



Community Reach

of Montgomery County

NEWSLETTER December 2022

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Happy Holidays from us to you!



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THANK YOU TO OUR DECEMBER HOLIDAY GIVING SUPPORTERS

Each year, Reach works with the Montgomery County Holiday Giving Project to provide Thanksgiving meals in November, and meals, toys, and gift cards in December.

Reach accepted a list of over 200 families with 400 children and teens for December Holiday Giving. Rockville Emergency Assistance Program helped spearhead this project that distributes toys to children 1 - 12 years old, gift cards for teens under 18, and holiday dinner baskets for the families on the Reach list. This project is fully funded by donations from supporters of toys, gift cards and baskets, as well as some financial donations to Holiday Giving. Below is a list of many of the organizations and individuals that provided support this year. Others may not yet be recorded in the Reach books and may therefore be missing. The list also does not include the many volunteers who organized, categorized, lifted and hauled donations, stood out in the cold to provide check in, helped participants choose toys, or giftwrap their choices. Reach wants to thank all of those supporters along with the list below. If there are misspellings or missed names below, please accept apologies in advance.



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- Andra Abramson * Andrea Jolly * Apex Systems * Arlynn Joffe
- Christ Episcopal Church & School * Cub Scout Troop 928 * Debbie Winer
- Debra Jacobs * Ellen Ryan * Ellen Weiss * Gail & Eric Leeds
- Greater Rockville Chamber of Commerce
- Jody Eccleston * Judith Walker * Judy Fox-Tepper * Melissa McKenna
- MoCo Regional SGA/ MCPS * Monitor Group, LLC * Nancy & George Sushinsky

New Day Preschool * NIH Federal Credit Union * Rockville Presbyterian Church
Rockville United Church * Rockville United Methodist Church * Sandy Lavery
St. Francis Episcopal Church * St. Mary's Catholic Church * Stephanie Oshinshig
Susan Lyon * Temple Beth Ami

[Holiday Giving Project information](#)

A YEAR-END LETTER ABOUT OUR FAMILY OF PROGRAMS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AGNES SAENZ



December 2022

Dear Reach Partner:

We hope that you have had a wonderful 2022 so far. We would like to share a little about how Reach spent 2022, and we look forward to getting your “family newsletters” as well.

Rockville Emergency Assistance Program ([REAP](#)) continued to keep residents from experiencing eviction or utility turn-offs, made referrals for food as well as dental and vision care, and offered information about other resources. Inflation has made it even more difficult for working families to cover the basic expenses of daily living, so requests for help steadily increases. Additionally, people want assistance to complete online SNAP, childcare, and energy assistance applications. It falls on REAP to help clients navigate this process as new families need assistance, and those who would previously go into an office and fill out an application by hand are now instructed to apply online. Again this year, REAP was able to prevent evictions of residents outside the greater Rockville area as well as those inside. Less restrictive FEMA funding that covers all of Montgomery County allowed for this expanded area of service. Odeth is also welcoming volunteer intake coordinators back to in-person service at the REAP office. Ready to volunteer? Connect with us!

[Senior Reach Program](#) waited through the inevitable construction delays to help clients settle into their new apartments at Residences on the Lane last winter and spring. By the middle of the year, we realized we needed to re-introduce our program to Rockville seniors and those that served them, in order to rebuild our homecare client base. A few years of COVID fears, clients moving in with relatives, to assisted living, etc. meant there had not been a full return to pre-pandemic homecare numbers. New outreach is paying off and our homecare rolls are refilling. There is still some space left, so if you know of a City of Rockville senior who could benefit from help with household chores or simple hygiene care, and whose income is in the low-to-moderate range, please tell them about Senior Reach. As for volunteering, some Friendly Caller positions have also opened.

A resident at [Rockland House](#) and one at [Jefferson House](#) graduated to independent living in the past few months. A new resident has moved into Jefferson House, and Housing Manager Ann is speaking with other program candidates. Both properties require some big projects. Rockland House needs repairs to the deck that should happen next spring or summer. The boiler was replaced at Jefferson House. We realize that bedroom furniture in particular at Jefferson House is very tired and often mismatched. We are considering a campaign later this winter to bring in new or gently used furniture to replace what is currently there. The men would really enjoy some chairs for the front porch so they can more comfortably sit outside. Volunteering to help with these projects, or providing life skills workshops for residents at either house would be welcome.

Language Outreach Program (LOP) offered hybrid classes this year in addition to online classes. Teachers and students have varying degrees of comfort over returning to in-person classes. Two hybrid conversation classes were held at Lincoln Park and Twinbrook Community Centers this fall. At one location, there was more virtual than in-person attendance. The other location was just the opposite. We also collaborated with Linkages to Learning to bring hybrid conversation courses to their parent clients. So far, teachers are all teaching virtually, and there is usually a volunteer or assistant physically in the classroom. Our major funder wants us to help other organizations create hybrid classes. We continue to offer children one-on-one virtual assistance with their studies. Although we have heard many school districts are finding children are behind in studies after the pandemic, our children seem to be consistently progressing.

Mansfield Kaseman Health Clinic (MKHC) had a difficult year. We spent the first eight months in temporary space after a catastrophic flood required a huge rebuild of our offices and exam rooms. Rockville United Church (RUC) stepped up to provide that space, and we are grateful. We are also very happy to be back at 8 West Middle Lane. Only a few pieces of furniture and equipment have yet to be replaced. We added new staff positions as we strive to add efficiencies while providing the highest quality care to our patients. Saturday clinics to provide COVID vaccines (Bivalent) and testing were held most of the year. In early 2023 the schedule for COVID services will change. We will update you when the schedule and starting date is determined.

Reach welcomed a new Gala event chair this year. Paul Newman, former REDI Board Chair took over the reins to allow Catherine Leggett the opportunity to lessen her duties after a decade in that role. Now that she and husband Ike have both retired, more travel opportunities have opened for them. Paul will lead the committee for the first in-person Gala since 2019. It takes place May 6, 2023 at Lakewood Country Club with the theme of the Kentucky Derby, which will be run on the same day. Some staff continue to work remotely a few days each week and others are more comfortable working exclusively from Grandin Avenue. All staff are in the office on Tuesdays and we will continue to offer this hybrid work environment in 2023. Andrea Kempner-Wink was promoted to Managing Director. A new advisory committee, "NextGen," has been created to help Reach build and develop younger supporters to guide the organization in the future.

Thank you for your past support of our mission to help the most vulnerable in our community. Thank you for supporting us through the easier and the more difficult years. We could not have assisted thousands of community members over the past 55 years without your partnership. Your continued support provides us with the means to serve the growing number of vulnerable families in Rockville and Montgomery County. Please let us update us on your journey through 2022!

With Warm Holiday Wishes,

Agnes Saenz

Agnes Saenz, Executive Director

PLANNING BEGINS FOR MAY GALA

The 2023 Annual Reach Gala is being planned as an in-person event this year. That has not been the case since 2019.

The event is expected to be held at Lakewood Country Club on Saturday,

May 6, 2023, with an exciting theme to encourage supporters to return. The date is the same day as the running of the Kentucky Derby, and a number of years ago, a Reach Gala shared this same theme. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to sip mint juleps while wearing their finest hats and bow ties, and watching the Run for the Roses on a big screen during the cocktail reception.



The gala committee has been formed and is already at work under the direction of event chair, Paul Newman. New committee members are invited to join in the work. Sponsorship opportunities are already available, and some sponsorships, including those from DANAC and Drs. Judy and Michael Ackerman have already been received. Plans for a return of the large and interesting silent auction, the opportunity to purchase special hats, watch the Derby, and enjoy a tasty sit-down dinner are being made.

To join the event committee, become a sponsor, or other Gala opportunities, please contact [Andrea Kempner-Wink](mailto:Andrea.Kempner-Wink@cmrocks.com), 301-637-0172. Additional information is expected to be included in the January newsletter and posted on the [CMRocks website](http://cmrocks.com) by mid-February.

Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

LOP WINTER CLASSES BEGIN

Schedule [HERE](#)

Sunday, March 5, 2023 Time TBD

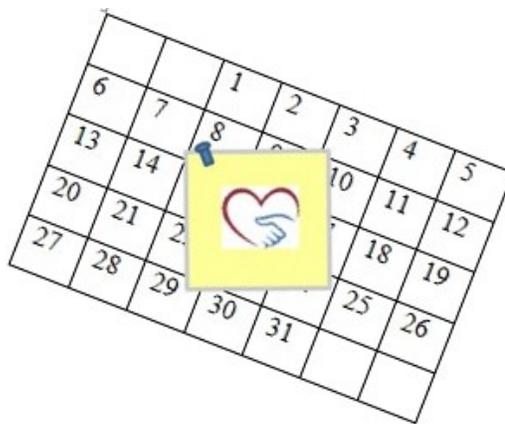
***ROCKVILLE CHORUS CONCERT to benefit
ROCKVILLE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM***

Rockville United Church
355 Linthicum Street, Rockville

Saturday, May 6, 2023 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

ANNUAL REACH GALA - RUN FOR THE ROSES

Lakewood Country Club
13901 Glen Mill Road, Rockville



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.

PROGRAM EVALUATOR to objectively evaluate a Reach program (Senior Reach, Housing, or Language Outreach Program). Interview program leads and others involved, check written procedures, policies, and how day-to-day tasks are accomplished. Research best practices for the work we do. Then present a written evaluation including what works well as well as recommendations for areas of improvement. Most work can be performed remotely. Expected length of project - 6 - 10 weeks for a program. Looking for separate evaluators for each of the three programs, and would like all work to be completed this winter or spring.

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 am-1 pm or 1 pm-5 pm) 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 in English - Spanish at the Kaseman Health Clinic are needed for four-hour shifts once each week between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm. Help us ensure our providers and patients can communicate clearly. Confidentiality is required. Contact Ms. Andy Jordan who volunteers as the Clinic Volunteer Coordinator on Mondays - AndyJordan@CMRocks.org

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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