



Community Reach
of Montgomery County

November 2023 Newsletter

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LOP Director Cecilia Rojas Selected for Maryland TESOL Lifetime Achievement Award



We are thrilled to announce that Cecilia Rojas, longtime director of the Language Outreach Program, has been awarded the Maryland TESOL Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of her lifetime of dedication to English language learners and their families. The Lifetime Achievement Award is granted to those who have been working in the TESOL field in Maryland for at least 15 years and have made "substantial and exemplary contributions" to the field.

Thank you to MCAEL for nominating Cecilia for this prestigious award. In her speech at the awards ceremony on November 10th, Cecilia expressed that "it has been a privilege to work with so many dedicated teachers, volunteers, and supporters who have made this journey possible."

On Tuesday, November 28 at 1:15 p.m. Cecilia will be honored with a proclamation from the Montgomery County Council. We invite all interested supporters to join us at the County Council Building at 100 Maryland Ave for the ceremony.

Afterwards, Reach and MCAEL will host a dessert reception at Dawson's Market around the corner. Join us for the award and/or for the reception to celebrate Cecilia's many accomplishments.

New Executive Director Sarah Basehart to Join Reach Team in January 2024

It is with great pleasure that the Board of Directors announces the selection of Sarah Basehart as the new Executive Director of Reach and the Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic, effective January 1, 2024.

Sarah brings over 25 years of experience in nonprofit work serving people with disabilities and other marginalized communities. She is a skilled advocate with an extensive grassroots advocacy background gained during her tenure at The Arc of Maryland, an organization that supports families and people with disabilities to speak up and create needed change. For the past 13 years, Sarah served as Executive Director of Independence Now, a resource and advocacy center that promotes independent living and equal access for people of all ages with all types of disabilities living in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Leading Independence Now gave Sarah the opportunity to launch new programs, work on housing advocacy at the state and local level as well as continue valuable work in moving people from nursing facilities back to the community. An experienced nonprofit manager, Sarah holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.



Thank You for Making the MKHC Fall Fundraiser a Success



We are so grateful to the sponsors and guests who took part in our Renaissance: A New Era of Transformation fundraiser for the Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic on November 4th.

A lovely time was had by all thanks to Monique Ashton's warm welcome and leadership, Gabe Albornoz's enthusiasm and positivity, and the chance to talk and visit with other guests. You can [browse the photo gallery](#) from the event now.

During the event, we discussed the Clinic's upcoming relocation to 9420 Key West Avenue, planned for Spring 2024. We honored former Executive Director Agnes Saenz and announced plans to name the conference room at the new location in her honor, with opportunities for donors to have their names displayed in the conference room or to name another room at the Clinic.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the event raised \$72,000 to support healthcare for the medically underserved in the County.

[Learn more about the Kaseman Health Clinic.](#)

LOP Student Celebrates Milestone

D first connected with LOP in Fall of 2022. He was very eager to learn and especially to improve his speaking skills. He often relied on his daughter to translate for him when he needed to use English and wanted to be able to speak for himself. He enrolled both in intermediate ESL and conversation classes to improve as quickly as possible.

Over the last year, D has progressed to the Advanced level. During a recent check-in with LOP staff, D related that he'd hit a significant milestone. He shared that, for the first time, he successfully handled a stressful situation in English without assistance from his daughter to translate. On the way back from running an errand, he got in a minor collision with another car. D was able to contact his insurance company on his own and give the details of the incident in English. He was also able to confirm the details of a loaner car with a car rental company.

LOP is an invaluable resource for students who want to feel more connected and integrated into their communities. We're very proud of our students and every milestone they hit on the road to mastering English.

December Holiday Giving Around the Corner



Thanksgiving Holiday Giving is complete at Reach! Our dedicated team of volunteers helped distribute meal baskets to the 360 families we committed to serving.

With December right around the corner, it's time to start preparing for December Holiday Giving. In recent years, to meet increasing requests for December assistance, Reach has served close to 200 families with over 400 children. Families receive a basket of holiday food to prepare at home along with a grocery gift card. Parents have the opportunity to choose from new toys donated by supporters to give to their children

aged 0 - 12 years, and they receive gift cards to places like Target, Amazon, and Five Below to gift to their teens up to 17 years old.

If you'd like to support this work, consider donating meal baskets, gift cards, or new, unwrapped toys.

- [View our Amazon Wishlist](#) set up to make donating toys easy
- Check out [our list of recommended items](#) for December meal baskets

If you prefer to donate your time, we still need volunteers for our two distribution dates. Volunteers are most needed on December 21st at the Reach office from 3-7 p.m. The second distribution date is December 23rd at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac from 1-4 p.m.

[Sign up for a shift](#) on either date.

Celebrate Giving Tuesday with Reach on November 28th

Reach is taking part in Giving Tuesday, a global movement of kindness where people come together on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving (November 28th) to donate to causes that matter to them.

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

This year, we have a goal of raising \$500 to support our December Holiday giving project.

The money will go towards gift cards and toys for families, teens, and children in need in our community.

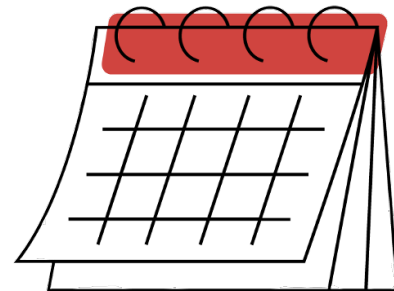
We need your help to hit this goal! [Make a donation](#) any time between now and the 28th. You can also help us spread awareness by sharing information about why you support Reach on social media and tagging us at @communityreachmoco.

Together we can make a difference!

Mark Your Calendars!

Cecilia Rojas Proclamation Award and Celebration

Tuesday, November 28th
Proclamation Award - 1:15 p.m.
County Council Building
100 Maryland Ave., 6th Floor
Rockville, MD



Dessert Reception immediately following (2:00 p.m.)
Dawson's Market
225 N Washington St
Rockville, MD

Holiday Giving - 1st December Distribution

Thursday, December 21, 3:00pm-7:00pm
Grandin Office Multipurpose Room
1010 Grandin Avenue, Rockville, MD 20851

Holiday Giving - 2nd December Distribution

Saturday, December 23, 1:00pm-4:00pm
St. Francis Episcopal Church
10033 River Rd, Potomac, MD 20854

New Volunteer Opportunities



Computer Literacy Tutor

The Housing Program is looking for a volunteer to help an elderly Jefferson House resident learn very simple computer skills (Internet and email basics) using the PC at the house. Ideally, the volunteer would come to the house and provide one-on-one instruction for an hour or so.



Leaf Raking

Senior Reach is looking for volunteers to rake leaves at clients' homes. Currently we are looking for groups to provide leaf raking assistance at four locations. Volunteers may be asked to provide their own tools depending on location.



Holiday Giving Assistants

Assist with distributing meal baskets and toys for the December Holidays. We particularly need people for the December 21st date.

[Sign up for a shift.](#)

[Check Out All Our Current Opportunities](#)

Other Ways to Help



Donations Requested:

For Holiday Giving:

Food baskets for Thanksgiving or December Holidays, gift cards for teens, new, unwrapped toys for children

For the Housing Program:

Funds to cover the cost of a deep-clean for Jefferson House.

New or used toaster oven, four slice toaster, or electric can opener for Rockland House.

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 volunteering and current needs, please visit our [Volunteer Page](#) or contact us at development@cmrocks.org.

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