

# Rockville's Caregiving Agencies



## Meeting Needs in Innovative Ways

This special insert of "Rockville Reports" highlights many local "Caregiver" agencies, focusing on just a few of the many programs and services that support members of our community. There is contact information provided for individual programs, services or centers throughout the "Caregivers" insert, but for general information, contact the City's Department of Community Services' Youth and Family Services Division at 240-314-8310, or stop by its offices at 20 Courthouse Square, Suite No. 205 in downtown Rockville.

### Meeting Residents' Emerging Needs

Each December, *Rockville Reports* highlights the City of Rockville's caregiver agencies with this special insert. Simply put, caregiver agencies are those organizations that receive City funds to assist those in need. A list of those agencies in affiliation with Rockville is on the two inside pages of this edition and some are highlighted throughout. Special to this year's insert are new partnerships the City has fostered with Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries and the Furniture Exchange (see articles on this page). Also featured is a look at volunteer service organizations dedicated to helping those in need.

Rockville's growing population and ever-changing demographics encourage the City to continuously adapt its programs and services to meet these needs. The City's Department of Community Services specializes in implementing and maintaining relationships with caregiver agencies. Without this department, many individuals would go without necessary and available health care, food, clothing, school supplies and much more.

The City will continue to identify the ever-growing needs of its residents. Anyone wishing to help with donations of money, time or skills will find plenty of opportunities throughout the pages of this insert.



Furniture to be delivered as part of the new Furniture Exchange program is loaded (from left to right) by Paul Mutyambizi, Chelsea Soneira and Jerome Richardson.

### More Than Just A Comfy Chair: New Furniture Exchange Reaches Out to Residents

Having recently moved into a new home through the housing program component of Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC), Carrie Brown, a single mother of two children, realized that some things were simply going to be put on hold. Trying to adjust to her new home, and keeping up with the expensive cost of living in Rockville, Brown figured that purchasing furniture would have to wait.

CMMC recognized Brown's problem, and knew that living without furniture was unacceptable. Through its newly developed "Furniture Exchange," CMMC was able to meet Brown's needs.

"I was so pleased and so shocked," said Brown. "We had been eating off of a table with these little stools that were falling apart. It was horrible. I received the referral for furniture, and received a living room set and dining room set. It was great, in such great condition. It was such a big help. I could never have afforded to buy anything that nice."

And that's exactly what Furniture Ex-

change Director Chelsea Soneira hopes to accomplish.

"We help those from many, many backgrounds," said Soneira. "We've gotten furniture to an elderly woman who was removed from an abusive household, to those coming out of homeless shelters, to the working poor, to the disabled, and so many more. Not only does the furniture help these households directly, but they can then use their money to assist them in other ways."

The Furniture Exchange accepts donations of furniture in good condition, stores the items and then, when eligible clients are identified, drivers deliver the furniture to the household and put it together. All services are free.

Currently, the greatest need is for cribs, dressers and beds of any size. Donations are tax deductible, and drivers will only pick up the furniture directly from donor's homes. Pick-ups are scheduled 3-4 weeks in advance. For more information, contact the Furniture Exchange at 240-361-1736. ■



Doug Walton has been with Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries for more than 10 years, and is one of the dedicated drivers who delivers food and companionship to needy seniors.

### Top Banana Delivers

With a name like "Top Banana" how could the City go wrong?

A nonprofit organization delivering food and building a sense of community for older adults, Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries is one of the newest caregiver agencies available to Rockville residents. The City recently partnered with Top Banana to reach out to older residents who are unable to obtain groceries on their own.

Top Banana has been working in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area since 1982, and has identified a need specifically within the Rockville area.

"We received a grant application from the organization, and knew it would be a fantastic opportunity for many of our residents," said Mary Lou Jacobs, director of Rockville's Department of Community Services. "We were able to provide funding to the organization, and look forward to reaching out to our older residents through Top Banana."

Top Banana prides itself on being like the "old-fashioned corner grocer," offering personalized delivery of groceries with a little extra effort. Not only do the drivers deliver food to the in-need customers, but they also will bring the groceries into the kitchen and, if needed, unpack, loosen jar lids for arthritis sufferers, label items for those with sight problems, and simply check on the clients' well being. Top Banana also routinely distributes health, safety and resource literature to clients.

Phyllis Courlander of Top Banana said that going that extra step is exactly what separates their organization from other mainstream grocery delivery services.

"Our delivery people know each

client," Courlander said. "The drivers don't just drop off the groceries but make sure their clients are all right before they leave. If they identify a need, we also work closely with other service providers to ensure that clients in need of additional support are linked with the services that will help."

It has become apparent to Courlander and other Top Banana employees that many of the 500-plus clients appreciate the extra effort.

"Top Banana is like a family to me," said Mattie Miles, a client in her mid-80s. "With health problems and me in a wheelchair, it is hard to get around, especially in winter. I don't have anyone

*"Seniors use our service out of necessity, not out of convenience."*

— Jean Guiffre,  
Executive Director and  
Founder of Top Banana

to do it for me (having lost all living family members). Ever since I talked to Jean (Guiffre, Top Banana's executive director and founder), we've been just like family. They not only bring my groceries but I get smiles and love also."

Top Banana has a catalogue of a wide variety of items from which clients

can order. The items are purchased in bulk and delivered from Top Banana's warehouse. According to Guiffre, seniors are often reluctant to reach out for help, so when they finally call Top Banana, these individuals often need other services, too.

"Seniors use our service out of necessity, not out of convenience," Guiffre said.

Using Top Banana is simple and convenient. Services can be provided on a sliding scale basis, depending on the clients' need. Top Banana also offers many cost-saving methods to reduce the service charge for anyone.

For more information, contact Top Banana at 301-372-FOOD (3663) or visit [www.topbananagroceries.org](http://www.topbananagroceries.org). ■

**CMMC Furniture Exchange Donations Needed: Cribs, Beds, Dressers  
Furniture in good condition will be picked up and is tax deductible  
Call 240-361-1736**

## Help for the Homeless

### Chase Partnership House

- A program of Community Ministries of Rockville, 114 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville
- 36-bed shelter for homeless men who are recovering from drug and alcohol abuse and who may have a chronic mental illness
- Services include: housing, hygiene/laundry facilities, a structured evening program, a computer lab, recreational activities, case management and coordination of services
- Contact person: **Darrell Butler**; Phone: 301-762-8682 (ext. 352); Web address: [www.cmrocks.org](http://www.cmrocks.org)
- Greatest need: Lunch donors

### Dorothy Day Place

- A program of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington
- 24-hour, seven-day a week, year-round transitional shelter for homeless women. Provides beds, three meals a day, laundry, showers and telephone
- Approximately 45 shelter residents receive on-site case management, substance abuse counseling, housing and job counseling, money management assistance, regular on-site medical care, legal services and expressive therapy activities
- Contact person: **Uwana Collins**; Phone: 301-762-8314; Web address: [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org)
- Greatest needs: Walkman radio/CD players; gift certificates to major department stores; toiletries, laundry detergent

### Helping Hands Center

- Provides emergency shelter to approximately 140 homeless women and young children 24 hours a day throughout the year
- Services include: Case management, three meals a day, private bedrooms, laundry facilities, workshops on money management, parenting, job preparation and search. Provides referrals for housing programs and assistance with first month's rent through a grant program
- Contact person: **Ann L. Chapman** or **Tammy Holland**; Phone: 301-340-2796
- Greatest needs: Playground equipment (swings and slides) and metal park benches

### Hope Housing

- A program of Community Ministries of Rockville, 114 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville
- Three Rockville sites provide permanent housing services to 16 formerly homeless men and women with physical and/or mental disabilities
- Contact person: **Darrell Butler**; Phone: 301-762-8682 (ext. 352); Web address: [www.cmrocks.org](http://www.cmrocks.org)

### Horizon House

- A program of Community Ministry of Montgomery County, 114 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville
- Five houses provide case management and support to 25 men and women. All have physical and/or mental disabilities and fixed or very low incomes. The main program goal is to improve resident income and skills for the highest level of self-sufficiency possible
- Services include a case manager who



supervises each resident's program goals and monitors house meetings. Residents pay a small monthly fee and contribute to household chores

- Contact person: **Priscilla Fox-Morrill**; Phone: 301-770-2413; Web address: [www.communityministrymc.org](http://www.communityministrymc.org)
- Greatest needs: Late model computers for clients (Pentium 2 or higher); winter wear items; toiletries

### Jefferson House

- A program of Community Ministries of Rockville, 114 W. Montgomery Ave, Rockville
- Provides permanent supportive housing services for formerly homeless men who have completed a formal addiction treatment program. Supports their efforts to maintain sobriety and employment
- Offers six men personal living quarters, support services and social and recreational activities
- Contact person: **Darrell Butler**; Phone: 301-762-8682 (ext. 352); Web address: [www.cmrocks.org](http://www.cmrocks.org)
- Greatest needs: Recovery-related DVDs, e.g., ("Clean and Sober" with Michael Keaton and "28 Days" with Sandra Bullock)

### Men's Emergency Shelter

- A program of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless
- Provides a safe place throughout the year for vulnerable men awaiting placement in another community shelter or for those not eligible for other shelters
- Offers a warm, safe environment, shower and toilet facilities, laundry, hot beverages, snacks and a bed
- Contact person: **Sharan London**; Phone: 301-217-0314; Web address: [www.mcch.net](http://www.mcch.net)

### Montgomery Avenue Women's Center

- Daytime program for homeless women
- Helps homeless women find jobs and assists with computer training, relocation assistance and prescription costs
- Contact person: **Norma Fagan**; Phone: 301-762-2288; Web address: [www.mawctr.org](http://www.mawctr.org)
- Greatest need: A volunteer to do about 10 hours of word processing; can work from home

### Rainbow Place

- Provides a warm, safe, caring environment for homeless women during the winter months of November through March. Serves approximately 85 women a season
- Open 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Women receive a warm bed, a hot supper, breakfast and a bag lunch, access to showers, laundry facilities and case management
- Contact person: **Andie Sante**; Phone: 301-762-3363; Web address: [www.rainbowplace.org](http://www.rainbowplace.org)
- Greatest needs: A volunteer maintenance person, grocery store gift cards, snack packs and juice boxes

# Community Service Great Places to Donate Your Time,

### Sophia House

- A program of Community Ministry of Montgomery County, 114 W. Montgomery Ave, Rockville
- A 30-bed emergency shelter and assessment center for homeless women with issues related to mental illness, domestic violence and long-term disabilities
- The facility is open from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. and offers professional case management, meals, laundry, showers and programmatic meetings
- Contact person: **Priscilla Fox-Morrill**; Phone: 301-770-2413; Web address: [www.communityministrymc.org](http://www.communityministrymc.org)

### Stepping Stones Shelter

- Provides safe emergency shelter, food, clothing, case management and supportive services to approximately 150 homeless parents and children each year
- Services include: Individual budget and financial counseling, employment and job workshops, computer training, domestic violence education, parenting classes and health education
- Contact person: **Tina McKendree**; Phone: 301-251-0567; Web address: [www.stepsstonesshelter.org](http://www.stepsstonesshelter.org)

## Food and Clothing

### Furniture Exchange

- Community Ministry of Montgomery County's newest program picks up furniture from donors and delivers it free of charge to low-income county residents. Tax receipts are provided to donors
- Pick-ups are made on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the year and are usually scheduled 3-5 weeks in advance
- Contact person: **Chelsea Soneira**; Phone: 240-361-1736; Web address: [www.communityministrymc.org](http://www.communityministrymc.org)
- Greatest needs: Good beds of any size, dressers and cribs

### Interfaith Clothing Center

- Distributes donated clothes, housewares, school supplies, infant items, toys and children's books to low-income Montgomery County residents. Donation hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., at 751 Twinbrook Pkwy.
- The ICC's work is accomplished by hundreds of volunteers who annually provide more than 10,000 hours of service sorting, sizing, cleaning, displaying and distributing clothing and other goods. ICC also relies on thousands of donors for clothing and housewares
- Contact person: **Teresa Castro**; Phone: 301-424-3796; Web address: [www.communityministrymc.org](http://www.communityministrymc.org)
- Greatest needs: Men's, women's and children's coats, hats, gloves and scarves

### Manna Food Center, Inc.

- Distributes food to Rockville residents at risk of hunger and to Rockville shelters, pantries and the Lincoln Park Community Center
- Provides each household with a box of staples and perishables to feed a family for three to four days
- Contact person: **Amy Gabala**; Phone: 301-424-1130; Web address: [www.mannafood.org](http://www.mannafood.org)
- Greatest need: Food

### Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries

- Provides home-delivered grocery services with personalized extra help to people with limited mobility and strength, especially the elderly and disabled
- Staff and volunteers receive orders by telephone, deliver groceries into the kitchen and even unpack, when needed
- Contact person: **Jean Guiffré**; Phone: 301-372-FOOD (3663); Web address: [www.topbananagroceries.org](http://www.topbananagroceries.org)
- Greatest need: Volunteers to assist in researching foundation/grant opportunities



Jefferson House and Chase Partnership shelters conducted a car wash in September to raise money to help support the shelters — and donate some of the proceeds to hurricane victims. "These men are less fortunate than most folks, but are most likely to identify with people who have gone through the experience of being homeless," said Darrell Butler, housing director of the two shelters.

# ices in Rockville

## Talent, Money – and Keep it Local!



Friendly health care providers from Mobile Medical Care bring important services to those in Rockville.

### Youth & Family Services

#### Friends in Action

- A program of Community Ministry of Montgomery County, 114 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville
- Bilingual program that recruits, trains and supports teams of volunteer mentors who commit to working with low-income families for at least one year
- Volunteer teams of mentors tutor children, teach adults life and budgeting skills, and empower families to move toward financial independence by strengthening the family unit. Case management services are provided by professional staff
- Contact person: **Monica Barberis-Young**; Phone: 301-315-1103; Web address: [www.communityministrymc.org](http://www.communityministrymc.org)
- Greatest need: Groups of five or more adults who would like to be trained as mentors

#### Healthy Families Montgomery

- A program of Family Services Agency, 610 East Diamond Ave., Suite 100, Gaithersburg
- Serves overburdened first-time parents on a completely voluntary basis with no income guidelines
- Families receive home visits, case management, health education, child development and parent education/support groups. All services are available in both English and Spanish
- Contact person: **Crystal Carr**; Phone: 301-840-3231; Web address: [www.familyservicesagency.org](http://www.familyservicesagency.org)
- Greatest needs: Hardback books and new toys for children (ages 0-5) cribs, breast pumps, car seats (infant and toddler), formula

#### Elderly and Disabilities Ministries

- A program of Community Ministries of Rockville, 114 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville
- Provides case management and help for the elderly by certified aides who

clean, do laundry and assist with personal care through its Home Care Program

- Offers free repair, maintenance and modifications to the homes of seniors and persons with disabilities through the Safe & Habitable Home Project
- Contacts: **Sylvia George**, director; **Stephanie Torrible**, assistant director; Phone: 301-315-1096 or 301-762-8682 (ext.116); Web address: [www.cmrocks.org](http://www.cmrocks.org)

#### Mansfield Kaseman Health Program

- A partnership between Community Ministries of Rockville and Mobile Medical Care
- Provides community outreach and wrap around case management
- Schedules appointments for mobile clinic sites in Rockville
- Services are available in both English and Spanish; additional translation services are available on request
- Contact person: **Michelle Beadle**; Phone: 301-762-8682; Web address: [www.cmrocks.org](http://www.cmrocks.org)
- Greatest need: bilingual (English/Spanish) volunteer services at clinic sites; two portable printers

#### Mobile Medical Care (MobileMed)

- Brings primary health care to low income, uninsured and working poor residents at five area clinics.
- Mobile van ("Moby") sites in Rockville include the Lincoln Park Community Center, Crusader Lutheran Church and the Rockville Senior Center
- Health care professionals provide primary and preventive health care, referrals to specialty care as necessary, and the diagnosis and management of chronic conditions.
- Contact person: **Robert Spector**; Phone: 301-493-2400; Web address: [www.mobilemedicalcare.org](http://www.mobilemedicalcare.org)

#### Primary Care Coalition: Care For Kids – Dental Care

- Provides access to high quality, culturally competent dental services to low-income uninsured children enrolled in Care for Kids Program
- Contact person: **Maria Triantis**; Phone: 301-628-3420; Web address: [www.primarycarecoalition.org](http://www.primarycarecoalition.org)

### Cultural Diversity

#### Korean Community Service Ctr. Of Greater Washington, Inc.

- Provides information and referral services, welfare, health and immigration case management services and individual, family and marital counseling
- Provides translation and interpretation services and educational services including ESL classes, computer classes, civics education, five-week summer school for students K-12
- Contacts: **Tae-In Lee** or **Joo Sup Song**; Phone: 240-683-6663; Web address: [www.kcscgw.org](http://www.kcscgw.org)

#### Latino Outreach Program

- A program of Community Ministries of Rockville, 114 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville
- Provides "English as a Second Language" classes to Hispanic adults and tutoring to children of adult participants. Also provides health education on colorectal, breast and cervical cancer. Makes available information on employment and educational issues including health and job fairs
- While parents attend classes, preschool and school-age children participate in enrichment classes staffed with bilingual instructors. Childcare is provided for children under age 2
- Contact person: **Cecilia Rojas**; Phone: 301-315-1097; Web address: [www.cmrocks.org](http://www.cmrocks.org)
- Greatest needs: A computer and toys for children

#### Please note:

Si usted habla Español y necesita ser referido para los siguientes servicios: vivienda, salud, emergencia financiera, por favor llamar al departamento de servicios comunitarios al teléfono 240 314-8310 o llamar al señor Marcial E. Candido al teléfono 240-314-8315.

如果華語是您的母語，而您需要得到居住、財務及醫藥方面的補助，請電華人活動中心，240-631-1200，我們將為您提供華語服務。

주택, 의료보조, 재정보조 등의 분야에 대해 한국어로 도움이 필요하신 분들은 위싱턴 한인봉사센터 (전화번호: 240-683-6663)로 연락주시기 바랍니다.

### Chinese Culture & Community Service Center

- Provides English literacy instruction to newly immigrated adults
- Three levels of classes include instruction on naturalization, citizenship and intensive pronunciation for elderly immigrants who rarely have the opportunity to speak English in their daily lives
- Contact person: **Vincent Tang**; Phone: 240-631-1200; Web address: [www.ccacc-dc.org](http://www.ccacc-dc.org)

### Emergency Funds

#### Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP)

- Provides financial assistance to residents faced with an emergency relative to shelter, utilities and medical prescriptions. Also provides assistance with getting IDs and job-related transportation. To be eligible for assistance, persons must have resided within the corporate city limits of Rockville for at least six months and provide documentation of their emergency
- Contributions to REAP can be made directly through a designation on City water bills
- Contact person: **Monica Mendoza**; Phone: 301-762-8682 (ext. 106); Web address: [www.cmrocks.org](http://www.cmrocks.org)

#### Rockville FISH/Help

- All-volunteer organization serving residents of the City of Rockville.
- Provides emergency financial assistance for prescriptions, housing, utilities and food
- Contact person: **Nell Hubbard**; Phone: 301-564-0800

## Fishing for a New Name: HELP

Rockville FISH is changing its name to "Rockville HELP."

Although the original name was catchy, the new name will clearly let everyone know the organization is in the business of helping. The name change also will align it with the system of other "HELP" agencies in Montgomery County.

Rockville HELP delivers food and provides prescriptions and limited financial aid for residents facing an emergency.

If you need HELP, call 301-564-0800 and leave a message. A volunteer will call back the same day.

Rockville HELP is always looking for volunteers or donations. Call for more information on how you can get involved. ■

#### Human Services Advisory Commission

The City of Rockville works with many boards and commissions that assist with group-specific issues on an ongoing basis. The Human Services Advisory Commission is committed to making the City's many services available to all residents.

**Council Liaison:** Anne M. Robbins  
**Members include:** Tim Stranges, Chair; David L'Heureux and Paul Mutyambizi, *Consumer Representatives*; Darrell Butler, M. Thomas Lawrey, Agnes Saenz, and Michelle Beadle, *Caregiver Representatives*; Mary Caroline Colletti, Deborah Parham Hopson, Ann Reiss and Eric Kuohwa Wang, *At-Large Representatives*

# Quality Service Matters

## Local Volunteers Carry on Tradition

Every month, Eldon Durscher, a retired Montgomery County Board of Education employee, helps cook an all-you-can-eat breakfast of pancakes, sausage and eggs for the Chase House homeless shelter. In his spare time, Bob Bosley, a retired life insurance agent, organizes efforts to provide free eyeglasses to people with vision impairments. Between his work schedule, journalist Craig Cano helps plan Rockville's annual train show at the senior center to raise money for children.

Why are Bosley, Cano and Durscher so involved in the community?

They are all members of Rockville community service groups. The Lions, Kiwanis and Optimist Clubs are three of the many community service groups that have chapters based in the City. These

clubs often fill needs and provide services not available through traditional caregiver agencies.

Rockville's Lions Club is a part of one of the largest community service organizations in the world. More than 80 years ago, Helen Keller challenged the Lions to help the blind, and ever since, the club has provided free vision screening for everyone from preschool children to senior adults. They also supply more than 1,000 used eyeglasses a year for free, and they raise money for eye surgeries and transplants.

"When someone comes to our club and explains that she is no longer blind

because the Rockville Lions raised enough money for her cornea transplant, it touches your heart," said Bosley, the membership director of the Rockville Lions.

The Kiwanis and Optimist Clubs organize many of their events to benefit youth. Among other programs, the Kiwanis Club supports the Rock Terrace School, a school for handicapped children, by organizing pizza nights for the students, holding

holiday food drives at the school, and assisting the students with their senior prom.

"This club contains a wonderful group of altruistic people who are concerned with the children of the world and make sure they get off to a good start," said Ruth Hennesian, a Kiwanis Club member.

Kiwanis members also donate one morning a month to the "Pancake Breakfast" at the Chase House homeless shelter.

"I have this feeling that I need to serve in order to make the community a better place to live," said Durscher, the Kiwanis Club 2005 Citizen of the Year. "So I serve pancakes to 35 hungry eaters."

The Optimist Club holds an essay and speech contest every spring for eighth through 10th grade students and awards the winners \$100 savings bonds.

"There is a lot of satisfaction in helping these kids and giving them a forum to succeed," said Peter Martin, Optimist Club vice president.

*"These are dedicated volunteers, out there to help their fellow men."*

— Bob Bosley,  
Lions Club Membership Director



Lions Club Membership Director Bob Bosley comforts a blood donor. Conducting blood drives is another way, in addition to vision services, the Lions Club members help those in Rockville.

Though each club has a different passion, all try to help the community in any way it can.

"These are dedicated volunteers, out there to help their fellow men," said Bosley. "I can see all the good that it does, not

only in the community, but around the world."

For more information: Lions: 202-383-2142 or 301-762-6315; Kiwanis: 301-869-3637; Optimist: 301-926-7097. ■

— by Rebecca Janoff

# More Than Ever REAP Help Needed

## With Rising Heating Costs, More Households Are At Risk for Being in the Cold this Winter Season

Now more than ever, the City of Rockville is reaching out to its residents for help.

Rising utility costs will affect many residents this season, especially those who were already struggling to meet their utility payments. Because of the increased cost particularly of natural gas there are more households who will need assistance to pay their heating bills, which means more help will be needed.

For years the City of Rockville, in partnership with Community Ministries of Rockville, has provided emergency assistance to residents through the Rockville Emergency Assistance Program (REAP). The program is coordinated by the Department of Community Services. Any resident experiencing a legitimate emergency is

eligible to apply for help from the program, which provides up to \$750 to help alleviate the resident's emergency.

"We are already anticipating a jump in applications because of the economic factors affecting the country," said Robin Sparer, Youth and Family Services supervisor for Rockville. "The help we can provide through our budget is extremely limited, which is why we reach out to residents via their water bills."

Every resident receiving a City water bill will notice a place in the bottom right-hand corner designated for donations for the REAP program. The City has recently redesigned its water bill format, but the REAP donation box is still visible in the same area.

However, those wishing to donate to REAP, but pay their City water bill online, will have to send in their donations separately. The City's Finance Department is working on a way to incorporate online donations to REAP, but that system is not yet in operation.

"That will be a goal for us," said Dominic DelPozzo of the City's Finance Department. "We recognize that the paper water bill is a simple avenue for residents to donate to REAP, and as the City's technology continues to advance, we want to keep the process as simple as possible."

Anyone who does not pay their water bill by mail can still easily make a donation to REAP by sending a check made payable to City of Rockville REAP Fund and mail to City of Rockville/REAP, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Last year, the REAP program approved 160 applications for assistance,

servicing 202 adults and 319 children. Recipients have used emergency money to help pay for utilities, shelter, food, medical needs and emergency house repairs. ■

# Soccer Teaches Life Skills To Youth

Several years ago, the City of Rockville began the "Charlas Program," a series of meetings that provide Latino parents the opportunity to share information while learning about community resources. At these meetings parents often discuss the need for affordable after-school programming that appeals to children while helping them avoid harmful activities.

As a result, the City's Department of Community Services is starting the new Latino Youth Development Program.

"The program is designed to give kids

the tools they need to learn more about themselves," said City Youth Specialist Marcial Candido, who has worked for several years with students in Rockville.

One activity will be a soccer team through which Julius West Middle School and Richard Montgomery High School students can play in the winter soccer season at the Montgomery County Soccerplex. Community service activities are being sought to introduce students to varied learning opportunities throughout the city.



Latino Youth Development Program participants visited historic Annapolis, Md., as part of the program's summer pilot project.

For more information, contact Candido at 240-314-8315. ■

# Want to Help?

Donating money is a thoughtful way to offer assistance for those in need, but for many organizations, time is just as valuable. Check out the listing of Caregiver agencies in this insert for interesting ideas about how to donate your assistance. With just a few extra hours to spare, you could be the person to make a lasting difference in your community. Call Mary Lou Jacobs at 240-314-8310 for additional information. ■