



2021 Fall Update

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How you can help residents in affordable housing

Communities Together helps affordable housing residents improve their own communities through collaboration.

We assist residents as they meet their goals with dignity, build community, and thrive.

The Residents We Serve

- 21 communities in MD (11), DC (5), and VA (5) – with 1 more coming in early 2022!
- 10,000+ senior and family residents in low- and moderate-income communities

2021 Challenges & Opportunities

Communities Together coordinates programs, events, activities, and external resources for residents at 21 communities in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia. We partner with Residential One, which manages the communities. All of the results below are the product of that partnership, and credit goes to both teams.

In 2021, we have taken on **two new communities** – Mills Place in the District of Columbia and Silver Creek Senior Living in Kensington, Maryland. Mills Place is a family complex, and we began to serve their residents last winter. Silver Creek is opening in December, and it will be a senior community.

From January through early June of 2021, **covid-19 restrictions** prevented the normal indoor activities as well as some outdoor activities. We had a brief window with no restrictions in June and July, after which we did not hold indoor events. Given the increase of Covid-19 “delta variant” cases in July, activities had to change: activities had to be held primarily outdoors, and food was delivered individually wrapped and door-to-door

Outdoor activities and food delivery mandates keep our residents safe. However, they do not combat social isolation for those who cannot go outside. The extremely hot and humid weather of the summer 2021 has had a negative impact on residents who cannot participate in events outdoors on account of health reasons.

With the fall in the incidence of covid-19 cases in October, Communities Together and Residential One have been able to ease restrictions once again. At this writing in November, Community rooms are now open to the residents. For example, bingo is back in full force for many of the senior communities. Some resident led activities have been able to resume much to the delight of the residents. Residents are aware that masks need to be worn and social distance must be practiced, and there are limits on the number allowed in public spaces, set by

Residential One. The loosening of restrictions in October began to allow residents to socialize with their neighbors and friends, bringing significant improvement in their mental and physical health.

Check-in Calls: we – and our enthusiastic volunteers from Newmark and other organizations -- continued to make calls to residents in all communities. From January through June we called **each resident 2 or 3 times**. Our large and growing volunteer force was crucial to this pandemic all-hands-on-deck effort. Many residents do not take the call. When they do, the calls help us understand how best to serve residents.

In early 2021, we launched **Community Building** programs anew. The core activity is networking – facilitating neighbors getting to know each other and identifying common opportunities and challenges on which they can work together to take care of their community. Many of the activities and events below go by other names (“hot dog social,” for example), but they might include networking, facilitation, or discussion of issues. However, once again this year the pandemic intervened and prevented sustained networking and discussions. We carried on with events and activities outdoors, by individual delivery, or online, but we were unable to advance the in-person networking and facilitated discussions so essential to true community building.

Our growth brought large challenges and opportunities, including **significant revenue growth, staff growth, and organizational development**. Communities Together is poised for further sustained growth as we head into our final month of 2021 and 2022.

Highlights

The Virtual World: Given the necessity of running some programs virtually again this year, Communities Together found new ways to reach our residents across several locations. For example, our Thursday Special Events included participation across 7 sites, with an average of 18 people attending each event. We hosted a total of 22 virtual events with 376 participants (total “interactions,” not necessarily different individuals) from 30+ families from January through August 2021 on a variety of topics.

** One mom called us after a **Healthy Cooking** online workshop to say, **“how much [her] middle school daughters enjoyed the class.”** A weekend later, her daughters decided that they should create the snacks that we’d prepared in our healthy cooking class – “Apple Donuts” -- and showed their cousins how to make fun and healthy apple ring snacks. The mom was very pleased with this class and how much her daughters took to heart what they had learned.



** Many kids from our Langley Park Corridor communities are from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. They were really interested in learning about Mexican culture in the **Cinco de Mayo** event and shared some of their own country's cultural traditions. This was a great event of connections and fun. The piñatas were a...hit!

** We want to thank the **Residential One** management teams for providing the kits for the **Global Parents Day** celebrations: they were all gone within hours – about 50 kits per community! **Residential One** teams also provided the **doughnuts to kids** at all five Langley Park Corridor communities this year (Auburn, Langley, Quebec, Queens, and University).

** **Technology Lending:** We test drove our **technology lending** program at 5 communities (Laurel Lakes, Fort Washington Manor, Clinton Manor, Queens Manor, and Quebec Arms). We worked with 3 senior households and 5 families. We loaned tablets for the duration of the program in which the resident was enrolled. We found it satisfactory and helpful. Residents were connected online, able to participate in programs, and appreciated their ability to access the Internet and other people. We did replace one tablet, as it had suffered damage.

Organizational Partnerships (beyond Residential One, our partner everywhere)

- **AHD, Inc.:** Developers of our first 18 communities.
- **CAFÉ:** Cultural Academy for Excellence (CAFÉ, housed at Queens Manor)
 - Out of School Time Program
 - Tutoring with Susan
 - Cooking and Art Classes provided this year for the first time to all other communities beyond Queens Manor.
 - CAFÉ has offered 5 painting workshops through the summer; other workshops will launch in January; participation from 20+ kids from 6 communities.
 - CAFÉ worked virtually last spring; short in-person camp in summer; planning to reopen in person when allowed.
 - Hoping to increase the partnership in future with programming on 3+ sites.
- **Camp Fire of Patuxent (MD & DC)**
 - Provides support and coordination on 80% of our youth programming
 - **5 Camp Fire Mid-Career Interns** – mid-career professionals who add great value to our service delivery. We could not achieve what we do without them. They have:
 - made wellness check and other phone calls to residents at multiple communities
 - hosted virtual activities 1-2 times a week
 - assisted with vaccine clinics, gardening, and in-person outdoor events
 - provided staffing for program at Friendly Gardens on Tuesdays
 - helped packing Halloween bags
 - provided staff support for Seniors in Virginia and at Laurel Lakes (MD)
 - **Virtual Youth Programming with support from Camp Fire** (January-June)
 - Provides volunteers as needed. Camp Fire's annual contribution of voluntary time is equivalent to a donation of more than \$35,000.

- Hosted a Party and Activities for residents at Penn Mar.
- **Spring Break Camp** – 24 kids from 7 communities; 3-day camp with Camp Fire, virtual with material distribution.
- **Summer Camp** (outdoors, then quickly *virtual* again): 38 kids from 6 communities registered for 5 weeks of camp.
- **Out of School Fall Program at Friendly Garden:** Having been observed by Montgomery County officials, Camp Fire was able to secure another grant from the County to continue the Summer Camp program through September and October and bring the program in person (outdoors) to Friendly Garden Apartments in Silver Spring every Tuesday. We have grown to **45 participants from more than 30 families** chiefly from Friendly Garden, with several kids participating online from University Manor and Langley Gardens. Camp Fire has asked to continue the program beyond October and is seeking County funding to make it happen. *Many thanks to Camp Fire for winning and running that successful after-school program.*
- **CCLP** (Catholic Communities in Langley Park)
 - Re-opened in-person during the summer; limited programming.
- **Covenant Presbyterian Church:** Out of School Time Programming
- **Mary's Center:** Promotion of vaccine and testing throughout the year.
- **Prince George's County Police Dept Community Service Division**
 - Police substation in Langley Park

GROWING PARTNERSHIPS:

- **Audubon Enterprises:** Served as financing consultancy and developer liaison for our new community in the District of Columbia this year – Mills Place.
- **Lock 7 Development:** Developers of our new Washington, DC community – Mills Place.
- **Luminis Health:** Vaccination clinics well organized and managed!
- **MMYC (Maryland Multicultural Youth Center)**
 - Social services referrals and support with food, youth programming, etc.
 - Education services to many of our families – in school and wrap-around
- **Newmark:** 7 volunteers making check-in calls to seniors!
- **Operation Earnie's Plate** (Capital Area Food Bank Distributor): food distribution and pantry, with 3-5 volunteers!
- **Prince George's County Council District 2 Council Member Deni Taveras's Office:**
 - Vaccination clinics, community education, and strong support for our new entrepreneurship ("Mercaditos") project in Langley Park.
 - 2-3 volunteers for clinics and food distribution!
- **River Jordan:** food distribution

NEW PARTNERS in 2021:

- **CKAR (Central Kenilworth Revitalization)**
 - Economic Revitalization in Prince George’s District 3, near Auburn Manor – more opportunities to partner later this year and 2022
- **Community Schools Staff** (Thomas Stone ES, Glenridge ES)
 - Working closely with several community schools staff to reach out to parents and keep open communication about resources
- **Community Youth Advance**
 - Education services to many of our families; in school and wrap-around; complement the schools not covered by MMYC
 - Mentorship program – to promote within our communities
- **Giant Pharmacy:** vaccine distribution in Prince George’s County
- **Laurel City Councilman Keith Sydnor’s Office:** 1 volunteer for Laurel Lakes!
- **Pavilion Health Care:** vaccine and health clinics and 1 volunteer in Virginia!
- **Prince George’s County Council Member Sydney Harrison’s Office:** 3 volunteers!
- **Prince George’s County Health Dept & Dept of Aging**
 - Support for seniors and vaccine support, with 5 volunteers!
- **Prince George’s County Library System:** 1 volunteer!
- **Pyramid Atlantic Art Studio** offered one art workshop on “print-making,” with more coming (changed plans due to Delta variant of Covid-19). This is a new partner for us! Our kids love the art workshops. We always have at least one parent text or email us after these workshops to share pictures of their child’s artwork, and to thank us again for the program. It is very rewarding to see how much the kids engage and enjoy these classes, even after a year and a half of virtual school!
- **Tomorrow’s Caterers:** 5 volunteers!
- **Virginia Department of Health and Healthy Generations** (area agency on aging) in Fredericksburg: 3 volunteers!
- **Yoga with Cherryl:** teacher for any and all communities

“I just wanna say that I feel fully supported by CTI and ResOne. Y’all have been so good to us [Clinton residents] especially during this pandemic. You brought the covid-19 vaccine shots here in February and March. We had a cookout with the [councilman]. That was nice, seeing everyone. It has been really tough this past year, but it would’ve been harder if CTI wasn’t here. I just want to let you know that I really appreciate it.”

“I really like volunteering with the CTI engagement coordinator. Lili emails the flyers to the office and then I distribute them to the residents’ doorways.”

- Rosemary, Potomac Woods

How You Can Help Today

Invest in Our Top 4 Program Priorities

In response to the pandemic, Communities Together launched four urgent projects. We will re-launch our Community Building program in 2021, with new technology, as pandemic restrictions ease. You can support our residents of affordable housing in the following ways:

1. *Out-of-School Enrichment Programs*

We are seeking sponsors to send children and youth to the program, seeking to raise a total of **\$30,000** to fund the program's operations. Please consider **sponsoring children and youth** in this one-of-a-kind enrichment program.

2. *Community Connectivity to Fight Isolation: a Technology and Internet Access Project*

- All but one of our communities are without free WiFi. Many residents cannot afford Internet access. This project connects residents to the world – especially critical when so many opportunities are virtual. We have data to back our finding that **Internet access reduces social isolation, depression, and associated ill effects** of isolation.
- Providing our residents with **Chromebook** “loaners” entails a **\$38,000 investment**.
- Our **Amazon Fire 7 tablets** project for seniors requires an initial investment of **\$11,000**.
- To make **WiFi** available to all residents in 20 of our communities, we would need an **investment of \$170,000**.
- **Capital One** has already decided to invest more than \$60,000 in our new Silver Creek Village to provide Internet access and devices to all senior residents.

3. *Community Building Program*

The cost of a two-month community building project at one community would be about **\$5,000**. Please consider sponsoring this service to our neighbors.

4. *Mercaditos Project: building community and self-reliance*

We have secured \$10,000 from HSBC (bank) and from the Prince George's County Council to launch an exciting demonstration project. Mercaditos are small markets offered by micro-entrepreneurs in Central America. Five of the communities we serve in Prince George's County, Maryland are populated chiefly by residents descended from Central America. The Mercaditos Project, due to be launched this winter, will pair residents with mentors, instructors, and organizations willing to train them to build their mercaditos, run their own single proprietorships, secure legal and regulatory approvals, manage their finances, and build their communities. Please consider investing in this exciting pilot project.

To make your donation, please contact Don Tucker (don@commtogether.org) or Tom Vellenga (tom@commtogether.org) or click here: <https://commtogether.org/donate/>

2020 and 2021 RESOURCE SUPPORT TO DATE

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE STRONG & GROWING SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS & GRANTORS.
YOU ARE PART OF OUR SUCCESS: YOU MADE OUR ACHIEVEMENTS POSSIBLE.
MANY OF YOU PROVIDED RESOURCES AS WELL AS YOUR TIME AND EXPERTISE.

Pillars (\$75,000+)

Donald Tucker

Leaders (\$30,000-74,999)

AHD, Inc
Camp Fire of Patuxent (in-kind)
Capital One
Maryland Department of Energy Assistance
Oceanside Development
Michael Seltz

Bridge-Builders (15,000-29,999)

Franklin Capital

Partners (10,000-14,999)

Residential One Management

Advocates (\$5,000-9,999)

Eagle Bank
Greystone
HSBC
Newmark (in-kind)
Jonathan Rosenberg
Prince George's County Council

First Responders (\$100-4,999)

Crescent Cities Charities | Holly D'Avanzo | Nemo Hanifan | Michelle LaChance | Marsha Lucas
Kent Neumann | Rosemary Pezzuto | Prosperity Consulting | Lili R. Spain | Richard Tager | Tom Vellenga
United Bank | Annette Wasno

*Once more, we want to thank all of the volunteers listed above in our Partnerships
as well as the ten extraordinary residents of our communities
who volunteer each month to assist their neighbors!*

Program Participation + Evaluation

We – and/or the Residential One management teams -- have invited the entire community to every event and activity. We use emails, phone calls, text messages, apps, flyers, newsletters, calendars, volunteers (including residents), and word-of-mouth to reach residents. In the following report, we share only the numbers of those who participated. (Numbers of participants are indicated in parentheses.) In many instances, participation related to the funds provided by the ownership group: such incentives as food, drink, mugs, and other materials drive up participation. To be clear, Communities Together is a coordinating partner. Our lean team is not able to be present for every activity. In some cases, activities run by property management teams have not been able to verify participation numbers, and such activities are shown below with no participation numbers. We have seen positive reactions to our programs (averages of 4.5 out of 5 for each category in all programming we evaluated.) We have more work to do to persuade residents to participate as the pandemic winds down, now, and to convince participants to complete post-activity surveys. We continue to work with all partners to improve their – and our – tracking of participation and other evaluative data. In 2022, we will adopt a new database with a system for tracking and analyzing additional evaluative data, positioning us to improve our evaluation methods further.

Senior Communities' Activities (Maryland & Virginia)

Clinton Manor (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Weekly Bingo (12-20), Weekly Yoga Classes (started in October: 32), Weekly Food Distribution with Operation Earnie's Plate (and on-site food pantry available 24/7), Walking Club 2x a month (4-15), Meditation Group 2x a month (3-10), Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Monthly Brainteaser Packets (all), Monthly Episode of Ask the Doctor Series with CAFÉ (1), Quarterly Clear Captions Presentations for seniors with sight and hearing issues (3-10), Regular Wellness Calls (all), Regular Morning Coffee and Doughnuts (Occasional Special Guest: 12-25), Regular Zoom Movie Nights (2-5), Regular Essay Contests (5-14), Regular Seasonal Door Decorating Contests (30), Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys (20), and Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Cookout with Prince George's County District 9 Councilman Sydney Harrison with food from Operation Earnie's Plate (45), Summer Cookout Social (46), National Coca-Cola Day (all), Spring Flower Planting 35 residents beautified their flower boxes inside the atrium with donated red Begonias. Easter Basket Giveaway with Operation Earnie's Plate (40), Breast Cancer Awareness Event (19), and COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic and Booster Clinic (69).

"The vaccination clinic at Clinton Manor was a godsend. I was more than happy! I wanted it some kinda bad. Even online it was hard.... They turned us away. CTI...brought it to us! What more could we ask for?"

Fort Washington Manor (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Weekly Yoga Classes (2-19), Weekly Coffee Club (9), Weekly Prayer Circle (2-6), Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Monthly Brainteaser Packets, Monthly Walking Club (3-8), Regular Seasonal Door Decorating Contests, Regular Coffee and Danish Cart (50-100), Regular Wellness Calls, Regular Zoom Movie Events, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys (40), Food Pantry provided by Operation Earnie's Plate available 24/7, Supportive Services by request/need. Camp Fire mid-career intern assigned as of 9/4 to assist residents with needs.

Seasonal Events: Watermelon Day (26): see resident "Kenneth's" video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9F4dpeL-go>. Massage Event with Yogi Delana, National Happiness Day (12), Remembrance Service (25), Valentine's Day Bags and Card (all), Resident Appreciation Seafood Boxed Meal (50), Operation Earnie's Plate Food Box Distribution (50), Spring Flower Planting Event (15), Spring Door Decorating Contest (1), COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic (112), National Poetry Month Contest (0), National Walking Day (3), Earth Day Flower Event (30), Mother's Day Celebration (all women), Father's Day Celebration (all men), National Prayer Day (15).

"I like the yoga, but it's been too hot. I like it because it's good exercise. Delana (yoga instructor) taught me not to reach up too much."

- *Evelyn Smith (Resident)*

Laurel Lakes (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Weekly Bingo (4-10), Monthly Newsletter Distribution (all), Monthly Brainteaser Packets, Regular Seasonal Door Decorating Contests (all), Regular County Food Delivery (0-40), Regular Wellness Calls (all), Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need. Camp Fire mid-career intern assigned as of 9/4 to assist residents with needs.

Seasonal Events: COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic and Booster (77), Lucky Tea and Danish Cart (125), Valentine's Day Bags (138), Summer BBQ (40), National Walking Day (7), Take-away Spring Breakfast (45), National Pretzel Day (100), Cinco de Mayo Celebration (66), Mother's Day Event, Father's Day Event, National Smile Day Pictures (15), National Coffee Day, Movie on the Patio, Watermelon Day (67).

Madison House (VA)

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Bingo (9), Monthly Crafting Event (6), Monthly Wine and Cheese Event with Local Business Involvement (18), Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Monthly Community Meal (30), Regular Wellness Calls, Regular Sweet Treat Fridays (10), Regular English Language Circle (1), Regular Prepackaged Food Distribution provided by Loudon County (20), Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Regular Wellness Calls, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Autumn Breakfast (27), COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic (67), Easter Breakfast Event, Mother's Day Event, Father's Day Event, Conference Call Bingo!



Madison House resident Connie is very appreciative of Denise Nick, Madison House manager. She always includes Connie in game activities such as Bingo. Connie is deaf, but she is able to play and enjoy Bingo as she sits next to the Bingo Caller, Paul Ortiz who is a Camp Fire intern.

Mill Park Terrace (VA)

Ongoing Activities: Weekly Ice Cream Cart Delivery to residents' doors (60). ResidentialOne's Manager, Rosie Rogers, arranged for a Monthly Delivery of fresh produce provided by Fredericksburg Book Bank and a Monthly Hot Meal Delivery provided by 2400 Diner, Monthly Arts and Craft Project (21), Monthly Brainteasers, Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Bimonthly Pavilion Health Clinics, Regular Morning Coffee and Treat (35), Regular Seasonal Door Decorating Contests, Regular Zoom Movie Events, Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Hawaiian Luau, Ms. Carrie Wilson's 100th Birthday Celebration (160): Ms. Carrie received citations from the mayor of Fredericksburg and the Area Agency on Aging. The Police and Fire departments gave her a standing salute. Memorial Day boxed Lunch (38), Easter, Superbowl Party, Valentine's Day Event, Mother's and Father's Day Event, COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic.

Potomac Woods (VA)

Ongoing Activities: Weekly Prayer Circle, Resident-led Wednesday and Friday Bingo, Resident-Led Weekly Rosary, Monthly Brainteasers, Monthly Newsletters, Regular Resident-led Weekly Bible Readings, Resident-led Bi-weekly Happy Hour, Regular Zoom Movie Events, Regular Wellness Calls, Regular Seasonal Door Decorating Contests, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need. Camp Fire mid-career intern assigned as of 9/4 to assist residents with needs.

Seasonal Events: April Showers Soup and Roll (40), Boxed Hawaiian Luau Event, Brown Bag Lunches, COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic.

"I want to congratulate the organization for having the prayer circle. Hope it continues and it's timely.... We are delighted with it and its execution. The leadership by Lili is great."

- Dr. Vernon Grose (Resident)



“It gives us something to do. We had fun making our craft. The coffee and doughnuts was nice too.”

- Lois Perry (Resident)

Family Communities’ Activities

Auburn Manor (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Cooking Class, Regular Art Class (3-8), Regular Zoom Movie Events, Regular Zoom Bingo (2-5), Regular Zoom Tutoring Club, Regular Camp Fire Kids Club, Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Covid-19 Vaccine Clinic (2-14): **CAFÉ’s musicians performed** and were well received. Virtual Valentine’s Day Social (4), Zoom Craft Event (3), Dr. Suess event (3), Family Game Day (3), Spring Break Mini Camp (1), Chalk Project (9), Parents’ Day Event (48), Popsicle Stand (38), End of School Year Celebration (3), Doughnuts for Graduating Students (12), Back to School Event (106), Camp Fire Summer Camp (13).

Comments from Residents:

“This is really great what you are doing here. It is so helpful for the kids. Their schoolwork is important and this will really help them.” [A mom, translated]

“My grandkids did the summer camp this summer and past summers. It was really great. The kids loved it. The art, the activities, the kids really had fun. I liked the virtual part too, I liked being able to see what they were doing.” [A grandma, translated]

Friendly Garden (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Regular Camp Fire Out of School Program (37): Some parents, including fathers, are participating in the program as enthusiastic volunteers. Our neighbors at Friendly Garden are descended chiefly from Ethiopia, Somalia, and Eritrea (the Horn of Africa). Parents have actively embraced the program. Also known as “Out-of-School Time programming,” this program has been very successful. Others: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Wellness Calls, Regular Community Surveys, Regular Zoom Bingo (1) and Regular Camp Fire Kids Club. Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys (10), Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Global Parents Day (50), Mental Health Awareness Chalk Event (19), Camp Fire Summer Camp (42).

Langley Gardens (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Movie Events (0-12), Regular Zoom Bingo (1-12), Regular Cooking Class (4), Regular Art Class (2-5), Regular Service Projects (2), Regular Zoom Tutoring Club, Regular Camp Fire Kids Club (2), Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Covid-19 Vaccination Clinics: in July & August about 60 people received vaccines with **Safeway and Prince George's County Council Member Deni Taveras's** crucial help. Zoom Valentine's Day Social (8), Zoom Craft Event (3), Dr. Seuss Event (4), Family Game Day (2), Family Scavenger Hunt (3), Camp Fire Spring Break Mini Camp (7), Paint and Sip Event (1), Earth Day Event (2), Planting Together (10), Cinco de Mayo Celebration (4), Mother's Day Celebration (25), Popsicle Stand (59), End of School Year Celebration (4), Doughnuts for Graduates (36), Global Parents Day (25), Camp Fire Summer Camp (6).

Penn Mar (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Movie Events, Regular Zoom Tutoring Club, Regular Zoom Bingo, Regular Cooking Class, Regular Art Class, Regular Service Projects, Regular Camp Fire Kids Club, Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys (40), Supportive Services by request/need, Food basket distribution (20+).

Seasonal Events: Virtual Valentine's Day Social, Dr. Seuss Event, Spring Break Mini Camp (6), Virtual Paint and Sip Event, Virtual Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Mental Health Chalk Art Event (22), Mother's Day Event (40), Global Parents Day (30), Back to School Event (100), Camp Fire Summer Camp (13), Valentine's Day Food Baskets (25), Camp Fire Book distribution (100), Easter Event with Camp Fire (19), Summer Busy Boxes provided by Camp Fire (6).

Resident Comments:

"The masks are so helpful. It is nice to get kids' sizes!" [A mom]

"Camp on-site is so beneficial for us. I would love to help with getting supplies." [A mom]

Quebec Arms (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Movie Events (1), Regular Zoom Bingo (1-4), Regular Cooking Class (4), Regular Art Class (4-5), Regular Zoom Tutoring Club, Regular Camp Fire Kids' Club, Regular Service Projects (3-4), Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Zoom Art Project (1), Dr. Seuss Event (1), Family Game Day (1), Camp Fire Spring Break Mini Camp (10), Earth Day Event (3), Planting Together Project (14), Cinco de Mayo Celebration (5), Global Parents Day Event (25), Popsicle Stand (27), End of School Year Celebration (5), Doughnuts for Graduates (36), Back to School Event (150), Camp Fire Summer Camp (2).

Queens Manor (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Movie Events (0-9), Regular Zoom Bingo (1-3), Regular Art Class (3-6), Regular Zoom Tutoring Club, Regular Tutoring with Susan Cole (4), Regular Camp Fire Kids Club, Regular Service Projects (0-2), Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Virtual Valentine's Day Social (3), Zoom Art Project (2), Dr. Seuss Event (2), Family Scavenger Hunt (2), Spring Break Mini Camp (2), Paint and Sip Event (3), Cinco de Mayo Celebration (3), Chalk Art Project (15), Global Parents Day (48), Popsicle Stand (25) End of School Year Celebration (2), Doughnuts for Graduates (22), Back to School Event (100), Camp Fire Summer Camp (2).

University Manor (MD)

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Movie Events (0-9), Regular Zoom Bingo (0-7), Regular Cooking Class (5), Regular Art Class (2-3), Regular Camp Fire Kids Club, Regular Zoom Tutoring Club, Regular Service Projects (1), Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Virtual Valentine's Day Social (15), Dr. Seuss Event (3) Family Game Day (2), Family Scavenger Hunt (2), Spring Break Mini Camp (4), Paint and Sip Event (3), Earth Day Event (2), Cinco de Mayo Celebration (4), Global Parents Day (36), Popsicle Stand (48), End of School Year Celebration (3), Doughnuts for Graduates (2), Summer/Fall extension with Camp Fire (2), Back to School Event (100), Camp Fire Summer Camp (5).

Comments:

"Thanks for all the support and time you gave me. And everything that was organized is perfect for the community. The photos of the covid test directions helped [my wife, children, and] me a week after [we] moved in.... Thank you for helping, everyone." – [A father, translated]

"Thank you so much for the [school] supplies. This will give us a little extra for when they have to school at home." [A mom translated]

3 Tree Flats (DC)

Ongoing Activities: Weekly Summer Popsicle Fridays (Seasonal), Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Movie Events (1), Regular Camp Fire Kids Club, Regular Zoom Bingo (2), Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Global Parents Day (50), National Donut Day (12), Resident Appreciation Seafood Fest (33), Summer Hot Dog Social.

Mills Place (DC)

Communities Together began to serve Mills Place this year. We distributed “welcome packets” to each resident. Each resident then received a phone call. We invited residents to virtual events and offered support as needed. We asked each resident to take a survey as part of our “Needs Assessment.” Our first in-person event was Resident Appreciation Day. The residents were excited to meet the face behind the phone/screen. We have had 100% interaction – connecting with a resident in each unit. We are very happy with the partnership with the management and ownership teams at Mills Place. The managers are very responsive and cooperative, pitching in to work with us at every juncture and taking initiative to make activities inviting and celebratory. We are off to a very good start with Mills Place.

Ongoing Activities: Regular Wellness Calls (121), Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys (61), Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Bingo (1), Regular Camp Fire Kids Club, Regular Community Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Resident Appreciation Day (30), Camp Fire Summer Camp (2).

Metro Village (DC)

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Cooking Class (4), Regular Art Class (2-5), Regular Service Projects (2), Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Global Parents Day (50), Spring Flower Event (23), Resident Appreciation Seafood Fest (43), Networking Social for Community Building (23).

Comments from residents:

“I’m very excited to have activities happening again. This meal is amazing, and it’s so nice to see people interacting with each other.”

“I’m here for my Halloween goodies. We love dressing up and thanks to y’all for always coming through.”

“I love you and your staff! Honestly, when the management changes we always know you will be the familiar face no matter what the event.”

Royal Courts (DC) and Savannah Heights (DC)

These two neighboring communities stayed virtual with respect to all activities until October. We have offered all programs to all of the adults, youth, and children in both communities. We have been in contact with residents to encourage them to sign up for “Stay DC” rental assistance and to adopt solar energy and reduce their electric bill as well.

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Movie Events (1), Regular Zoom Tutoring Club, Regular Zoom Bingo, Regular Cooking Class, Regular Art Class, Regular Service Projects, Regular Camp Fire Kids Club, Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Virtual Valentine’s Day Social, Dr. Seuss Event, Spring Break Mini Camp, Paint and Sip Event, Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Adult Education Event.

Savannah Heights (DC)

Ongoing Activities: Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Movie Events, Regular Zoom Tutoring Club, Regular Zoom Bingo, Regular Cooking Class, Regular Art Class, Regular Service Projects, Regular Camp Fire Kids Club, Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Virtual Valentines Day Social, Dr. Seuss Event, Spring Break Mini-Camp, Paint and Sip Event, Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Adult Education Event.

Mosby Heights (VA)

Ongoing Activities: Weekly Zoom Kids Club (1-2), Monthly Newsletter Distribution, Regular Zoom Movie Events (3+), Regular Zoom Tutoring Club (1), Regular Zoom Bingo (4), Regular Kids Bible Club with Harrisonburg Church (30), Regular Camp Fire Kids Club, Regular Popsicle Events, Regular Wellness Calls, Move-In Packets with Welcome Surveys, Supportive Services by request/need.

Seasonal Events: Zoom Valentine’s Day Party (6), Zoom Dr. Seuss Party (3), Mental Health Chalk Art Contest (30), Mother’s Day Event, Father’s Day Event, National Night Out w/ Community Organizations (100+), Easter Egg Hunt (10), Zoom Cinco de Mayo (3), Kids’ Bible Club Camp with Harrisonburg Church (30).

Last August, National Night Out at Mosby Heights was a fun time for Mosby Heights residents’ children, community leaders and the local Harrisonburg Police Department.

