



CMR NEWS & VIEWS

Community Ministries of Rockville

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25 Years of English Language Learners



On June 22, CMR's Language Outreach Program celebrated the accomplishments of 118 adult students who studied Beginner to Advanced English as a Second Language (ESL). CMR began offering ESL in September of 1993 with 20 students at just one site. 25 years later, 8,339 adults have attended classes at four convenient locations.

Unique to CMR's program is the inclusion, at no additional charge, of the students' children. School-aged children receive help with homework, other educational activities, and some time to socialize. The younger children may be receiving their first exposure to English. At the June 22nd Graduation Ceremony, 70 of the 3,735 children who have participated since 1993 joined in the festivities.

Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL) has been a leader in the community and a generous supporter of LOP. It was, therefore, especially appropriate that MCAEL's Executive Director, Kathy Stevens, delivered the keynote address at this year's ceremony. Teacher David Strauss spoke for the teachers. Student speaker, Yutaka Enomoto, a native Japanese speaker, said he was learning both English in LOP classes and Spanish through his classmates and new friends. A special thanks goes out to Meadow Hall Elementary's Principal Cabell Lloyd and Librarian Amy Soldavini, who arranged for the donated access to Rockville High School's auditorium for this year's landmark graduation.

Program Director Cecilia Rojas has been with LOP since it began. During her remarks, she said "I always tell the teachers, when you see that your students can communicate and are able to ask you questions in English, and they understand what are you saying, you will feel so happy and proud." Ms. Roja's pride in the program, staff and students was evident throughout the

evening.



Elected officials were on hand to celebrate LOP's 25th graduation!

LOP Finishes First Session of Family Education Success Project (FESP)

ISSUE: Families of recent immigrants do not know how to navigate and prepare for the possibility of college.

ACTION: Family Education Success Project (FESP) provides immigrant middle and high school students and their parents with an understanding of the importance of a post-secondary education to future economic success, and how to achieve that education. It offers youth (particularly in schools with high minority populations) a systematic approach of addressing a range of challenges related to college readiness and career exploration.

OUTCOME: Parents encourage and support their children to pursue higher education. Children "dream big" and plan their high school careers to realize them.



CMR's Language Outreach Program (LOP) began its pilot session of FESP in the 2017-18 school year with a starter grant from Montgomery County. With that funding, we engaged 20 students from middle and high school in weekly activities and met with their parents monthly.

Students explored ways to choose colleges based on interests and how one's academic major may influence a choice of career paths. They completed career interest assessments and researched the requirements for working in those fields. They learned about and practiced applying for scholarships. Students were taught life skills; visited a college campus; practiced parent-youth communication; and performed volunteer community service projects as a group.

Parents want their children to pursue college education, but they have limited experience with the process and concerns about how to pay for that education. Parent meetings focused on teaching about the process through early college planning; how financial aid works; career exploration; and tools to building and maintaining positive relationships with their children.

Similar college prep programs in Montgomery County do not include regular parental participation. FESP requires their participation, and parents are as likely as teachers to request that their children be included in our project. Inclusion means there is more support at home. LOP Director Cecilia Rojas states "Parental involvement is what makes FESP special. Since this

journey is being shared by students and parents, families will more knowledgeably plan together toward the goal of a college education."

To help these families navigate the path from middle and high school through college to career, and to continue to increase the number of families who can participate, CMR wishes to raise \$18,000 for school year 2018-19. We are looking for funding avenues to obtain an additional \$15,000. If you wish to support this project, please [Donate to FESP here](#). For more information about FESP and other ways to help, please contact [Cecilia Rojas](#), LOP Director, or [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#), CMR Director of Development and Volunteerism.

LOP English as a Second Language Classes Begin Soon

The summer session of Citizenship Test Preparedness and Communication classes will soon be completed. Fall ESL classes will quickly follow. Our years of using classrooms at Maryvale Elementary comes to an end as the school closes for renovations. We will add classes at Wheaton Woods Elementary on Parkland Road to replace the Maryvale site. This move should be even more convenient for many of our students, as it is closer to Wheaton and Aspen Hill, two areas with a large population of non-English speakers.



Fall ESL classes with placement tests begin on Tuesday, September 4, and classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings through December. We will take a break on Thursday, September 6 to celebrate 25 years of CMR's Language Outreach Program. Current and former students, supporters, current and former staff, and community leaders will celebrate with us.

Adults interested in taking ESL classes should contact [Cecilia Rojas](#) by email or at 301-251-2136. For our adult students, child care and homework assistance for their children are provided at no additional charge during class hours. Classes are located at four sites in greater Rockville: Meadow Hall Elementary, Wheaton Woods Elementary, Rockville United Church, and Millian Memorial Methodist Church. Placement tests on September 4 will be given at Meadow Hall beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m.

CMR Participates at 3 "National Night Out" Events

Join us the evening of Tuesday, August 7 as we celebrate National Night Out at three community events in Rockville. This national annual event celebrated on the first Tuesday in August is now 30 years old. Its purpose is to help communities know and feel connected with police departments, fire departments, and their neighbors.



CMR has been invited to once again join the fun at:

- 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, 608 North Horners Lane
- 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at David Scull Community Center, 1133 First Street
- 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Twinbrook Baptist Church, 1001 Twinbrook Parkway

COME JOIN US AT ONE, TWO, OR ALL THREE EVENTS!

Interested in helping to staff our tables at these events? Do you have questions that have not been answered here? You can contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#), 301-637-0172.

Save the Date for Our 2nd Annual
COMEDY NIGHT
To Benefit Kaseman Health Clinic

Thursday, October 18, 2018

Show begins at 7:00 p.m.

Temple Beth Ami

14330 Travilah Road, Rockville, Maryland 20850

Simone

the very popular 2017 opening act will be
the headline performer this year!

Other comedian(s) and more details will be announced in the coming weeks.
For information about Sponsorship Opportunities, contact [Andrea](#) or [Cheryl](#).