



Introduction – Letter from the Chair

The last year and a half have been unprecedented for the Foundation. When I stepped into the leadership role, I could have never imagined that we would find ourselves navigating our way through a global pandemic. But this organization is blessed to be filled with creative, caring, resilient individuals that first and foremost wish to ensure the community remains strong and connected. Because of that, I never have once felt alone in seeing the Foundation through these unique circumstances and ensuring the spirit of volunteerism, new urbanism and the arts remains not only alive, but thriving.

Our programs have found ways to connect virtually or gather in person safely and we are honored to do everything we can to provide them with the support needed to hold their events and activities. We have been able to run together, make music, watch film and create theatre, gather for dinner, support those needing help, and share our art, and we have been able to continue to support our beneficiaries. We are humbled and amazed, even in the midst of all that is going on around us, that our wonderful community keeps stepping forward to support these efforts. We are forever grateful.

The Foundation exists for you and because of you. As we move into 2022, the plans for Foundation programming are underway already and not only do we believe we are going to be able to have our favorite events back again, there are going to be some amazing new things happening. Truly, there is something for everyone with the Foundation. We hope you will consider sharing your time with us, as a volunteer if you can or please come out and attend one of wonderful activities. At all levels, we welcome you. The pandemic has not stopped us, it never can stop a community that cares.

Jaree Donnelly
Chair
Kentlands Community Foundation Board of Directors

About the Foundation

THE KENTLANDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION is a not-for-profit educational and cultural organization established in 1993 and dedicated to enriching civic life. Our mission is threefold:

- 1) To build community by supporting local arts and cultural programs;
- 2) To provide opportunities for volunteerism and community outreach; and
- 3) To serve as an educational resource on the landmark new urbanist community that is Kentlands.

In addition to serving Kentlands and Lakelands, the Foundation also serves the wider Gaithersburg community and is a frequent partner with the City of Gaithersburg on a variety of programs. Our programs seek to connect individuals and families in ways that enhance everyday life and encourage civic involvement.

Structure of the Foundation

The Foundation's governing structure has two layers. The first is a Board of Directors, which oversees Foundation's strategy, activities and policies. Members are appointed from the Gaithersburg/Montgomery County government, business, arts, and town planning communities, and from the residents of Kentlands and Lakelands.

2021/2022 Board of Directors

<p>Ms. Jaree Donnelly (2014-23) <i>Chair, Arts Professional Seat</i></p>	<p>Mr. Steve Rambo (2020-22) <i>Treasurer, KCA Appointee</i></p>	<p>Ms. Sooky McFadden (2019–22) <i>KCA Appointee</i></p>
<p>Ms. Meredith M. Fogle (2018-24) <i>Vice Chair, Local Business Seat</i></p>	<p>Mr. Rob Garretson (2015-24) <i>Vice Chair, KCA Appointee</i></p>	<p>Hon. Neil Harris (2021-*) <i>City Liaison</i></p>
<p>Ms. Ann Derryberry (2014-23) <i>Local Business Seat</i></p>	<p>Ms. Sharon Cantrell (2018-24) <i>At Large</i></p>	<p>Hon. Mike Sesma (2008-2021)* <i>City Liaison</i></p>
<p>Mr. David Hofmann (2019-**) <i>Kentlands Citizens Assembly Liaison</i></p>	<p>Ms. Kim Wooldridge (2019-22) <i>New Urbanist Seat</i></p>	<p>Ms. Jodi Rapaport (2020-23) <i>Alternate</i></p>
<p>**term concurrent with KCA Trustee term</p>	<p>Ms. Ailene Renzi (2011-23) <i>Secretary, At-Large</i></p>	<p>*term concurrent with City Council term</p>

Committee Chairs

The second layer of the Foundation’s organization is composed of the Foundation's Committee Chairs, who plan and execute programs and outreach efforts. The Committee Chairs work with the volunteers within their committees to produce or provide the one-time events or on-going activities for each program. Board members also act as liaisons to each Foundation programs.

Program	Chairs	Board Liaison
Kentlands/Lakelands 5K	Daniel Talmadge (Race Director), Carolyn Muller (City of Gaithersburg), Erin Cristy, Karen Cranney	Rob Garretson
Community Bridge Club	Katherine Thelin	Meredith Fogle
Go Green Group	Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin and Steve Whelan	Ann Derryberry
KidServe	Sooky McFadden and Sharon Dunda	Sooky McFadden
Kentlands Film Society	Christine Kelly and Sharon Tash	Sharon Cantrell
Kentlands Rock & Blues Social Club	Markham Luke and Chelsea Cederbaum	Ann Derryberry
Kentlands Acoustic Jam	David Pier and Karen Norris	David Hofmann
Village at Kentlands & Lakelands	Fran Randolph and Linda Wiesman	Stephen Rambo
Kentlands Photography Association	Markham Luke and Hamid Nazari	Jaree Donnelly
Musica Viva: Kentlands	Ron Thelin, Lisa Pickett and Simeone Tartaglione	Ailene Renzi
Kentlands Under the Lights	John Ingrassia and Silvio Renzi	Ailene Renzi
Gaithersburg Artist Collective/Artists on Market	Anne Cherubim	Jaree Donnelly
New Urbanism	Kim Wooldridge	Kim Wooldridge
Kentlands Community Players	Meredith Fogle and Mark Steiner	Meredith Fogle
Kentlands Wine Club	Steve and Lynn Longley	Rob Garretson

Foundation Executive Director

Elisabeth Monaco has served as the Executive Director since December 2017. The Executive Director works up to 30 hours per week on average to provide management, program development, grant writing and communications for the Foundation in support of the Foundation’s Board of Directors and the Foundation’s programs.

Finances

	2019 <u>(CPA reviewed)</u>	2020 <u>(CPA reviewed)</u>	2021 <u>(Review pending)</u>
KCA Funding	\$ 50,900	\$ 47,500	\$ 47,500
Other Sponsorship Funding	42,500	8,300	29,000
Grant & Contract Revenue	28,600	43,900	72,800
Donations	12,300	23,800	16,700
Other Revenue	108,400	16,500	43,700
TOTAL REVENUE	242,700	140,000	209,700
Program Expense	133,300	60,500	107,000
Administrative Expense	67,500	70,500	69,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	200,800	131,000	176,000
NET	\$ 41,900	\$ 9,000	\$ 33,700
CASH & INVESTMENTS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 188,400	\$ 224,800	\$ 238,700

The Foundation’s funding comes from multiple sources: an initial endowment from the Kentland Citizens Assembly (KCA), funding from public and private organizations, and income generated by programs and fundraising efforts. The KCA is the Foundation’s most reliable and consistent source of annual funding, with funds raised from every home sale in the Kentlands earmarked by covenant to “the funding of programs determined to be beneficial to the qualities of the social and cultural life in Kentlands,” with a specific reference to “contributions to the Kentlands Foundation, and other similar causes.” The Foundation thus makes an annual request to the KCA for funding of its professional staff, plus contributions for any *ad hoc* programs that require seed funding and are particularly beneficial to the qualities of the social and cultural life in Kentlands. This past year, the Foundation received grant money benefiting the Village of Kentlands and Lakelands, the Musica Viva Kentlands Concert series, and its general operating fund from governmental and private foundations. In support of its philanthropic mission, the Foundation donated \$16,000 from the proceeds of the Annual Kentlands/Lakelands 5K race last year to several charitable organizations.

2021 Awards

To help the Foundation celebrate its programs and the people who make them possible, each year we recognize individuals who go above and beyond in serving our community by giving their time and talents in support of the arts, embodying volunteerism, and helping uphold Kentlands as a landmark of New Urbanism. Volunteers are nominated by program leadership and voted on by the Board of Directors.

Volunteerism Award

This award recognizes individuals for their outstanding volunteer commitment to a program(s). The award will recognize an exceptional contribution of an individual's time and talents and/or successful recruitment of volunteers to the benefit of one or more of the Foundation's programs.

This year's recipient is **Janet Mitchell**. Janet has been a Village at Kentlands and Lakelands volunteer since April 2017 and is a wonderful ambassador for the Village. She is enthusiastic and always willing to help a Village member with their particular needs. Janet has been able to help the Village and its members by quickly responding to requests for services and is always willing to help. She continuously has made a major impact on those members she has been able to assist. is very professional and an invaluable asset to the Village.

Arts Support Award

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence and commitment in supporting the arts in Kentlands and/or the greater community through an established program with the Foundation.

This year's recipient is **Lisa Pickett**. A longtime supporter of the Foundation, Lisa has been an integral part of the *Musica Viva Kentlands* program since its inception. As a core member of its managing committee, she participates in defining and executing program objectives and strategies. She also takes on a variety of specific roles, most importantly serving as the program's coordinator of volunteer activities and acting as its recording secretary wherein she creates and maintains a record of all committee meetings and action items.

In addition, this year she has been instrumental in obtaining from the estate of Leonard Bernstein the right for *Musica Viva Kentlands* to perform a previously unknown composition. These rights have only been granted once before and the performance of this piece will raise the profile of our program in our community and beyond. It should also have a significant impact on our ability to raise funds for music programming for this year and should provide a contribution to the creation of a strategic financial reserve that will provide benefits well beyond 2022. Lisa has played an active and leading role in bringing this about and is a leading member of a special subcommittee dedicated to the staging of this event.

Friend of the Foundation

This award recognizes individuals and organizations who have demonstrated a higher level of commitment and perseverance for the support or creation of a program.

This year, the Foundation is presenting this award to four individuals.

The Foundation recognizes the support and commitment to the Foundation by **Michael Sesma**. Since 2008 as a City of Gaithersburg Councilman, Mike served as the City's Liaison to the Foundation's Board of Directors. Mike's support for the arts in general and for the mission of the Foundation in particular was evident throughout his tenure. He helped to ensure the City was always aware of the Foundation's activities and the Foundation was kept abreast of relevant City happenings, guided the Foundation in how to connect with the proper City staff to support efforts and championed this vital partnership. We will miss his steady, thoughtful guidance as part of our Board, but know he will remain an avid support and attendee at our events.

In addition, the Foundation is awarding the Friend of the Foundation to two highly deserving individuals who have volunteered extensively with both the *Film Society* and *Musica Viva Kentlands*, **Robert Dymond and Ronald Thelin**.

- **Robert Dymond** has been an integral part of the *Film Society* for many years and is one of the founding members of *Musica Viva Kentlands*. For both programs, Bob has served important leadership roles, ensuring their establishment, growth and success. For many years, Bob has been the treasurer of the *Film Society* and the smiling host who greets the many subscribers attending the films. Detailed and thoughtful, Bob has been constant and welcome part of the steering committee. With *Musica Viva*, Bob took on the critical role of creating local business partnerships and has provided guidance and insight to grow the program. Without his extensive efforts, the concerts would never have had the financial means to provide these ongoing beautiful experiences to a continually growing community audience.
- In addition to other roles he has held, **Ronald Thelin** has been both the chair of the *Film Society* and the *Musica Viva Kentlands* committees. Taking on the leadership of any program is not a small undertaking and both of these programs have benefitted immensely from his insightful, organized leadership. The *Film Society* was able to stay steady in its outreach, sharing its unique film series with the Kentlands/Lakelands community and beyond. With *Musica Viva*, Ron has played an important role in growing the scope of the concerts and implementing its long-term vision. Under Ron's direction, *Musica Viva* has developed structure to its planning and continued to provide concerts online and in-person, even during the pandemic.

Finally, the Friend of the Foundation is being awarded in memory of **Rebecca "Becky" Pritchard**. Becky, along with her husband Joe, was a fixture in the community. Her love of music was evident and she shared that love with her many music students. The "Downtown Brass" ensemble and other student groups were a fixture at many Foundation events. Through her support of *Musica Viva*, the Annual Tree lighting, and the Children's Chorus, Becky served an important role in our community. She will be greatly missed.

The Board also wanted to share a special acknowledgement of Kim Wooldridge. Kim holds the New Urbanism seat on the Foundation’s Board and over the past year and a half, Kim has striven to keep awareness and appreciation of the New Urbanist movement, a hallmark of our community, alive and well. Some examples of her efforts include work with the Film Society to present the documentary “Finding Fellowship” outdoors on the Kentlands Clubhouse lawn and creating a treasure hunt for families during the virtual 5K, showcasing the walkability of the Kentlands emphasizing the impact New Urbanism has had in the development of the Kentlands. New initiatives like “Cocktail Curations” bartending lessons began as an in-person event in 2020 and successfully was held online in 2021, with funds raised by this initiative being used to bring the #supportKentlands sign on Kentlands Boulevard for Thanksgiving weekend in 2020 and 2021. Kim has brought her passion for New Urbanism to the Foundation and has revitalized interest and awareness of the important role Kentlands plays as a model for New Urbanism.

2020 – 2021 Programs

Each year hundreds of volunteers give their time, energy, and talents to organize and execute Foundation-sponsored programs and events that collectively involve thousands of participants. Foundation-sponsored programs are intended to be financially self-sustaining, supported by volunteer resources and sponsorships, donations or other mechanisms to defray costs. The Foundation as an organization maintains a relatively lean cost structure and donates the majority of the net proceeds of its largest annual fundraiser—the Kentlands/Lakelands 5K race— to several worthy community charities.

Program activity has been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. Events were moved to online or outdoor as appropriate. In-person events were only able to begin in earnest at the end of July 2021. The safety of our volunteers, donors, sponsors and attendees remains the Foundation’s highest priority.

As in past years, the leaders of the programs summarize the highlights of the past year and a half below in their notes.

Cultural Arts Program and Events

The Kentlands Film Society (“KFS”) was established under the Kentlands Community Foundation in 2006. The KFS strives to bring high quality, independent films to residents of the greater Kentlands/Lakelands community. This mission has been carried out over the last sixteen years with the showing of almost 70 films to a collective audience of approximately 5,500 attendees.

Due to the pandemic, the Society’s planned five-film season from September 2019 – May 2020 was cut short and the last two films in March and May 2020 were cancelled. Because of ongoing health concerns, the film society did not show any films in the Arts Barn from September 2020 to December 2021. The KFS is planning to reopen its 15th season with a shortened season of three films from January to May 2022. In the fall of 2021, the film society initiated a new platform to sell subscriptions online using the KCF website. With the current reduced capacity at the Arts Barn, KFS sold all the allowed number of subscriptions within a short period of time for the January – May 2022 season.

While the film society did not show films at the Arts Barn for part of 2020 and all of 2021, they were able to keep active through various activities. First, they held a Virtual Critics’ Corner online in July 2020 after participants had

privately watched “The Last Black Man in San Francisco.” Second, they developed three film lists of “KFS Favorites” through the years for distribution to subscribers and publication on KFS’s webpage on the KCF website. Third, they co-sponsored an outdoor screening of the documentary “Finding Fellowship” in September 2021 on the Kentlands Clubhouse lawn. The film tells the story of the origins of the Quince Orchard community and the historic Pleasant View Church and School on Route 28 across from the entrance to Kentlands.

The Kentlands Film Society is planning to host its 16th annual five-film season at the Arts Barn from September 2022 – May 2023.

Kentlands Community Players (“KCP”) remained active despite the shuttering of theatre spaces by using virtual technology to produce a *Night of One Acts* in conjunction with Montgomery Playhouse and livestreamed “Together Again for the First Time,” an original work by KCP member and Kentlands resident, Mark Steimer. Most recently, the KCP has applied for membership in the Theater Arts Partnership Program (TAPP) with the City of Gaithersburg. Upcoming plans for the KCP include “Othello Abridged,” which will be performed virtually in March, and “Shakespeare in Love,” which will be performed at the Arts Barn in May. The KCP supports the continuing effort to enhance the cultural arts in our community and the building of additional performance spaces.

Musica Viva Kentlands (“MVK”), a classical music series, now entering its fifth year, is committed to bringing classical music performed by professional musicians to our community. These free concerts seek to raise appreciation for classical music by making it accessible for all.

In fulfillment of this commitment, three virtual concerts were held in 2020 and two outdoor concerts were held in 2021—one in July and one in September. All concerts except for one were held on the grounds of the Kentlands Clubhouse and featured string ensembles. Attendance at the outdoor concerts was consistent with prior levels of participation in the range of 400-600 individuals. This included a small contingent of participants who elected to attend the second concert virtually via live-stream.

Funding to support these events was obtained through private foundation grants, community contributions and through the sponsorship of local businesses. In addition, Musica Viva Kentlands held an online auction as special fundraising event that produced significant additional revenues at virtually no cost.

Planning is underway for Program Year 2022. Anticipated events will include a special fundraising performance to be held at a still to be determined location during the month of May and a large orchestral performance in September. The latter event is intended to coincide with Hispanic Heritage Month and will feature compositions with Latin themes and/or authorship in an outdoor setting. In addition to providing continued value to Musica Viva Kentland’s current base of support, it is expected that organizing around this theme will help enable the expansion and diversification of our current audience.

No report on this program would be complete without acknowledging the support given to our program by the Paul M. Angell Foundation and Kentlands Citizens Assembly and our two leading artists--Simeone Tartaglione and Alessandra Cuffaro. These individuals and organizations, along with the dedicated work of our committed corps of volunteers, are what allows MVK to continue to offer these concerts to the Kentlands and Lakelands communities and the surrounding areas of Montgomery County.

Kentlands Acoustic Jam (“KAJ”), launched in January 2013, offers area residents and musicians a way to come together for informal acoustical music jam sessions twice a month. The group meets on the first and fourth Tuesdays of each month and visiting musicians, neighborhood drop-ins, or an appreciative audience often join. These jams are open to all, from beginner to experienced musicians. KAJ performs within and outside of the Kentlands. In 2020 and 2021, KAJ’s summer performance season was canceled due to COVID-19; however, KAJ meets every Tuesday evening by Zoom to jam and practice, especially when in-person sessions are not safe. They have also been able to meet outdoors.

Kentlands Rock & Blues Social Club was adopted by the Foundation in the Fall 2021. This group was founded by several musicians from Kentlands and Lakelands who have long been involved in supporting the Kentlands Community Foundation through open jams and performances at KCF events. The Social Club plays primarily rock, blues and reggae and the instruments may be amplified. The group held three meetings with 10-15 participants each, before going on a hiatus, due to worsening COVID conditions. Participants came from Kentlands, Lakelands, and surrounding Montgomery County communities. The Social Club hopes to restart meetings soon and transition to a combination of open jams and performances at KCF events once pandemic conditions allow.

Kentlands Photography Association (“KPA”) has provided a creative outlet for local photographers to meet and share skills, with many of the group’s photos shared on their Facebook page. In April of 2021, the group partnered with the Gaithersburg Parks, Recreation and Culture Corporation (G-PARC) Arts and Culture Alliance to hold the first of several photo-walks for the year. Several members photo-documented some lovely spring inspired florals, a welcome respite after a winter of staying home because of COVID. In May 2021, they had an in-person outdoor portraiture workshop with a volunteer model. In June, they had an architectural photo-walk with a resident architect from the Kentlands guiding the group through the various houses and historical architectural considerations inherent in our lovely neighborhood. All of the participants shared techniques and insight in all three of these events. The KPA also has a new logo, giving the organization a fresh new look for 2022. GPARC and KPA are in discussion about bringing back the photo-walks again in 2022, pandemic conditions allowing.

The Gaithersburg Artists Collective (“GAC”) is a membership-based visual arts group, with the mission of bringing the visual arts to the community. GAC had a successful fall and early winter in their newest location at Downtown Crown. To create awareness about the group, they started their partnership in Downtown Crown with a series of three Saturday outdoor Summer Art Fairs in August, ahead of moving into their new retail gallery space. They were welcomed by new visitors and patrons from the neighborhood, but were also delighted to see existing patrons find their 4th pop-up location for the Artists on Market gallery. They closed out 2021 with a strong December, and hope to continue to build on their momentum in the new year.

In addition to their gallery operations, GAC’s community engagement team had two successful community outreach projects. With the Warm Scarves Project, they invited the community to learn to knit and crochet with them in order to make scarves for those in need. They encouraged the donation of store-bought scarves, hats, and gloves as well, for those that did not have the time to handknit items. All of this was donated to Interfaith Women’s Center, who were very grateful to receive these timely gifts for the holidays and cold winter season. GAC also involved the community in collecting food items in advance of the holidays, which were happily delivered to Manna Food Center in Gaithersburg—another initiative that while not directly art related, still brought membership joy to organize. GAC

has been glad that art continues to be welcomed and make a difference in the lives of our community. The group as a whole believes art has so much value, and COVID-19 has shown us just how much people look to the arts for inspiration, beauty, solace and comfort when times get tough. The group is making plans for artist talks, more community outreach projects, some wonderful new partnerships with both KCF programs and outside entities, and of course, beautiful visual art exhibits in 2022.

In addition to our community-led arts programs, Foundation leadership supported the City of Gaithersburg's **Young Artist Award Competition**. In 2021 and 2022, the competition was held virtually with students submitting recordings of their performances. The winners of each category were showcased in a virtual performance. The Foundation helped to promote these competitions and provide support as needed.

The Foundation also participated in the **City of Gaithersburg Book Festival**, helping to coordinate a virtual workshop for writers. The Festival was virtual in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

Community Outreach Programs and Events

The Kentlands/Lakeland's 5K Race and Kids Run celebrated its 28th anniversary in 2021. The 2020 race was held "virtually", with runners participating individually over a week-long period, and in 2021 the annual charity 5K race returned to in-person and drew more than 900 runners and walkers. While new safety precautions were in place in 2021, the course was still able to feature live entertainment along the way, as participants enjoyed the best of New Urbanism and wound their way through the Kentlands and Lakelands neighborhoods. This event engaged over 250 volunteers. The 2021 event saw a change of expo layout to continue to provide more sponsor involvement and also to provide an appropriate amount of health precautions and social distancing.

The 5K Race is the Foundation's largest fundraiser, but in keeping with its philanthropic mission, the Foundation donates approximately half of the net proceeds to one or more beneficiaries. After the 2021 race, the Foundation made donations to benefit five local charities:

- Dolores C. Swoyer Camp Scholarship Fund, organized to give children in need the opportunity to participate in the City of Gaithersburg's summer camp program, was awarded **\$9,500**;
- The Dwelling Place, a nonprofit based in Gaithersburg that provides transitional housing to Montgomery County residents, received **\$3,000**;
- Maryland Senior Olympics received **\$1,000**;
- Mercy Health Clinic, which provides medical care to the uninsured and underinsured in the Gaithersburg community, received **\$2,000**; and
- A scholarship fund for art classes at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn received **\$500**.

The 29th 5K race will take place on Saturday, September 3, 2022.

2020 and 2021 were unique years for **KidServe** as they became creative with their events to work around COVID-related obstacles. In the first half of 2021, KidServe families partnered with local groups involved in assisting residents with food insecurity due to the pandemic. They worked with the Gaithersburg CARES Hub, local apartment/condo offices, KindWorks, Rainbow Place women's homeless shelter, and a senior home. These activities focused on either packing and delivering food or making meals and delivering them, mainly by individual families or small groups of

families cooking on their own. They also assisted the Ridgeview Middle School PTA leadership with their clean socks and underwear drive for students in need. The summer brought a bit of relief from quarantine, and the KidServe families were able to partner with the Kentlands Kingfish swim team to do a drive for school-supply filled backpacks. The swim team families were, as always, very generous, and they were able to deliver over 50 backpacks along with some extra swag like t-shirts, hair ties, and lanyards. KidServe was finally able to host their first, regular, in-person event at the Clubhouse in October making fleece baby blankets for Shady Grove Pregnancy center. They also did a donation drive for much-needed baby wipes as part of this event. Additionally, they hosted their first Paint-n-Sip event, where they asked participants to donate their time and resources to help paint “Home Sweet Home” signs for a group called Homes Without Borders that sets up homes in the DMV for incoming refugees from all over the world.

During the holiday season, KidServe typically steps back as there are many other groups engaged in community service. However, since they wanted to host another in-person event, they partnered with a local school counselor at Gaithersburg Middle School to do a gift drive for elementary and middle school students. This event was a huge success and involved many groups generously stepping up to help: North Potomac Knitting Group, QO Circle of Friends service club, and the always reliable Kentlands Kingfish swim team. Lastly, they received a donation from one of our families of 30 backpacks. Much to their delight, one of their other families decided to turn her holiday cookie-decorating party into a donation drive for toiletries. At the party, kids not only decorated cookies, but they filled the backpacks with toiletries for families at Gaithersburg Elementary School.

A favorite anecdote involves an anonymous Kentlands resident who contacted KidServe by text, wanting to help. This resident missed the gift drive, but since they had gotten a request for other items from the school counselors, this neighbor purchased items and had them shipped directly to the school counselors. They still don’t know who this person is, but when they texted back to say the items were received, this resident replied, “Oh good! It feels so wonderful to help!” KidServe feels wonderful too, not only because of our generous partners and families, but because they are a place where people can join in at any level to serve our community.

The Village at Kentlands & Lakelands’s volunteers were still able to provide critical services to their members even during the pandemic. With COVID protocols in place, volunteers drove members to medical appointments, helped with grocery shopping and light chores and made social calls. Knowing that COVID can impact people’s quality of life, interesting presentations on a variety of topics were provided each month on Zoom thanks to their Events Committee and to other Villages who graciously shared their events. In an effort to stay connected with members, they published newsletters and wrote articles on a variety of relevant topics. Plans for 2022 include increasing the number of members and volunteers and hiring a part-time assistant who will support their administrative, marketing and fundraising efforts. They are also planning on creating additional virtual events and to continue to distribute their newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Kentlands Under the Lights (“KUL”), our annual community dinner, will be back in 2022 at its regular time in June to kick off the Kentlands summer season. Following their virtual event for 2020, where neighbors were together, but apart, having dinner in the mews and on porches and then their delayed, but still highly popular in-person event in August 2021, they are looking forward to being back, on time, and in full swing this coming summer. The committee has already begun meeting and is in the early stages of lining up food vendors, sponsors, and musical entertainment (including bringing on an MC/host for the first time). They are also planning for and thinking about ways to streamline and expand ticket sales with respect to beer and wine purchases -- including online advance sales. This will make

things easier, quicker, and more convenient for all, and they expect will also help with the event budget. The committee is very excited to bring this and Kentlands favorite event back, showcasing our sense of community, along with mixed use and walkability.

Kentlands Wine Club (“KWC”) made the most of a COVID hybrid year, persisting through a challenging 2021 season in the same way as old vines make great wine in spite of the weather! With masks on and corks out, our members demonstrated their appreciation for wine AND getting together despite pandemic restrictions. They met six times in 2021, the last three when indoor restrictions were lifted. Even the cold of a March Friday evening could not dissuade the KWC from enjoying an outdoor meeting on the Clubhouse Lawn. Our educational topics ranged from area local wines to Cabernet Sauvignon favorites. They are looking forward to an exciting 2022 with topics of interest and fieldtrips to area wineries.

Kentlands Go Green group, the Foundation’s environmental group, is focusing on supporting the Kentlands Citizens Assembly and has formed the *Green Team*. The *Green Team* was established after working with *Sustainable Maryland* in 2021 to discuss environmental and sustainability issues that neighborhood residents would like to address specifically in the Kentlands. The *Green Team* committee is comprised of seven Kentlands residents appointed by the KCA Board. They meet monthly and develop activities, as well as discuss topics and issues that are shared with the Kentlands Board president and the Kentlands Management Company for follow-up. Issues this past year include the ability of all Kentlands residents to install solar panels in light of state law and regulations, the use of permeable surfaces and native plants in areas near sidewalks where grass doesn’t grow, installation of electric vehicle chargers at the clubhouse, and reinstating the availability of Student Service Learning (“SSL”) hours for picking up trash in the neighborhood.

They are currently working on a cleanup in April for Earth month and establishing #ploggingkentlands as a monthly activity to keep the Kentlands and Lakelands trash free. They are also in initial discussions with the Gaithersburg Artist Collective to partner on art activities that will bring awareness of minimizing trash creation and planting Maryland native plants and trees.

Cub Scout Pack 221 has chosen to cease operations in 2021. Unfortunately, the impact of COVID that limited meetings had an adverse impact on the Pack. A decision was made to integrate interested scouts into other area packs and a donation of the remaining funds in the Pack’s bank account was made to the *Seneca Friends of Scouting*, the local service group. We are hopeful we may be able to reintroduce scouting to our programs again in the future.

Kentlands Community Bridge Group, a social gaming group, resumed in person meetings in July, upon the opening of the Carriage House. They have been meeting weekly, with breaks for the 5K race use of the building and Thanksgiving. All players abide by health and safety precautions for meeting in the facility. There has been a fluctuation in their player roster, as some regulars have left for various reasons. However, they have several new participants, due to active soliciting on NextDoor, notices in the community newsletters, and personal recommendations. They started with a core group of 8 in July, and now have 12 regulars. They also have a list of substitutes, who play occasionally, and are hoping to expand that list.

New Urbanist Programs and Events

In 2021, the **New Urbanism Committee** focused on events that promoted fellowship with neighbors and surrounding communities, inspired collaboration among KCF programs, and supported neighborhood businesses.

March 12, 2021 Fundraising Event: Virtual Cocktail Class sponsored by Cocktail Curations.

Building upon the success of the 2020 in-person cocktail class, this intimate virtual gathering of 20 neighbors put participants' knowledge of New Urbanism and Kentlands to the test with fun trivia. Instructors taught the history of gin and led the class through the process of crafting a delicious Jardin Verde cocktail. Proceeds from this event went to support future 2021 New Urbanism Committee events.

September 24, 2021: Finding Fellowship Documentary Screening.

Working in partnership with the Kentlands Film Society and the Pleasant View Historical Association, the New Urbanism Committee coordinated an exclusive, free screening of *Finding Fellowship* on the Kentlands Clubhouse lawn. It was a moving experience to gather with approximately 120 neighbors and new friends to hear the story of the Quince Orchard Community, learn about the Pleasant View Historical Site, and participate in the post-film Q&A with filmmakers. Everyone left looking forward to following the restoration progress of the Pleasant View Historical Site and opportunities for future collaboration.

2020 and 2021 Support Kentlands Initiative.

In collaboration with *Card My Yard Potomac* and as a sign of support for Kentlands-area shops and restaurants during these last two unpredictable year, the New Urbanism Committee sponsored the placement of a “#SupportKentlands” sign in the roundabout at Kentlands Blvd. and Market Street. The sign was in place Thanksgiving weekend, coinciding with Black Friday and Small Business Saturday for extra exposure.

On the Horizon

Some of the plans from our programs for 2022 have already been shared in their sections above and we looking forward to a wonderful year ahead. In addition, the Foundation has established a set of broader organizational goals for 2022.

One of our major goals is outreach to our community. Over the past few years, many new families have moved into the Kentlands and Lakelands and it is an important task for us to make sure our newest residents are aware of the wide and varying programming the Foundation offers. As a volunteer-based organization, Kentlands and Lakelands residents are critical to creating and producing our programs. In order to make sure the Foundation continues into the future; we realize how important it is to make sure that new residents know of the mission of the Foundation and the unique role it plays. We have been attending the Welcome Coffee on a regular basis for the past several years, and in addition, we are working on more concerted partnership with our local homeowner associations to help reach our neighbors directly, as well as considering new interactive efforts, including a “meet and greet” with our programs' teams.

Communication via our website, social media, email, newsletter articles, flyers and signs are the backbone of letting everyone know about our programs and that there is an event in the near future. To us help stay current with technology, the Foundation's website is under reconstruction in 2022. It will make it easier to find relevant information, as well as contact our leadership team and programs. With COVID, the importance of our online presence has been emphasized and we quickly realized that virtual programming is here to stay. We understand this is a way for us to reach those in our community that may not be able to attend in-person activities for a variety of reasons. Streamed concerts, lectures, plays and discussions have been an integral way for the Foundation's many programs to continue providing content during the pandemic and we are putting the technology in place to ensure this may continue into the future.

Reaching our sponsors, donors and other supporters is another very important area the Foundation is examining. A major initiative for 2022 is the creation of a Joint Fundraising Committee that will provide a coordinated effort for all of our programs to reach out to the community for support. Through a twice a year request for support in the form of a spring gala and fall giving campaign, we hope we can better reach our generous benefactors. The goal is to make supporting our many programs easier and more transparent. We know that having a complete list of our programs, their goals, and their outreach is an important consideration for your donations, and we are excited to be working on brand new informational materials that will help you better understand and plan where your support will go. Furthermore, this committee will be a vehicle for our programs to work together on applying for grants and other funding, strengthening the opportunity to successfully acquire these critical operational funds.

For our young volunteers, we are starting a new student internship program. Running from March to March annually, we will be working with rising high school seniors, to help them gain valuable work experience in a non-profit, as they earn SSL hours and recommendations for college and beyond. These students will work under the tutelage of our Executive Director and help with many of the administrative, communications and program support tasks, especially during our busy summer season when our major programs have events. We hope this program will help foster a lifelong love for community service for these young people.

Conclusion

We are so proud of what our programs have accomplished in the face of extraordinary circumstances. Our volunteers did not let the pandemic stop them, but rather found new, wonderful ways to rethink their activities, events and efforts. Community is alive and well, with eyes looking forward towards a bright future. We hope that you will find your own way to contribute to the strength of community and the Foundation remains available to support these efforts.