



# CMR NEWS & VIEWS

## Community Ministries of Rockville

February 2018

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**JOIN US SATURDAY Evening, MARCH 24**  
**CMR's ANNUAL GALA, "OUR NEXT ERA"**

Chairs: County Executive Ike & First Lady Catherine Leggett  
Master of Ceremonies: Montgomery County Councilmember Craig Rice

Music: [Film at Eleven](#)

Location: Lakewood Country Club

Reception & Silent Auction 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Dinner, Live Auction, Program, Dancing 7:30 p.m. – 11 p.m.

**[PURCHASE TICKETS](#)**



SPONSORSHIP opportunities are still available.  
Please email [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#) or call 301-637-0172 for information.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER AT THE EVENT? Lots of opportunities are available!  
Please contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#), 301-637-0172.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BECOME A NATURALIZED U.S. CITIZEN?

A lot of hard work...and a large fee.

U.S. citizens come in two forms - those who were born with the privilege by way of their birthplace or parent's status, and those who must complete a long, arduous process to gain this privilege. The latter are "Naturalized Citizens." A candidate for naturalization must usually hold permanent residency status (a "green card") for at least five years before beginning the process.

A candidate begins the process by completing a 20-page application requesting information about family, employment and education, trips outside the U.S., and questions regarding moral character or political beliefs. Many include words that would confuse a native English speaker about what is being asked. Documents must be collected. A filing and fingerprinting fee of \$725 is made. Additional forms are completed and the packet is sent to the local office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The candidate waits (currently about six months) to receive notification their application has been reviewed and an interview date and time is provided.

At the Naturalization interview, the candidate is asked questions about information provided on their application. They are given an English test to prove they can speak, read, write and understand Basic English (there are exceptions for some candidates over 50 years of age). Upon passing, they take the Civics test where they are asked ten out of a group of 100 questions related to U.S. history, geography and government. Most U.S. born citizens would have to study to know all the answers. When a candidate successfully completes all of this, they are invited to a Naturalization Ceremony where they take the Oath of Allegiance and become a U.S. Citizen.



This process is serious business. Two of the possible 100 questions on the Civics test are: what is one responsibility that is only for U.S. citizens? (serve on a jury, vote in a federal election) and what is one right only for U.S. citizens? (vote in a federal election, run for federal office). It takes a lot of time, energy and money to receive these special responsibilities and rights. Many immigrants take the Oath of Allegiance each day just to do so. And they are very proud of their status as a U.S. Citizen.

## LOP's WINTER CITIZENSHIP CLASS

CMR's Language Outreach Program (LOP) provides an intensive Citizenship Test Preparedness class every winter and summer. The winter's class included 25 students who attended the five week course on three nights each week, for three hours a night. The commitment is substantial and the work is rigorous. But the students work together to master the answers to the 100 possible questions in the Civics portion of the test. They take part in mock interviews. They learn the steps that are required to apply for citizenship.



This year, the course ended on February 15 with a celebration and the distribution of certificates to all participants. Volunteer Chuck Lee memorialized the event with photographs. The students brought food to share after the program. OP's Director, Cecilia Rojas, attended for the first time as a U.S. Citizen. Cecilia completed the process just the week before with a ceremony in Baltimore where she took the Oath of Allegiance.

The day after Citizenship Class ended, Cecilia had three appointments to help students complete the Naturalization Application. She has been meeting and helping Montgomery County residents complete this application for many years - along with her other duties as Director of LOP.

## LOP ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS SOON

The Spring 2018 Language Outreach Program classes in English as a Second Language begin on March 6. Classes are held at four locations in the Rockville area on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Any Montgomery County adult who would benefit from these classes in levels Beginner to Advanced should contact [Cecilia Rojas](mailto:Cecilia.Rojas@montgomerycountymd.gov), 301-251-2136 as soon as possible. For parents with young children, child care and homework assistance are provided free of charge while classes are in session.

The Spring semester will end with a graduation ceremony on Friday evening, June 22. This year, CMR's Language Outreach Program is celebrating its 25th anniversary. This annual graduation ceremony will be a special one with some added excitement to celebrate this momentous occasion.

## WHY BECOME A U.S. CITIZEN?

*By Cecilia Rojas, new U.S. Citizen and Director of CMR's Language Outreach Program*



When I ask people why they want to become U.S. Citizens, they tell me it is because they want to be part of this wonderful and great country, knowing that they will have more responsibilities but also rights like the opportunity to vote. Now they are able to choose who will be their local, state and federal representatives. Many of them have children and parents still living in their country of origin. As a citizen, they are allowed to bring these relatives to

the U.S.

I am personally proud to become a U.S. Citizen. Now I feel that I can speak on behalf of those who can't. I can vote and make a difference in my community. As immigrants we know we have even more responsibilities. We came here prepared to work hard. The U.S. opened the door for us and gives us many opportunities to achieve our goals. We love and respect this nation, because it is a Great Country!!!!

### Worth Noting:

**Saturday, March 24, 6 pm**  
**CMR's ANNUAL GALA - "OUR NEXT ERA"**  
 Lakewood Country Club  
 13901 Glen Mill Road, Rockville, MD

**Friday, April 20, 7:30 pm**  
**CONCERT to benefit CMR**  
 Faith United Methodist Church  
 6810 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD

**Saturday & Sunday, May 26 - 27,**  
**12noon - 10 pm**  
**TASTE OF ROCKVILLE**  
 at Hometown Holidays  
 Downtown Rockville

**Saturday, June 2, 7:30 pm**  
**CONCERT to benefit CMR**  
 Faith United Methodist Church  
 6810 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD

**Friday, June 22, 7 pm**  
**LOP GRADUATION & 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**  
 Living Faith Lutheran Church  
 1605 Veirs Mill Road, Rockville, MD



### SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**ONE TIME OPPORTUNITY - VOLUNTEER AT CMR'S GALA ON SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 24.** Help transport and set up the auction, centerpieces and registration on Saturday morning from 9:30 am - 1 pm. AND/OR volunteer at the event (4:30 pm - 10 pm), helping register or direct guests, assisting with auctions, and many other activities. Join the excitement of the evening, enjoy the event like a guest when you are not fulfilling a task.

**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 safety net services; and much more. Training is provided.

**FRIENDLY CALLERS** for Elderly Ministries Program. Call the same client(s) each week to check in, chat, and confirm that the client received home care services. Listen for changes in cognitive abilities, learn of any changing physical conditions, and be a friendly, caring voice. Depth and length of each conversation is based on the desire of the volunteer and the client.

**TRANSPORTERS** for Elderly Ministries Program. Help our clients get to and from doctor's appointments, shopping, and similar activities as needed.

**TRANSLATORS** 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 Elderly Ministries Program:

TV Trays, Table top Lamp, Floor Lamp

For Kaseman Health Clinic:

Trash Bags, C-Fold Paper Towels, Antibacterial Hand Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Disinfecting Wipes, Scouring Powder, Window Cleaner, Facial Tissue, Bleach, Toilet Bowl Cleaner

For Housing Program:

Trash Bags, Paper Towels, Napkins, Disinfecting Wipes, Scouring Powder, Window Cleaner, Facial Tissue, Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Dish wash Liquid, Laundry Detergent

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

### **CMR's Board of Directors**

Board Chair Amy Soldavini, President and Executive Director Agnes Saenz, Judy Ackerman, Scot Browning, Rae Pearl Canizares, Robert Dorsey, Kevin Kane, Angeline Lazarus, Paul Love, Frank Molony, Ann Seltz, and Carrie Yearick  
*Ex-Officio* Mary Jane Joseph, Chair, Kaseman Health Clinic Board

### **STAY CONNECTED:**



**CMR - Community Ministries of Rockville**  
1010 Grandin Ave #A1, Rockville MD 20851  
301/637-0730 | [Info@CMRocks.org](mailto:Info@CMRocks.org) | [CMRocks.org](http://CMRocks.org)

Community Ministries of Rockville, 1010 Grandin Ave, #A1, Rockville, MD 20851