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**Please visit our web site at:**

[www.CCC-CultivatingCommunityConnections.net](http://www.CCC-CultivatingCommunityConnections.net)

**Contact Us At:**

[CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com](mailto:CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com)

[www.CCC-CultivatingCommunityConnections.net](http://www.CCC-CultivatingCommunityConnections.net)

## Happy Holidays

**Wishing You a Wonderful Holiday Season**

Thank you for your support of *Cultivating Community Connections*. We are grateful all of the people and organizations that are partners in our efforts to improve communities.

Many people in our communities are struggling. Food Banks and other safety-net organizations are overwhelmed by increased demand. For those who are able, a contribution of money will provide organizations with the ability to give community members vital services.

Here are some groups that help our community members:

1. **Capital Area Food Bank:** <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org>
2. **Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services:** <https://www.laureladvocacy.org>
4. **Beltsville Adventist Community Center:** <http://www.beltsvillesda.org/bacc>
5. **World Central Kitchens:** <https://wck.org>
6. **Donate items to Prince George's County residents:** [mypgc.us/donatecovid19](http://mypgc.us/donatecovid19)
7. **Montgomery County Volunteer Center:** <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/covid19.html>

Other worthwhile causes:

1. **Toys for Tots:** <https://www.toysfortots.org/donate/toys-city-county.aspx?txtState=MARYLAND>
2. **Make-a-Wish:** <https://wish.org/midatlantic>
3. **One Warm Coat:** <https://www.onewarmcoat.org>

## What Do You Think?

Cultivating Community Connections would like to know about the people in your community that are making a difference. Tell us who they are and what they are doing. Email us at:

[cultivatingcommunityconn@gmail.com](mailto:cultivatingcommunityconn@gmail.com)

## Web Site- Check it Out!

- Thanks to Carol Relitz our web site has undergone a big change! We are truly becoming a place where community members can find resources. Please visit our web site at:
- Submit articles for our web site or newsletter to:  
[CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com](mailto:CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com)

## Our Leadership Team

Carol Jenkins- founder

Jeff Jenkins- co-founder

Anita Brown- recording secretary

Joseph Jones- vice president

Carol Relitz- web administrator

# Connecting Advocates

*Uniting community members to transform our neighborhoods is at the heart of what we do.*

## It's Not Too Late to Support Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc.

Help us raise funds for Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (LARS). **Check out our great outfits for sale- all money from the sale of these clothes goes to LARS.** <https://ccc-cultivatingcommunityconnections.net/better-together/>

Share this email with local family, friends, and neighbors.

## Resources for Grassroots Volunteers

From Montgomery County's Volunteer Center

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/covid19.html>

Are you looking for ways to organize or find neighborhood help in your community? While the Volunteer Center focuses on connecting volunteers with official nonprofit and government agencies, here are some emerging "unaffiliated" ways that neighbors are assisting neighbors or organizing special volunteer activities through this emergency. (If you have suggested additions to this list, email us at [volunteer@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:volunteer@montgomerycountymd.gov).)

**Teens Helping Seniors:** High school students are coordinating teen and adult volunteers to deliver (through no contact) essential supplies to older residents in Montgomery County. In addition, the group needs volunteers to pick up produce from a central location and deliver to disabled veterans in the DC area weekly. Email [teenshelpingseniors@gmail.com](mailto:teenshelpingseniors@gmail.com) to get involved.

**Here2Help:** Focused on providing food for those in need, this local group delivers donated grocery items to those who request them. Volunteers are needed to serve as dispatchers and delivery drivers and/or to donate food or funds for purchasing groceries.

**Communities Unbreakable:** This community-led effort uses an online tool to connect people to help provide non-urgent community support in several Montgomery County neighborhoods. The organizers, from Rockville, built their platform on free technology and have offered technical assistance for other neighborhoods that could make use of the platform. For more information, email [communitiesunbreakablemoco@gmail.com](mailto:communitiesunbreakablemoco@gmail.com).

**Covaid Mutual Aid Connector:** Developed by a group of college students and recent grads, this is an online tool designed to match neighborhood volunteers with the elderly and immunocompromised residents in need of help based on zip code.

**MoCo Mask Makers :** Montgomery County residents have joined forces to match people who are making face masks with individuals and organizations that have requested them. Site also includes mask patterns and instructions as well as information on donating mask-making supplies.

**Masks for a Safer Community (MASC):** Organized by a group of high school students from Montgomery and Frederick counties, MASC provides free masks to senior living facilities and many others. Participate by donating to purchase masks, or connect to help with distribution.

**Nextdoor.com :** Join this online neighborhood communications platform to follow and contribute to discussions about volunteer efforts. Plus, it now features Nextdoor Help Maps, which allow you to sign up to offer a particular type of assistance to other residents in your community. (If seeking help, you can message any of those who have offered.) In addition, your neighborhood may have special Nextdoor Groups devoted to volunteering or COVID-19.

**Other Neighborhood Email Groups:** Many neighborhoods, school clusters, and zip codes in Montgomery County have active listservs on Groups.io and/or Google Groups (and some may still be using Yahoo Groups, which is ceasing support and therefore has lost many groups). Discussions often center on COVID-19, including ways to serve during this emergency.

