



Community Reach
of Montgomery County

NEWSLETTER March 2022

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A CHILD'S BIRTHDAY WISH - THE COVID VACCINE!



At the end of February, the staff and volunteers at the Kaseman Health Clinic's Saturday COVID Services served a patient whose story reminded them of the importance of their work.

A five-year-old child arrived with her older sister and father to receive a COVID vaccine. It was actually her fifth birthday and her birthday wish was to get her first COVID vaccine on this momentous occasion. In fact, the event was so important to her, she had insisted her father bring along her passport showing her birthdate. She was concerned that the doctors would not believe she was five years old and eligible for the vaccine, and she wanted to be prepared to prove she was able to be vaccinated. Nothing was going to stand in her way.

Dates and information about MKHC's COVID vaccine and testing services can be found [here](#).

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE APRIL 30 REACH GALA

In just over one month, Reach will hold its 2022 Annual Gala. Once again this year, the event will be held virtually to allow as many people as possible to

attend and feel comfortable. The event takes place on Saturday, April 30th from 6:00pm - 7:30pm with the theme "Reach and Connect." It will highlight the people served by Reach as well as the community that supports the organization.



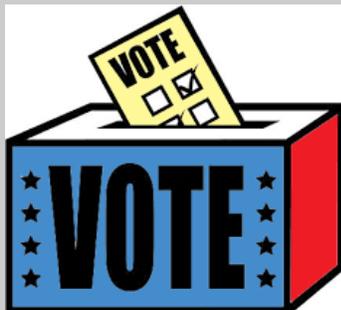
Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director of the Mass Cultural Council, returns as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. He will be joined by Montgomery Councilmember Craig Rice in the role of Auctioneer. The live auction includes wonderful experiences that are not available for purchase anywhere else. Four baseline seats at a Nationals game with an invitation to batting practice is one of the exciting items that will be available.

Paul Newman, former Board Chair of Rockville Economic Development, Inc. (REDI), debuts as the Gala Chair. He is supported by a talented committee that includes former Gala Chair, Catherine Leggett.

In addition to the Live Auction, the evening will include virtual messages from the Montgomery County community. There will be a trivia competition, and attendees will have the opportunity to connect through "chat."

The current list of sponsors, and all information about the evening, can be found [here](#). One can register as a sponsor or as an attendee, or just make a donation toward the event [here](#).

"GET OUT THE VOTE" AN IMPORTANT TOPIC IN 2022



Reach's Language Outreach Program offers Citizenship Preparedness classes to assist eligible permanent residents apply for and become U.S. citizens. Maybe the most important responsibility and right of citizenship is taking part in federal, state, and local elections.

One of the advocacy issues that Reach champions is the right to vote. In 2018, Temple Beth Ami provided a Candidate Forum of Maryland State Legislators whose districts included Montgomery County. Reach was a partner in that event and will once again be a partner as Beth Ami presents the same forum on Sunday, June 12th.

Reach provides voter registration information, polling locations for early voting and election day, mail-in voting requirements, and more. For those voters who identified a party affiliation, Primary Election Day has been postponed until July 19th to allow a legal challenge to Maryland redistricting to proceed. General Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th.

Montgomery County voted to move from five County Council districts to seven, and to keep the four at-large council seats for the 2022 election. A map of the Council districts can be found [here](#). In addition, after every Decennial U.S. Census, such as the one that was held in 2020, U.S. states redraw congressional districts to meet the changes in population and population centers. Current State election district maps are available [here](#).

This year, voters in Montgomery County will choose representatives at the Federal, State, and County level. Those who live in Takoma Park will also choose municipal representatives. A list of current candidates and the positions for which they are running can be found [here](#). Reach will provide nonpartisan information about elections throughout the year in newsletters, emails, and via social media.

REACH PEOPLE UPDATES

STUDENT NEWS: Reach's Language Outreach Program (LOP) receives many benefits from the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy (MCAEL). One of those benefits is professional development for LOP staff.



MCAEL holds its Professional Development Conference each March. Since in-person events were not possible in 2021, this year's conference, held on March 19th, was special in that it provided a return of the event. Additionally, 2022 is the 15 year anniversary of the organization. Two LOP students, Jina Kim and Siria Hernandez, were among four panelists invited to serve on the "ESOL Learner Perspectives: A Learner Panel." The panelists spoke to all conference attendees about the challenges and importance of ESOL. More about MCAEL [here](#).

VOLUNTEER NEWS: A longtime volunteer and supporter of Reach, Nancy Aldous (pictured above), celebrates a landmark birthday this month. Nancy faithfully volunteered as an LOP Teacher's Assistant until COVID changed the way classes were provided. She has also spent hours volunteering at Holiday Giving, Taste of Rockville, Annual Galas, and more. In 2021, Nancy was awarded the Neal Potter Path of Achievement for her lifetime of community service to Montgomery County. More information about Nancy's story can be found [here](#).

A SUCCESSFUL RETURN OF CONCERT TO BENEFIT REAP

WELCOME - Pastor Scott Winnette, Rockville United Church & Cindy Fullerton, Rockville Chorus President

The HEART OF MARYLAND CHORUS - Karen Collins, Director

VIRTUAL CHOIR 6 PHILIPPINES - Dexter C. Dapitan, Coordinator

REAP Presentation - Odeth Berlin, Director,
Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP)

ROCKVILLE CHORUS - Linda Garrettson, Music Director

RUC SANCTUARY CHOIR - James Levy, RUC Music Director

FINALE - Reprisal of Finale from February 10, 2019 Concert



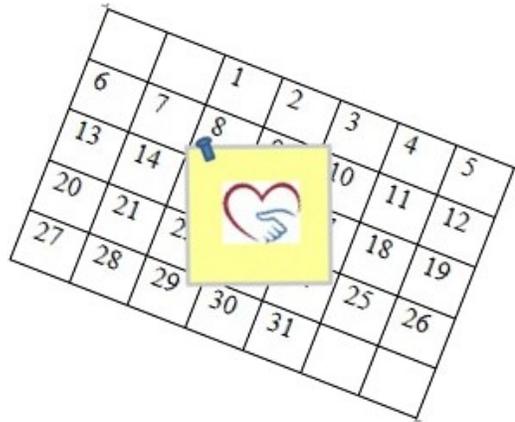
After a one-year hiatus due to pandemic restrictions, Rockville Chorus returned to provide a Concert to benefit the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP). The concert was held at Rockville United Church on March 13th, and was presented as a hybrid event due to ongoing health concerns related to COVID transmission.

Rockville Chorus, The Heart of Maryland Chorus, and the VC6 Philippines all provided video performances for the in-person and virtual audience. The Rockville United Church Sanctuary Choir performed in person. Cindy Fullerton of Rockville Chorus served as the Emcee for the event, and REAP Director Odeth Berlin spoke about the work REAP does for the community. A recording of the event can be seen on [Vimeo](#).

Donations from those who registered online, attended in person, and sent funds during the concert equaled almost \$1,500. These funds will help REAP support community members facing eviction or utility termination, or who need assistance to purchase medical prescriptions. More information about REAP, the longest running Reach program, can be found at <https://www.cmrocks.org/reap>.

Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 6:00pm - 7:30pm
REACH & CONNECT 2022 ANNUAL GALA
Virtual Event
[Register](#)



Saturday & Sunday, May 28 & 29 11am - 7pm
TASTE OF ROCKVILLE at HOMETOWN
HOLIDAYS: A Community Gathering
Redgate Park
14500 Avery Road, Rockville
[Information](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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.

EXCEL OFFICIONADO to help edit and add formulas to a developing spreadsheet for Program statistics that would include current and cumulative information as well as multiple sheets that interact with one another. Virtual opportunity with no specific days or times of service required.

PHOTOGRAPHER to document the work of Community Reach so that we can share our story. Document Reach events and programs. Reach would like to have a "crew" of 3 - 4 photographers who can be available individually or to work in pairs for large in-person events. We currently have one dedicated photographer.

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.



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DONATE TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY

STAY CONNECTED



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