



Community Reach

of Montgomery County

June 2023 Newsletter

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LOP Celebrates 30 Years



This year, the Language Outreach Program celebrates 30 years of English Language classes for adult immigrant and non English speaking residents of Montgomery County.

Started in 1993, the program has expanded to offer a variety of programs in response to changing needs in the community. Our hardworking teachers, volunteers, and students are proof of the power of language to overcome barriers and bring together communities.

In 30 years...

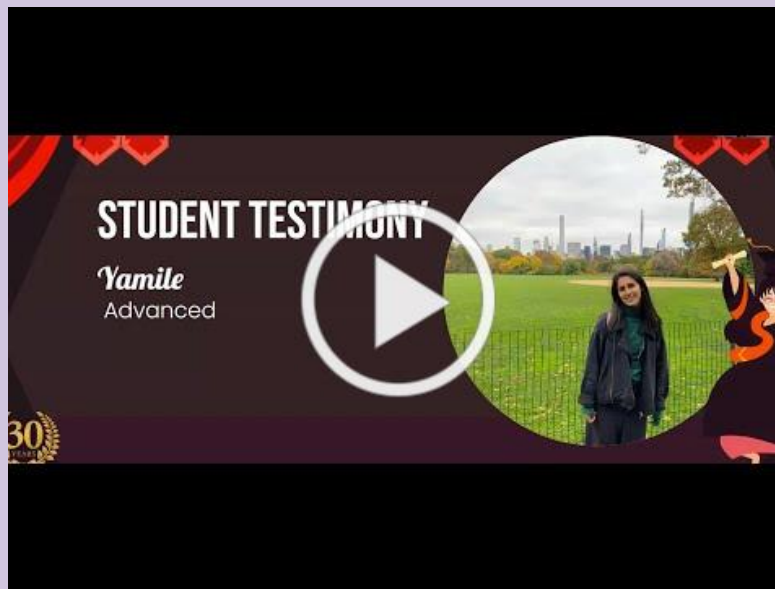
...LOP has gone from one location to multiple locations and online classes.

...the budget for LOP has grown from \$5,000 to nearly \$300,000.

...ESL classes have expanded from four classes to 22 classes.

...class offerings have expanded to include conversation classes and citizenship classes.

Highlights from the LOP Graduation Ceremony



The Language Outreach Program graduation ceremony took place on Friday, June 16th. We proudly celebrated 110 graduates, all of whom worked hard in virtual classes over the past year. In her opening remarks, Program Director Cecilia Rojas emphasized the students' "incredible persistence and solid spirit" in their efforts to improve their lives. Other speakers included Keynote Speaker Melissa McKenna, City Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, and founder of LOP and current Reach Executive Director Agnes Saenz.

Two students also gave remarks, speaking about the impact LOP has had on their lives, from feeling confident at doctor's appointments to settling into a new home after fleeing political oppression and imprisonment. In the words of Christian F., a high intermediate student, LOP students "share a common goal to learn and thrive in this land of opportunity." Watch an excerpt from one student's speech by clicking the video above.

This year, we awarded the Moore-Solorzano Family Scholarship to the winner of a contest where students submitted short essays about why they chose to study English. The winner was chosen by LOP staff members, and will receive \$250 and a laptop to use to continue their studies.

We are extremely proud of our students and their accomplishments over the last year. Thanks to everyone who attended to show support.

The LOP summer session, including ESOL, Conversation, and US Citizenship classes, begins on Tuesday, July 5. Find information about upcoming classes and LOP in general [on the LOP program page](#).

Safe & Secure Homes: Senior Reach Helps Procure Discounted Appliance for Client in Need

Mrs. G, a Senior Reach client who lives on her own with a limited income, receives home care services that help her age in place in her home in Rockville. She recently contacted Senior Reach when her refrigerator broke not long after the



warranty expired. She wasn't sure she could afford to repair or replace the fridge on her own.

As part of the Safe & Secure Homes service, the program manager found a repairman who examined the fridge but discovered an irreparable system failure. He suggested contacting the company, as the malfunction was something unusual. The program manager spent numerous hours dealing with the manufacturer's customer service to find a way to help the client secure a new fridge. He was able to get a 25% discount on the replacement, along with delivery and removal of the old appliance.

Even at the heavily discounted price, replacement was a true financial burden for Mrs. G. The program manager used Senior Reach Safe and Secure service funds to replace the refrigerator at the negotiated price. Now Mrs. G doesn't have to worry about where to store her perishable items and

can purchase whatever foods she wishes.

[Read more about Safe & Secure services](#)

Clinic Fiscal Year End Appeal

Much like the greater world, this year the Clinic has seen a return to normalcy. After the catastrophic flood of late 2021 that forced it to relocate, the Clinic moved back to West Middle Lane in August of 2022. We are so grateful to Rockville United Church for providing temporary premises.

Being in a location designed for a medical facility makes daily operations much easier for staff. The location is also easier for patients to access via public transit. With a full staff of medical providers and more exam rooms, we are better able to provide high-quality care to our patients, most of whom are members of vulnerable communities that often lack insurance and access to healthcare. Without the services the clinic provides, these patients' issues might go untreated or ignored until it's too late.



Our supporters make this work possible. If you're passionate about helping the most vulnerable in our community gain access to quality healthcare, please consider donating to our Fiscal Year-End Appeal that raises money for the clinic's crucial work. Your donation helps us treat patients like...

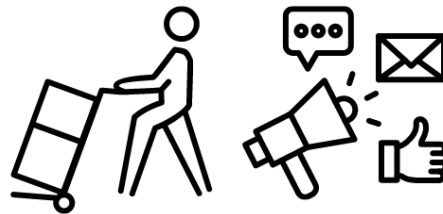
- Ms. F, who was at the age to receive a colonoscopy but felt hesitant about the procedure. Clinic staff reminded her about this recommended procedure until she agreed and had the test for colon cancer. Cancerous polyps were found and removed. In a thank-you note, Ms. F wrote that "thanks to [the Kaseman Clinic,] I no longer have cancer."
- Mr. P, a man experiencing homelessness who was having difficulty walking and had a

bulging blood vessel in his leg. Our doctor arranged for an ultrasound of the leg and prescribed treatment. All costs were covered by the Clinic. The patient now feels much less pain in the leg and is extremely grateful for the help he received.

- Mr. B, a veteran who had been treated at many prestigious hospitals, including Johns Hopkins, but stated that doctors there never made him feel truly cared for. After being seen by our nurse practitioner, he said he never wanted to be treated by anyone else.

These success stories emphasize that the care and effort our staff put into treating patients truly make a difference. You can make a difference, too. Donations can be [made online](#). Checks can be made payable to Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic and mailed to Community Reach of Montgomery County, 1010 Grandin Avenue #A1, Rockville, MD 20851. Thank you for your generosity.

Volunteer Opportunities for Summer



- Internship opportunity at Reach! We are looking for a **Marketing Intern** to work with Development. Duties will include researching prospective donors, creating marketing materials, social media campaigns, and collaborating on strategies for the department. This unpaid opportunity will run for approximately 4-6 weeks, but may be extended.
- As we enter the summer, we are going to tackle the long-planned reorganization of our office space at Grandin Avenue. We are requesting assistance with moving bulky items in the office and removing old furniture and taking it to the dump. The reorganization is planned for the first weekend of August (approx. 8/4-8/6). This opportunity would be good for a group.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities, contact us at development@cmrocks.org.

Clinic Covid-19 Vaccine and Testing By the Numbers

Covid testing

The Kaseman Health Clinic began Covid-19 testing in October 2020 and stopped on May 11, 2023.

Covid tests administered

8,363

Positive tests

453

or

5.28%

Covid vaccinations

The Kaseman Health Clinic began offering vaccinations in April 2021, and stopped in late June 2023.

Covid vaccines administered

1,703



Mark Your Calendars!

National Night Out

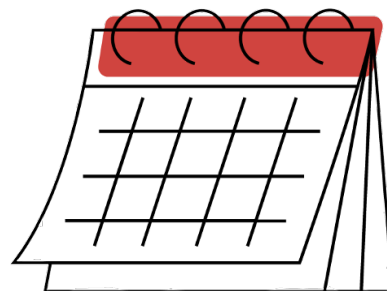
Tuesday, August 1st

Office Reorganization and Furniture Removal

August 4th - 6th
Grandin Office

Clinic Fall Fundraiser

November 4th
Rockville Hilton (in person!)



Spotlight on Volunteer Opportunities

INTERPRETERS at the Kaseman Health Clinic are needed for four-hour shifts once a week. Must be 18+.

GROUP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - If you're interested in organizing or taking part in a group volunteer opportunity this summer, please contact us!

EVALUATORS FOR REACH PROGRAMS - Reach programs are evaluated regularly by volunteers so the organization and the program leads can receive an objective opinion on what is working well and what improvements can be made. The pandemic put those evaluations on hold, so we

are now searching for volunteers to evaluate our Language Outreach Program, Senior Reach Program, and Housing Program. The work requires interviews with the program leads and others, at least one in-person visit, and the submission of a final written report. Volunteers should have an understanding of evaluations, the ability to do research to determine best practices, and good writing skills. Some experience in the area that is being evaluated is helpful but not necessary.

FRIENDLY CALLERS FOR SENIOR REACH PROGRAM - Make weekly phone calls to one or more senior clients. Provide a caring voice, check on their well-being, and confirm they received and were pleased with their scheduled home care services. We are currently seeking bilingual (Mandarin/English and Vietnamese/English) and English speakers. Volunteers and senior clients choose the standard weekly day and time for phone calls.

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 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.) 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.

JOIN A REACH COMMITTEE - Development, Finance, Faith Advisory, and Governance currently all meet online as standing committees. Help determine the success of Reach through your service.

DONATIONS REQUESTED:

For the Housing Program:

A gently used bicycle for an adult male Jefferson House resident to use for job interviews/applications and personal errands like grocery shopping and picking up medications.

A space that could be used as an art studio for a Jefferson House resident who works with oil paints and turpentine.

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 these opportunities and others, please visit our [Volunteer Page](#) or contact us at development@cmrocks.org.



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Community Reach of Montgomery County
1010 Grandin Ave #A1, Rockville MD 20851
301/637-0730 | Info@CMRocks.org | CMRocks.org



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