reach Program](#).

## COVID-19 INFORMATION UPDATES

Changes to COVID information occur daily. Reach has a recently retired federal public health volunteer who is tracking changes at the



federal, state, and county level. Reach clinic and advocacy staff are also active participants in COVID discussions.

Officials request that residents continue to be tested for COVID. The Kaseman Health Clinic, as part of the County's Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar, offers free, drive-up testing every Saturday at Rockville United Methodist Church, and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at Rockville United Church (sites closed on 4/3 & 4/4). Both open 10am – 2pm.

There are ongoing discussions about the Clinic offering COVID vaccinations starting in upcoming weeks. As with testing, the goal is to provide better access to the hard-hit Latino population. About 70% of Clinic patients identify as Latino.

Maryland recently updated preregistration and vaccine eligibility. The state is now vaccinating those 60 years plus. On March 30, those 16 – 59 with underlying health conditions or developmental disabilities will be eligible. On April 13, residents 55+ and essential workers are added. It is expected every resident over age 15 will be eligible on April 27. Getting vaccinated will still be dependent on supply. A mass vaccination site, open to all Marylanders, is scheduled to open at Montgomery College's Germantown Campus around April 5. More information about vaccines: [MD GoVAX](#), [Montgomery County](#), and [Reach](#).

Reach, with Montgomery County, continues to work to assist those with difficulty obtaining vaccinations. The process is cumbersome, requires patience and often internet access and skills. Reach is part of the Midcounty Regional Center group helping to connect residents in hard hit zip codes 20902 and 20906.

Vaccine hesitancy is a continuing concern. Surveys show many of the vaccine-hesitant most trust their health professionals for accurate information. Others who could influence are religious clergy, and community leaders. Reach is working to educate our constituents about vaccine safety and efficacy. Reach further encourages constituents to share vaccine information and assist those who have difficulty with pre-registration, scheduling appointments, or transportation to vaccination sites.

## Montgomery County Volunteer Center Needs

### Volunteers for COVID Outreach



**Reach has been asked to share this information about a volunteer need in Montgomery County:**

Montgomery County is in need of Community Ambassador Volunteers to staff County vaccine pre-registration events. The Montgomery County Volunteer Center and Office of Community Partnerships are working with Montgomery County's Health Department and a broad network of community organizations (such as Reach) to ensure our most vulnerable residents receive information about the COVID-19 vaccine, and assistance with pre-registering for a County Health Clinic vaccination appointment. To achieve this goal, the County needs volunteer Community Ambassadors to conduct in-person outreach at County supported events in communities where COVID rates are high, vaccination rates are low, and barriers to receiving the vaccine are significant. Duties include distributing vaccine fliers, answering questions, hosting information tables, distributing COVID kits, and offering pre-registration assistance. **Since the events take place in multilingual areas, volunteers with language skills (particularly fluency in Spanish) are vital!** Please know that ensuring COVID-safe interactions by practicing social distancing, wearing masks, using hand sanitizer, and relying on posters with QR codes is a County top priority!

If you are interested in this position, start by signing up for a required Zoom **Information Session**. You'll learn more about what's going on with vaccines and equity in the County,

event goals, vaccine appointment options, the pre-registration process, and relevant resources -- plus you will have the opportunity to ask questions. Go to the "[Vaccine](#)" page on the [Volunteer Center website](#), scroll down, and, under "Resources for Community Ambassadors, you'll see dates and links to sign up.

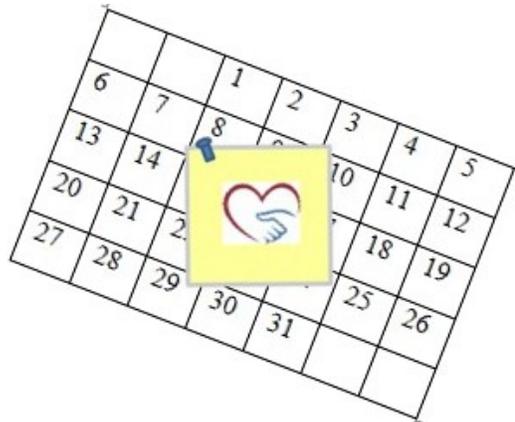
## ***Mark Your Calendar!***

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

### **REACH ANNUAL GALA -**

***Come REACH with Us  
to Meet a Greater Need***

Virtual on Zoom - information & registration [HERE](#)



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

### **COVID-19 TESTING**

*Rockville United Methodist Church*

*112 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville*

**NO TESTING ON SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD**

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

### **COVID-19 TESTING**

*Rockville United Church*

*355 Linthicum Street, Rockville*

**NO TESTING ON SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH**

## **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. Help us ensure that our providers and patients can communicate clearly. Confidentiality is required. DURING COVID CLOSURES, volunteers can assist from their homes over Zoom.

**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!**

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**DONATE TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY**



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**STAY CONNECTED**

