



Community Reach  
*of Montgomery County*

**NEWSLETTER February 2022**

**In This Issue:**

**March 13 Concert for REAP**

**LOP Spring Semester Begins**

**Reach and Connect Annual Gala on April 30**

**Reach Testifies & Shares Expertise \* Housing Resident Crafts through COVID**

**Worth Noting \* Volunteer Opportunities**

**CONCERT FOR REAP ON MARCH 13**

The Rockville Chorus annual winter concert to support Reach's Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP) returns this year with a nod to COVID. Rockville United Church (RUC) will be the location for the 4:00p.m. Sunday, March 13 annual concert. Along with Rockville Chorus, Hearth of Maryland, V6 Philippines Chorus, and the RUC Chorus will provide performances. Only the RUC Chorus will perform live this year. All other groups are offering high-quality pre-taped performances.

In order to remain COVID aware, the concert is being presented as a hybrid event. In-person audience capacity will be capped at 40 attendees, and an additional 200 can register to attend the event over Zoom. There is no ticket price for the event, but registration with a donation of any size is required in advance.

Find additional information about the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP) [HERE](#) and register by March 11 [HERE](#).



## LOP SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS



The Language Outreach Program (LOP) Spring semester returns with virtual courses in English as a Second Language (ESOL) and Conversation.

ESOL classes are offered as a 13-week, Tuesday & Thursday night course beginning March 8, and a three night, 9 week course that begins on March 14. Placement tests are being offered through March 4.

Conversation classes provide a more informal course of study. They are designed to allow students to attend every class in the course, or attend as their schedule allows. Lessons focus on vocabulary and pronunciation that is most helpful in daily activities such as shopping, communicating with healthcare providers, children's teachers, and fellow workers. Four course schedules are offered this Spring, with evening, morning, and Saturday classes. Staggered class start dates are from March 14 to April 12. One course focuses on communication skills using computers and cellphones.

One can learn more about LOP [HERE](#). Information about course schedules for the Spring Session, and how one can register can be found [HERE](#).

## "REACH & CONNECT" 2022 VIRTUAL GALA

The 2022 Annual Reach Gala is scheduled for Saturday, April 30. Due to COVID concerns, the Reach Executive Committee is dedicated to providing an excellent Virtual event that will be accessible and comfortable for all.

"Reach and Connect" is the theme the Gala Committee has chosen for this event that begins at 6:00pm via Zoom Webinar. Michael Bobbitt, previously with Adventure Theatre and currently Executive Director of Mass Cultural Council, returns as the charismatic and energetic Master of Ceremonies. Paul Newman, former Board Chair of Rockville Economic Development, Inc., leads a strong Gala Committee which is brainstorming entertaining interactive activities, live auction items, and educational aspects of the program. Catherine Leggett, as past Gala Chair, is actively participating in committee meetings as well.



Invitations are expected to be emailed to Reach's mailing list in the middle of March. Sponsorship opportunities are open now. Please contact Director of Development, Andrea Kempner-Wink, ([AndreaKWink@CMRocks.org](mailto:AndreaKWink@CMRocks.org), 301-637-0172) for more information.

Check the [CMRocks.org](http://CMRocks.org) Events Page frequently for new information about this important Annual Reach event including sponsorship opportunities and the current sponsor list [HERE](#).

## REACH TESTIFIES & SHARES EXPERTISE

February and March are the busiest months for connecting with local governments as they consider both budget priorities for the following fiscal year and the legislative agenda for the current session. Reach has been advocating for the most vulnerable in Rockville and Montgomery County since its inception in 1967.



In February, Cecilia Rojas, Language Outreach Program Director, provided testimony to Montgomery County Council in favor of fully funding education in the Fiscal Year 2023 County Budget. Cecilia also served as a member of the panel for the business forum, "English Language Learning for Employees" presented by MCAEL (Montgomery Coalition for Adult Education Literacy). The forum was hosted by the City of Rockville, Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), the Rockville Chamber of Commerce.

Reach staff have and will continue to participate in opportunities to speak to government officials throughout the Spring. In addition, Reach is exploring ways to especially connect this election year with clients and supporters to share opportunities for civic engagement. While community members seem to be more tuned in the civics during years with elections at various government levels, this year's Maryland and Montgomery County redistricting is likely to mean providing residents with additional information resources will be especially important to help them engage.

Reach is scheduled to be a partner in the Temple Beth Ami Candidate Forum planned for Sunday, June 12th. Stay tuned to Reach newsletters, social media, and [website](#) for information about other Reach advocacy and civic opportunity events in 2022. Anyone who wishes to share suggestions or ideas about nonpartisan engagement, please contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#).

## HOUSING CLIENT CRAFTS THROUGH COVID



COVID restrictions were challenging for many in the community. One of the residents of Rockland House had been teaching crocheting and knitting to women living at the shelter in Rockville. The classes were put on hold with the COVID outbreak.

While isolating, the Rockland resident used her free time to create hats and placemats (pictured) that could be donated to others. The placemats were sent to Capital Quilts which passed them on to Iona House, serving senior citizens in the region. Hats were shared with shelter residents and others.

In addition to sewing, crocheting, and knitting more during COVID, this Rockland resident also took classes online to increase her skills in these domestic arts. Her new skills not only give her satisfaction. She will be able to share what she learned with others when she returns to teaching classes at the shelter for women.

Learn more about the Reach Housing Program [HERE](#).

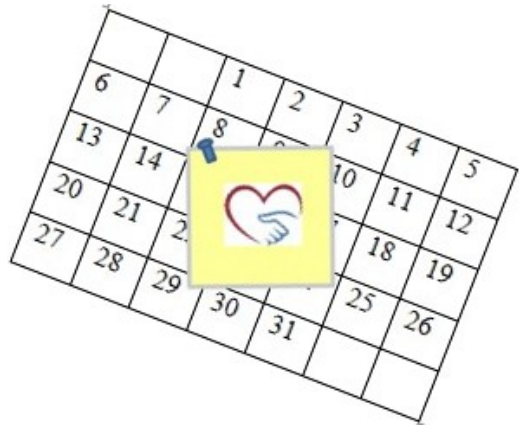
## ***Mark Your Calendar!***

**Sunday, March 13, 4:00pm - 5:30pm**

### ***ROCKVILLE CHORUS CONCERT TO SUPPORT REAP***

Rockville United Church  
355 Linthicum Street, Rockville

[Registration](#)



**Saturday, April 30, 2022, 6:00pm - 7:30pm**

### ***REACH & CONNECT 2022 ANNUAL GALA***

Virtual Event

[Information](#)

## **SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**BILINGUAL FRIENDLY CALLER (Mandarin-English)** - For our Senior Reach Program. Call Senior Reach client(s) weekly to confirm they received homecare services. Volunteer and client decide whether additional information/conversation will be shared. With weekly contact, the Friendly caller is often our link to potential changes to client's physical, mental, or emotional health - they are often told about recent health issues or hospital visits, and often notice potential changes in client's demeanor or understanding. Complete weekly call report and email to program manager. Weekly time requirement 15 minutes to 1 hour per client, based on interest of volunteer and client.

**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. Short term committees also need new members.

**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.

**INTERPRETERS** 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 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 [Andrea Kempner-Wink](#) at 301-637-0172.



## Community Reach of Montgomery County Board of Directors

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**DONATE TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY**

STAY CONNECTED



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