



Community Reach
of Montgomery County

NEWSLETTER August 2020

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PAT JOHNSON RETIRES

Long time staff secretary, Pat Johnson, retired in March. Due to COVID, this goodbye is late by a few months.

Pat was the staff member who most frequently was approached for answers about Reach history, former board and staff members, and our supporters. She worked tirelessly on Reach events, curating auction items, designing most of the printed event pieces, recording all financial and in-kind donations, developing guest packets, and reminding staff of the tasks that needed to be completed. For Reach and MKHC in general, Pat tracked all donations, wrote thank you letters, and generally made sure everyone had what they needed to do their job most efficiently. Her amazing ability to take care of the office and to make it look effortless made it hard to imagine how Reach would accomplish the multitude of details without her. Pat preferred getting everything done without being noticed. The craziness of COVID allowed Pat to finish her work with Reach exactly the way she wanted - slipping out quietly when no one was looking.



For the past 20 years Pat has not only been a staff member, she has also been a Reach supporter. She purchased a table each year at the Gala for her family and herself. Her husband, sisters, brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews bid on and always won some of the auction items she had carefully curated. Did we mention Pat's sisters annually donated many new items to create exciting baskets for the

auction? Although Pat had wanted to retire for a number of months, she would not leave until she knew her position was filled with someone who would be as detail oriented as she wanted.

Pat has been a very important part of this organization for almost 20 years. We miss her overflowing, never-ending wealth of knowledge, opinions, and ability to get things done. Even more, we miss her daily presence. She liked to say she was not at all important, but every staff member and most supporters know how truly essential her work was to our success, and how much she cared about the organization and those with whom she worked.

Although Pat would strongly object to being thanked for her service and support in the newsletter or in any other way, Reach is thanking her publicly. If you see Pat Johnson, please say hello, tell her how much we miss her, and remind her to drop us a line every once in a while.

WELCOME JESSICA FAGNANI TO OUR TEAM

The ability to work independently, and also work closely with staff members; build a spreadsheet, run reports from a database, and also design marketing materials; research options for office equipment, and be able to provide wonderful customer service - these skills and others are what Reach wanted to find in a new Administrative Assistant. In other words, we were looking for someone with an extraordinary left brain and right brain. Jessica Fagnani has all those skills, a great brain, and was hired in March as the new Administrative Assistant.

Jessica was well known to Reach and also knew Reach well. She had worked as a child tutor in the Language Outreach Program years ago, and has volunteered at many Reach events, primarily completing onsite accounting duties and providing customer service at registration. Jessica accepted the position and came on board a week before most of the Reach staff began working virtually due to COVID. Talk about a rough introduction to a new position!



Jessica has adapted well, taking on many challenges and finding new ways to complete tasks in a continually changing environment. Just to further challenge her abilities to multitask, her three children who attend middle and elementary school are now at home all day. Her personal responsibilities include juggling assistance with their school work in addition to the regular duties of parenting. Staff often receives email from Jessica well into the evening as her work hours, like many of ours, become more adaptive.

In addition to her ability to get to the heart of an issue and determine the logical steps needed to reach the goal, Jessica is a very dedicated parent who truly enjoys spending time with her two daughters and one son. She also enjoys spending time with her extended family, going to the beach, and exploring the countryside. A resident of Montgomery County since she was a toddler, Jessica cares deeply about Reach's mission to serve the most vulnerable in our community,

CELEBRATE MKHC VIRTUALLY ON NOVEMBER 14TH

The original plan: have a lovely dinner dance on Saturday, November 14, 2020 to celebrate Reach's Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic (MKHC) and raise funds for the important work we do for the underinsured. The hiccup: COVID-19 and the health risks of an event with many people in the same space. The updated plan: have a fun virtual event with lots of audience participation instead of the dinner dance on the same date.



A committee of MKHC supporters and staff are currently working on a plan to provide a unique and exciting virtual event the evening of November 14th. Although there is still lots of planning to do, some important parts are in place. Montgomery County Councilmember Gabe Alborno has agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies; and Rockville Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is the Chair for the event.

Sponsorships are available. Please contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#) for details. More information about the event itself will be posted at [CMRocks.org](#) in the next few weeks.

FALL ESL & CONVERSATION CLASSES ABOUT TO BEGIN

This Fall, Reach Language Outreach Program classes will all be held online. English as a Second Language (ESL) class schedules will include a two-night per week session that will run from September 8th through December 17th, or a three-night per week session running from September 14th through November 19th. Registration fees are \$20 with a \$30 book fee. Sliding scale fees are available for students who will be financially burdened by these costs.

ESL

English as a Second Language

Morning, late afternoon, and evening Conversation class schedules will be available and sessions begin September 8th, September 21st, and October 27th. Conversation classes are free and do not require the purchase of books.

Placement tests for ESL classes are taking place online through September 3rd. Complete class schedules, fees, and contact information can be found in English and Spanish [here](#).

VOLUNTEERING MIGHT LOOK DIFFERENT - BUT IT IS STILL OCCURRING!

Reach Staff members who can accomplish their work from home are being asked to continue to work remotely. Tasks that are usually completed by volunteers at the Grandin office or MKHC and are not of immediate importance are also on hold. However, opportunities to support our programs with outdoor landscaping, taking calls at the REAP office, virtually supporting children with school work will still be offered. Finding the right balance in protecting our clients, volunteers, and staff is

an ever-shifting situation in this pandemic. Then, all activities are ever-shifting in our community at this time.

Feel free to reach out to staff members with ways you would like to help. We want to hear your ideas, and are happy to brainstorm ways to help our community, assist our clients, and connect with our supporters. Find a list of our staff members at [Reach Staff](#) and [Clinic Staff](#).



COMPLETE THE CENSUS & REGISTER TO VOTE

Take the 2020 U.S. Census: There is still time to complete the 2020 Census for your household, even though Census workers began contacting households that had

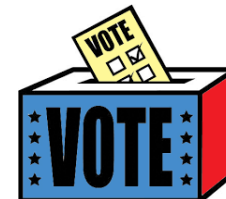
United States
**Census
2020**

not yet completed the U.S. Census earlier this month. Specific household information cannot be shared with any government entity, business, individual, etc. for 72 years (beginning in 2092). All people who live in the U.S., regardless of their legal status, are counted. Census numbers determine the federal

dollars our community will receive for social services, government representatives, number of schools, etc. If you have not completed the Census, do so at: [2020 Census](#). Please share this information with your network.

Register to Vote/Request a Mail-in Ballot: This year's general election will take place on November 3rd. U.S. Citizens in Montgomery County will vote for U.S. President, U.S. Congressional Representatives, Montgomery County School Board, Montgomery County Circuit Court Judges as well as questions to become state or county law. Due to COVID, any U.S. Citizen residing in Maryland may request a mail-in ballot and vote by mail, no reason needed. There will be early voting locations in every county, and polls will be open on November 3rd. To register to vote, check to see if you are registered to vote, request a mail-in ballot, or get additional information about the election, see [State Board of Elections](#). For those who choose to vote by mail and limit their exposure to others, the U.S. Postal Service recommends requesting a mail-in ballot at least 15 days before election day (by October 12). Voting is a right and responsibility of citizenship. Reach, through LOP, has helped many county residents become U.S. Naturalized Citizens and earn the right to vote.

Maryland is also hiring election judges. Apply [here](#).

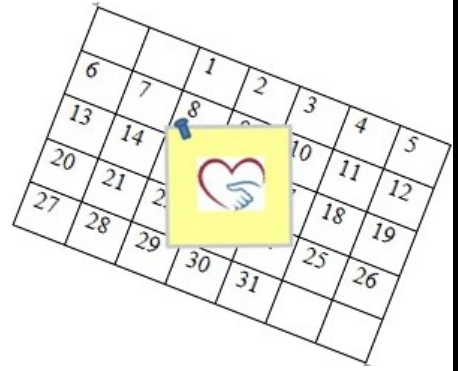


Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, September 8, 2020 6:30 p.m.

LOP ESL and CONVERSATION CLASSES

Virtual Event - Click [HERE](#) for more information & to register



Saturday, November 14, 2020 6:00 p.m.

CELEBRATION OF

MANSFIELD KASEMAN HEALTH CLINIC

Virtual Event - more information available soon

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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, vision and other services; and much more. Training is provided.

YARD CLEAN-UP for Senior Reach Program. Senior clients would like individuals or groups to mow their lawns as needed, trim bushes, pick up yard debris, etc. throughout the growing season. Other senior residents have requested assistance with a one-time landscaping task. Contact [Andrea](#) to discuss the opportunities available.

TRANSLATORS fluent in Spanish/English with a layperson's vocabulary of medical terms needed at MKHC. Shifts of four hours a couple of times each month. MKHC is open to patients M-F from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Help us ensure that our providers and patients can communicate clearly. Confidentiality is required.

HELP WITH MKHC CELEBRATION through serving on the Event Committee, sharing skills in video, graphics, stage productions, online meetings, connections to local celebrities, etc.

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,
Toilet Bowl Cleaner, 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, Secretary Rae Pearl Canizares,
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MKHC Board of Directors

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**DONATE TO HELP
OUR COMMUNITY**

STAY CONNECTED:



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