



NEWSLETTER July 2020

In Search of a Knee-Walker

to be lent or donated for use by a client with broken ankle -
please contact info@CMRocks.org or 301-637-0730

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SUMMER/FALL PLANS FOR REACH PROGRAMS

Throughout Maryland's Stay At Home orders, and as we have moved into gradual openings, all Reach programs have remained open and serving our patients/students/residents/clients. Here is how Reach expects to operate through 2020:

Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic continues to see patients in person and through telehealth appointments.

More specialists are returning to in-person patient visits.

Patients are asked COVID screening questions when they schedule their appointments and have their temperature taken when they arrive.

Walk-in appointments remain on hold, but patients can call for a same-day appointment or to schedule a future date.

Many volunteer translators who chose to stay away from MKHC in the Spring, are returning, and there is a renewed interest in this volunteer opportunity.

The annual fall fundraising event for MKHC will be held virtually on Saturday, November 14, 2020. Details will be available soon. CMRocks.org/MKHC

Language Outreach Program moved classes from the classroom to online apps in

mid-March.

Summer Classes are taking place online and all Fall classes will also be held virtually. The Fall schedule offers various times and days and is now posted on our website at CMRocks.org/LOP.

As it is easier for some students to attend virtual classes, it is expected this option will continue even when in-person classes resume, hopefully in Spring 2021.

Although childcare is not provided virtually during class sessions, parents are encouraged to contact [Cecilia Rojas](#) for one-on-one schoolwork assistance for their children - primarily held virtually. CMRocks.org/LOP

Rockville Emergency Assistance Program has continued to receive many more phone calls than in the same period last year.

Potential clients are calling for assistance with rent and utility bills, food, paying for prescriptions and much more.

Although Maryland still has a moratorium on evictions, that ended this week. Courts will begin hearing eviction cases at the end of August and soon after that, evictions will resume.

REAP will receive many requests for assistance, some requesting help to cover **many** months of back rent.

REAP needs volunteers who are available 4 hours each week starting in September to answer routine client questions and take general information so REAP's program director can concentrate on financial assistance. CMRocks.org/REAP

Housing Program residents have begun to again receive homemade meals once a month from RUC's Church in Society - Service Saturday Committee. Thank you! This gift had been put on hold since March.

New volunteers have been weeding and clearing overgrown foliage in the front and back garden beds at Rockland House. CMRocks.org/Housing-Program

Rockland House welcomed two new residents this month.

Senior Reach Program has received a number of requests for assistance with yard work. Potential volunteers have come forward but none have started working so far.

Volunteers who are available to mow lawns once a week or every other week are still encouraged to connect with [Andrea](#). CMRocks.org/Senior-Reach

Holiday Giving Program will most likely see a large increase in the number of families requesting assistance through Montgomery County for Thanksgiving and December holidays.

Some of Reach's usual donors may not be able to do as much as in the past, or may not be able to assemble baskets due to COVID restrictions.

Reach expects to need as many, if not more, volunteers than in previous years.

Requests for volunteers and donors will go out beginning in late October or early November.

Reach does not expect to hold the annual Client Holiday Party this year as there is no room for safe social distancing at that event. CMRocks.org/Holiday-Giving

The Montgomery County Council has introduced a special appropriation to slow the spread of COVID-19 in the Latino community. Although the number of positive Montgomery County COVID case rates per 100,000 population has dropped significantly for White, Black, and Asian non-Hispanic residents, the rate for those identifying as Latino is continuing to increase. On April 20, the Latino rate was 45 and as of June 20, that rate grew to 74.



The zip codes that have been hardest hit by COVID include Rockville and four other areas of the County with large Latino populations. *Por Nuestra Salud y Bienestar* Initiative (For Our Health and Wellbeing) was created with the support of the County's Latino Health Initiative, and Montgomery County Council Members Albornoz and Navarro. It includes Reach's Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic and seven other local nonprofits.

The purpose of the initiative is to provide COVID wrap-around health and social services through organizations trusted in the Latino community. Health information about prevention, treatment and testing, increasing testing rates, and performing contact tracing are the goals related to COVID-19. Additionally, the initiative will work to increase health navigation and case management for essential services to decrease health disparities in immigrants. Access to social services will mean that Reach's Rockville Emergency Assistance Program will most likely be involved, and access to ESL instruction through the Language Outreach Program may also be helpful to participants.

Partner organizations in this initiative include Care for Your Health, CASA de Maryland, Germantown Hub, Identity, Mary's Center for Maternal Health and Childcare, and Proyecto Salud. Montgomery County's Latino Health Initiative will lead the initiative. See the Montgomery County [press release](#).

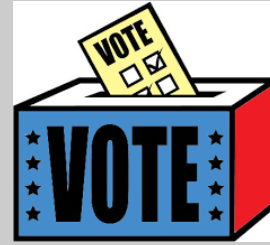
PLEASE COMPLETE THE U.S. CENSUS - REGISTER TO VOTE RECEIVE YOUR STIMULUS CHECK

Stimulus Checks: Residents who were not required to file/have not filed Federal taxes in 2019 may not have received stimulus payments legislated by the CARES Act passed by the U.S. Congress this Spring. For legal residents and U.S. citizens who have not received their payments through direct deposit, a debit card, or by check, a form must be filed by October 15 in order to receive the \$1200 per adult and \$500 per dependent child. It is estimated that over 147,000 Maryland adults and children, primarily in low-income households, will not receive these stimulus payments without filing the form found here: [IRS Stimulus Form](#).

U.S. Census: About 1 in 4 households in Montgomery County have not yet responded to the U.S. Census. Beginning August 11, Census staff will begin reaching out to households that have not responded through phone calls and visits to residences. To avoid this contact, respond today to the U.S. Census. Personal information cannot be shared with any government entity, business, individual, etc. for 72 years. All people who live in the U.S. regardless of their legal status are counted. Census numbers determine the federal dollars for social services, government representatives, number of schools, etc. that a community receives. Take the Census at: [2020 Census](#).



Register to Vote/Request a Mail-in Ballot: The general election, which includes voting for President, U.S. Congressional Representatives, School Board, Circuit Court Judges and more, is held on the first Tuesday in November. This year election day is on November 3rd. 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 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](#). Voting is a right and responsibility of citizenship. Reach, through LOP, has helped many county residents become U.S. Naturalized Citizens.



EVICITION MORATORIUMS ABOUT TO END

At the end of July, the moratoriums on evictions that have been in place since March will end. Judges will begin to hear eviction cases at the end of August and actual evictions are expected to start a few weeks later.

The first cases to be heard will be those that were in process when stay-at-home orders began. Households that fell behind due to COVID-19 shut-downs and loss of employment will begin later. County officials are reminding residents they should show up for their eviction hearings. If only one side (landlord) presents a case, the judge will have to rule on the information provided. It is estimated that 20% of all rental properties in Maryland have past due rent amounts. The State has committed funds to protect residents who can show proof their rent delinquency is due to the effects of the pandemic. Renters are encouraged to bring all paperwork that can bolster that claim to their eviction hearings.

Although funds are being promised through Maryland and Montgomery County to keep people in their homes, County officials have stated they see delinquencies as a long-term issue as it will take months or years before the economy stabilizes, unemployment drops, and households catch up to where they had been in March. Reach's Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP) has seen an increase in calls from residents who are scared about their financial position. Many of these families have never before asked for help. They do not know what services are available, or how to navigate the system of assistance.

REAP is gearing up to help. Generous donors have provided a cushion of funding to help our neighbors. Reach is requesting additional volunteers who can answer the phone, and gather pertinent information, so our Program Director has more time to handle the complex client issues. Maryland, Montgomery County, and the City of Rockville all expect their tax bases to substantially shrink in the upcoming year(s) at the same time the need for assistance will continue to grow.



Help us support our neighbors by reading about the volunteer position at REAP, or passing that information to your network. If you are in a position to do so, consider a small monthly donation to help cover the financial costs of eviction prevention, protection from utility turn-offs, or payment for prescriptions and other basic needs. For news stories about eviction in Maryland, see:

[Maryland Matters 7/10](#), [WMAR 6/29](#), [WTOP 7/20](#), [Montgomery County](#)

A TRIBUTE TO REV. JOHN LANEY

The founding pastor of Twinbrook Baptist Church (TBC), Rev. John Laney, passed away on July 28 at the age of 90. He was a longtime friend and supporter of Reach. "John was really a special human being with great love for people of all races, beliefs, and backgrounds and always looking for inclusiveness for all people," stated Executive Director Agnes Saenz.

Reverend Laney became the pastor of TBC at its opening 1956 and remained in that position for 30 years. He later returned as an interim pastor at TBC, and at other congregations in this area. Throughout TBC's 63 year history, Rev. Laney continued to support the work and legacy of the church in our community.



Rev. Laney's legacy of supporting the local community and Reach continued with the TBC pastors that followed him. In addition to financial donations and volunteering for specific events, the congregation especially supported Reach's housing programs with regular meals for homeless men and women, provided a free space for our Language Outreach Program classes for over 20 years, and offered financial support to our Rockville Emergency Assistance Program. TBC recently supported Reach's Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic (MKHC) with funds to create a diabetic clinic and to help those who cannot afford medical procedures or tests.

In his obituary, his family states that Rev. Laney will be remembered "for affecting the lives of many families through his ministry. He was known for his ecumenical efforts, civil rights, women's rights, peace, environmental awareness, LGBT rights, advocacy for immigrants and the homeless, economic fairness, and social justice. In 1963, John participated in the March on Washington where Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his historic 'I Have a Dream' speech. John's progressive thinking was truly ahead of his time. His sermons challenged many and his life no doubt made a positive difference in this world."

Thank you, Rev. Laney. You will certainly be missed but your legacy will remain in our hearts and the people we serve at Reach, our programs, and our MKHC subsidiary.

Mark Your Calendar!

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

LOP ESL and CONVERSATION CLASSES

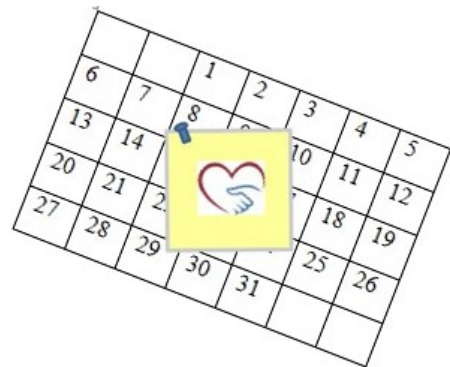
Virtual Event - Click [HERE](#) for more information & to register

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 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:



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!

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**DONATE TO HELP
OUR COMMUNITY**

STAY CONNECTED:



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