



Introduction – Letter from the Chair

We are so grateful for how our friends, neighbors and advocates came out to support our programs in 2022, as they reemerged from the pandemic. We knew how much we wanted to get back together in-person again and return to some sense of normal or at least step into the new normal and we hoped you felt the same. As we entered the year, we really had no idea how things would go and before we knew it, you were there, ready to participate and lend a hand. We worked hard all year to create wonderful activities and events, but most important, we had so much fun!

For 2023, we have wonderful plans in the making, inspired by such a fabulous 2022. And it is a big year for us, as we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary. We hope that everyone will jump into our programs as we bring access to information about New Urbanism, we continue to build the cultural arts programming, and we offer even more opportunities for individuals, kids and families to volunteer.

I will be stepping down as chair on June 30 and I think the fact that our leadership changes every few years is very healthy for this organization. It brings in fresh ideas, perspectives and goals. As I start to transition, I want to share what an immense honor it has been to lead this wonderful, special organization. It was unprecedented times, and I could not be more thankful for or prouder of the Board and the Executive Director for seeing us through. It is an outstanding team.

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.

2022 Board of Directors

<p>Ms. Jaree Donnelly (2014-23) <i>Chair, Arts Professional Seat</i></p>	<p>Mr. Steve Rambo (2020-25) <i>Treasurer, KCA Appointee</i></p>	<p>Ms. Sooky McFadden (2019–25) <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 Ex Officio, KCA Appointee</i></p>	<p>Hon. Neil Harris (2021-*) <i>City Liaison</i></p>
<p>Ms. Ann Derryberry (2014-22) <i>Local Business Seat</i> <i>Resigned – November 2022</i></p>	<p>Ms. Sharon Cantrell (2018-24) <i>At Large</i> <i>New Urbanist</i></p>	<p>Haslyn Hunte (2022-**) <i>Kentlands Citizens Assembly Liaison</i></p>
<p>Mr. David Hofmann (2019-2022) <i>Kentlands Citizens Assembly Liaison/</i> <i>Alternate-November 22</i></p>	<p>Ms. Kim Wooldridge (2019-22) <i>New Urbanist Seat</i> <i>Resigned – July 2022</i></p>	<p>Ms. Jodi Rapaport (2020-22) <i>Alternate/ Local Business seat-November</i> <i>22</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 David Hofmann
KidServe	Sooky McFadden and Sharon Dunda	Sooky McFadden
Kentlands Film Society	Christine Kelly and Dorie Hightower	Sharon Cantrell
Kentlands Rock & Blues Social Club	Markham Luke and Chelsea Cederbaum	Ann Derryberry Jaree Donnelly
Kentlands Acoustic Jam	Markham Luke and Chelsea Cederbaum	David Hofmann Jaree Donnelly
Village at Kentlands & Lakelands	Fran Randolph and Linda Wiesman	Stephen Rambo Jaree Donnelly
Kentlands Photography Association	Markham Luke and Hamid Nazari	Jaree Donnelly
Musica Viva: Kentlands	Ron Thelin, Jim Lucas, Lisa Pickett and Simeone Tartaglione	Ailene Renzi
Kentlands Under the Lights	John Ingrassia and Silvio Renzi	Ailene Renzi Haslyn Hunte
Gaithersburg Artist Collective/Artists on Market	Anne Cherubim	Jaree Donnelly Steve Rambo
New Urbanism	Kim Wooldridge	Kim Wooldridge Sharon Cantrell
Kentlands Community Players	Meredith Fogle and Mark Steiner	Meredith Fogle
Kentlands Wine Club	Steve and Lynn Longley	Rob Garretson
Kentlands Tree & Menorah Lighting	Jodi Rapaport	Jodi Rapaport

Foundation Executive Director

Elisabeth Monaco has served as the Executive Director since December 2017. The Executive Director is to work an average of 25 hours per week, fluctuating as needed 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. With the rapid growth in size and complexity of our programs, the Executive Director has been providing additional hours.

Finances

	<u>2020</u> (CPA reviewed)	<u>2021</u> (CPA reviewed)	<u>2022</u> (Review Pending)
KCA Funding	\$47,500	\$47,500	\$47,500
Other Sponsorship Funding	8,300	29,000	64,000
Grant & Contract Revenue	43,900	79,200	27,400
Donations	22,800	19,500	16,600
Other Revenue	22,600	47,800	96,700
TOTAL REVENUE	145,100	223,000	252,200
Program Expense	62,500	107,000	143,900
Administrative Expense	73,500	73,900	84,800
TOTAL EXPENSE	136,000	180,900	228,700
NET	\$9,100	\$42,100	\$23,500
CASH & INVESTMENTS AT END OF YEAR	\$224,800	\$242,800	\$283,200

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. In support of its philanthropic mission, the Foundation donated \$19,2500 from the proceeds of the Annual Kentlands/Lakelands 5K race last year to several charitable organizations.

2022 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.

The Volunteerism Award recipients are **Ida-Lina Diak**, **Serrin Grant**, and **Joan Brennan**.

- **Ida Lina Diak** has been the Kentlands/Lakelands 5K Kids Fun Run coordinator for three years. Ida-Lina has found better ways to organize the kids and has brought even more of a sense of fun to the event. As a great supporter of the 5K, Ida-Lina is always ready to help and brings her family and friends to fill critical positions.
- **Serrin Grant**, one of the original GoGreen volunteers, helped to create the Kentlands community garden and to maintain it. She always participates in neighborhood cleanups, and "Plogging", i.e. jogging while picking up litter. In addition to taking beautiful photographs around the community lakes, she recently was part of the neighborhood daffodil planting.
- Village volunteer, **Joan Brennan**, has dedicated her time to provide services to Village members who request assistance or social visits, but of special note is the consistent in-person visits she takes the time to provide to a specific Village member. Every week Joan spends a minimum of an hour visiting with this person and these weekly visits have created a deep and personal relationship between the Village member and Joan.

Arts Support Award

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

- Awarded the Friend of the Foundation in 2021, **Ronald Thelin** has continued to be an important leader for the Musica Viva committee. Although Ron discussed stepping down as chair of the Musica Viva Committee throughout 2022, Ron graciously agreed to stay on and continued to grow

the scope of the concerts and to implement its long-term vision. He was an integral part of the committee in presenting the Bernstein concert.

- **Margaret Polcawich** is the Vice Chair of Gaithersburg Artist Collective, but she is always willing to go above and beyond to help with the many tasks needed to keep the Collective organized and operating. Margaret has offered hundreds of extra hours, organizing multiple activities and art fairs, taken on the responsibility of empty roles, and puts her special creative talents to helping to prepare new spaces. She jumps in in every way imaginable, all the while finding time for her own beautiful art. Margaret is an invaluable member, and keeps the Collective up and running. She has been the first to step up whenever there is a need.
- **Chelsea Cederbaum** brings her vision of the art of music and musicality to the monthly in-person jams for the Kentlands Rock& Blues Social Club. She works with others to affect the needs of this organization, whatever they might be. Chelsea makes sure details around the public performances go well from playing at the Kentlands/Lakelands 5K to playing at the Community Tree Lighting.
- Part of the planning committee from the very beginning and in charge of production for the Musica Viva concerts, **Reynaldo Rojas** ensures that each production is a professional, high-quality performance. Reynaldo's hands on activity encompasses all aspects of the concerts from sound, lighting and staging. With extensive professional experience in production, Reynaldo brings his enthusiasm and artist sensibility to Musica Viva.
- **Dianne Koval** has been a constant support for all of Kentlands Community Player's efforts whether working on the technical management aspects of virtual productions or skillfully stage managing KCP's live on-stage performances. Not only was she a founding member of KCP, but she has rarely missed a KCP board meeting, has been a consistent contributor to KCP's efforts to collaborate and grow within the larger local theatre community, and has also stepped up to lend a hand whenever needed. KCP would not have been able to continue to produce and perform without Dianne's many contributions. She has served as a capable board member, a sounding board, a helping hand, and a sleeves-up stage manager putting in countless hours for KCP's production. Without Dianne, KCP's shows truly would not have gone on.

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 six individuals. The first two recipients are outgoing Board members.

The Foundation recognizes the support and commitment to the Foundation by **Ann Derryberry**. A Board member since 2014, Ann filled the Local Business seat and was an important connection between the Foundation and the local business community. Ann's support of the mission of the Foundation was

evident throughout her tenure, offering her assistance whenever needed, including the use of her space and her network of connections. Of special note, she was integral in the formation and support of the Kentlands Downtown Partnership. We will miss her insight as part of our board but we know she will remain an avid supporter of all of our activities.

Kim Wooldridge held the New Urbanist seat since 2019. During her time holding the seat, Kim kept 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.

In addition, the Foundation is awarding the Friend of the Foundation to three highly deserving individuals who have volunteered extensively in support of the Foundation.

- **Anne Hunte** ensure the public knows about upcoming Foundation events. As the primary social media person for Under the Lights, Anne highlights each sponsor in frequent posts and keeps our stakeholders informed of upcoming events. She continues with her social media presence for the 5K, Musica Viva and many other programs. In addition to her social media skills, Anne is a key person on the Kentlands Under the Lights committee in charge of ticket sales on the day of the event and volunteer recruitment.
- **Chris Marsh** has served on the Kentlands Under the Lights committee since its inception. In addition to the key role he has on the Kentlands Under the Lights committee, Chris has served as a bike marshal for the 5K for many years ensuring that the course is safe for the racers and walkers. This past year, Chris came to the rescue for Musica Viva when the main generator malfunctioned one hour prior to the concert. When asked if he knew of anyone who owned a generator, Chris immediately went home to get his personal generator and quickly made the switch restoring the sound and lighting for the concert, saving the evening.
- **Fran Randolph** has been the chair for the Village of Kentlands and Lakelands since 2015. A founding member, Fran’s vision, passion and dedication produced the Village into the viable program it is today for its members. Joining in the nationwide movement to connect individuals over 55 years of age to their neighbors, the Village provides a necessary social connection and a safety net.

Finally, the Friend of the Foundation is being awarded in memory of **Marc A. Wright**. An employee of the City of Gaithersburg, Marc was an important link for the Foundation’s activities at the Gaithersburg

Arts Barn. Marc was a supporter of the Foundation and assisted with the films presented, the Young Artist Awards, and live performances on the stage of the Arts Barn. He will be greatly missed.

John B. Schlichting Award

Not awarded annually, the Board only presents the award only on occasion when a deserving individual emerges. The Board is so pleased to announce we would like to recognize **Lisa Benson Pickett**. Since the inception of the Foundation in 1993, Lisa has been an active volunteer. She served on the Foundation Board and has been involved in many arts programs including the Children’s Chorus. An accomplished violinist, Lisa has been an adjudicator for many Young Artist Awards competitions. The Board has previously awarded Lisa the Friend of the Foundation award and the Art Support award. Most recently, Lisa is a core member of the Musica Viva 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, organizing major fundraisers, and acting as its recording secretary. In 2022 she was instrumental in obtaining from the estate of Leonard Bernstein the right for *Musica Viva Kentlands* to perform a previously unknown composition by the composer. These rights have only been granted once before. The performance of this piece raised the profile of Musica Viva in our community and beyond and was an important fundraiser for the concerts.

2022 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 grass-root efforts, 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 whenever possible, we will give to worthy community charities .

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 75 films to a collective audience of approximately 5,700 attendees.

KFS runs on the power of a dedicated group of volunteers who curate the films and introduce them on film night. Throughout the year, the Programming Committee previews dozens of films. In selecting films,

they consider universal themes, thought-provoking topics, and strong social messages with generally uplifting endings. As the selections are narrowed down, they aim for a balance of dramas, documentaries, and comedies. Many of the selections are foreign language films with English subtitles.

In the fall of 2021, the film society initiated a new platform to sell subscriptions online using the KCF website. The KFS opened its 15th season with a shortened season of three films from January to May 2022. The Kentlands Film Society is now in its 16th successful season and has returned to showing their annual five-film season at the Arts Barn from September 2022 to May 2023. Before each film, wine and light snacks are available. After the film a Critics' Corner is held for those interested in discussing the movie. Plans are underway to develop their 17th season from September 2023 to May 2024.

Kentlands Community Players ("KCP") had an active year as they transitioned back to live in-person theatre in 2022. KCP's season began with a virtual one-act festival in cooperation with The Montgomery Playhouse followed by *Shakespeare in Love* live onstage at The Gaithersburg Arts Barn. KCP was pleased to be awarded membership in the City of Gaithersburg's Theatre Arts Program ("TAPP") in 2022. Plans for KCP's 2023 season include January's production of Agatha Christie's *The Hollow* at The Gaithersburg Arts Barn, participation in The Maryland Community Theatre Festival with the one-act play, *Skin Deep*, in February, and KCP has submitted several production proposals to TAPP for inclusion in its upcoming season. KCP continues to support the effort to enhance the cultural arts in our community and the addition of new performance spaces.

Musica Viva Kentlands ("MVK"), a classical music series, now entering its sixth 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. MVK presented two performances in 2022. The first was a paid, indoor event featuring a previously unknown Leonard Bernstein string quartet. While this staging format was a departure from the usual approach, it was justified by the artistic significance of the performance. It also provided MVK with the opportunity to raise significant funding in support of its core mission and to raise its profile and that of the KCF within our serving area. The event was a success and resulted in the program earning significant media coverage, including a major story in the Washington Post and a live interview on Fox television. Lisa Pickett was instrumental to the success of this project.

A second performance, free and outdoor, was held in September. It was held on the grounds of the Kentlands Clubhouse and featured a larger orchestra that included a wide range of instruments. The repertoire featured works that were artistically significant but also designed to appeal to a wide audience. Attendance was consistent with past events with 400-600 individuals attending including a contingent of those who elected to attend virtually via live-stream.

Funding to support these events was obtained through private foundation grants, community contributions, the proceeds of the "Bernstein event" and other donor support including funds contributed by the Lakelands and the Hanson Family Foundation. In addition, MVK, in partnership with the Kentlands

Photography Cafe, held a special fundraising event (Maestro's Espresso) that produced significant amount of additional revenues at virtually no cost.

Planning is underway for Program Year 2023. Anticipated events will include a special fundraising performance to be held at the Arts Barn during the month of May and a large orchestral performance in September.

Kentlands Acoustic Jam ("KAJ") returned to in person jams at two locations - the Carriage House and at the Kentlands Photography Cafe, courtesy of Mr. Iason Demos. The leads for KAJ are Dorie Hightower and Markham Luke. KAJ continues to play an important role in attracting a group of like-minded musicians to come together to share their passion for music. It is welcome for anyone to join, no matter what their level of accomplishment. In 2023, KAJ plans to partner with DC-based songwriters (some who attended KAJ jams in 2022) to promote the folk and acoustic music that they especially love.

Kentlands Rock & Blues Social Club ("Rock & Blues") in 2022 had its post-COVID pandemic awakening with multiple monthly in-person jams in the Carriage House and performances. In addition to rock and blues, periodically they have chosen to dedicate a session to jazz. Each jam session brings new talent with fantastic instrumentalists and vocalists coming together in social camaraderie and beautiful music. Further, Rock & Blues were glad to participate and volunteer in the Kentlands/Lakelands 5K and for Kentlands Market Square Tree and Menorah Lighting. In 2023, Rock & Blues continues to hope to attract the broad musical taste and abilities of the Kentlands/Lakelands community providing an outlet for music and for opportunities to volunteer.

Kentlands Photography Association ("KPA") with the gradual removal of COVID restrictions, had more in person events, including a pet portraiture session and provided photography some of the more recent large gathering events in the Kentlands. KPA has successfully incorporated local event photography, architectural photography, Kentlands landscape photography, portraiture, drone photography, as well as film and documentary photography. In addition, members of the group continue to refine their craft in the art of photography, entering contests, participating in group discussions in photography, and participating in local film and photography events. Members have successfully entered and participated in local art shows. In 2023, KPA has plans to continue to broaden community awareness of the art of photography and bring local photographers together to share their craft.

The Gaithersburg Artists Collective ("GAC") had another successful year. GAC started 2022 in its previous gallery space at Downtown Crown. From January to June, the Collective garnered attention for its unique business model and mission to bring art to the community, in addition to supporting the local arts community through sales of juried member artwork. The Collective also participated for the first time in Kentlands Under the Lights, having a mini art market during the evening festivities. Not only that, but GAC also engaged the community in several charitable causes. 2022's causes included a fundraiser for Ukraine, supporting the American Heart Association, and collecting funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society and local environmental causes.

The Collective went on hiatus in late June until late autumn, when they concluded 2022 with a successful exhibition at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn. From November 25th to January 6th, the exhibit displayed over 1,200 pieces of art, provided over 200 volunteer hours to the City and collected, clothes, books and food for local charities. The current 27 members of GAC have now actively returned to seeking a new pop-up gallery space to house their efforts in 2023.

Other Arts Programs In addition to our community-led arts programs, Foundation leadership supported the City of Gaithersburg's **Young Artist Award Competition**. In 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. There will be no competition in 2023.

The Foundation also participated in the **City of Gaithersburg Book Festival**. The Foundation with the help of the GAC provided a children's activity promoting reading in early childhood.

Community Outreach Programs and Events

The Kentlands/Lakeland's 5K Race and Kids Run celebrated its 29th anniversary in 2022. The annual charity 5K race drew more than 1,100 runners and walkers. The course featured live entertainment along the way showcasing local bands, 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 5K Race is the Foundation's largest fundraiser, but in keeping with its philanthropic mission, the Foundation donates approximately a portion of the net proceeds to one or more beneficiaries. After the 2022 race, the Foundation made donations to benefit five local charities totaling \$19,250:

- 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 **\$11,500**;
- The Dwelling Place, a nonprofit based in Gaithersburg that provides transitional housing to Montgomery County residents, received **\$3,750**;
- Maryland Senior Olympics received **\$1,000**;
- Mercy Health Clinic, which provides medical care to the uninsured and underinsured in the Gaithersburg community, received **\$2,500**; and
- A scholarship fund for art camps, classes and workshops at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn received **\$500**.

The 30th 5K race will take place on Saturday, September 2, 2023.

KidServe held a combination of some of their favorite events with a few new ones included. In the first part of the year, KidServe families gathered for its popular animal shelter assistance event at the Kentlands

Clubhouse. Families made 50 pet bandanas, 40 kibble-filled bottles, and 100 homemade animal treats which we delivered to the Montgomery County Humane Society along with gently used blankets and towels collected as donations. This particular event attracted people from across generations: young kids, teenagers, and senior citizen neighbors.

The second “Paint and Sip” event was held to make 10 wooden signs for MoCo Hopes and Homes, a local group that helps furnish homes for recently arrived refugees. Participants donated grocery gift cards and hand painted “Home Sweet Home” signs to go into the newly set up apartments. They also created welcome kits with tea, coffee, and snacks to accompany the gift cards.

In March, families made stationary for U.S. troops to send home to their loved ones. These beautiful hand-made cards added an extra personal touch. They also wrote letters of thanks to our service men and women and sent all these items (140 cards and 10 letters) to Operation Gratitude based in California.

Over the summer, KidServes’ partnership continued with the Kentlands Kingfish swim team to assemble over 50 school back packs filled with school supplies for local kids. This is the 3rd year of the partnership with the Kingfish for this event, and KidServe is grateful for their support. In addition, their families supported a group of students participating in an art camp for the City of Gaithersburg. This group of 15 students needed lunches for 5 days, and our KidServe families stepped up to provide 75 lunches so these campers would not go hungry.

Finally, in November, KidServe brought back its popular holiday gift wrapping event. KidServe partnered again with the Kingfish swim team and local business, The List Realty, to purchase 70 gifts for families in the Gaithersburg area. Volunteers got together to wrap the gifts and make an ornament as well. Additionally, the North Potomac knitters donated over 200 hand knit hats, scarves, and blankets. None of this would be possible without the generous community in the Kentlands/Lakelands/North Potomac.

Look for other great family events in 2023 to serve the community.

The Village at Kentlands & Lakelands is a program dedicated to serving residents who are 55 years of age or older, providing safe support services to enhance independence. In 2022, they responded to over 400 requests for service, providing transportation, making social calls, picking up mail, helping with light chores and assisting with grocery shopping. They currently have 51 members (both service and social) and 51 volunteers. Village volunteers spent 311 hours and drove 1,323 miles fulfilling these service requests.

In addition, the Village created social opportunities for networking and cultural events for intellectual growth. These included an ice cream social, a presentation on keeping seniors safe, a special presentation by Sue and Joe Palka who are residents of the Kentlands, zoom sessions on Hospice and African American Artists presented by the Smithsonian Art Museum, and a volunteer recognition event. Over 250 people attended these events.

The Village published newsletters and also maintained an informative website about our services and programs and a Facebook page that connected viewers to a number of interesting resources.

Plans for 2023 include increasing the number of members and volunteers, particularly recruiting new volunteers for their Village Steering Committee, creating interesting events, publishing their newsletter and a bi-monthly email, and developing a marketing campaign and conducting strategic planning.

Kentlands Under the Lights (“KUL”), the annual community dinner, returned in 2022 at its regular June time to kick off the Kentlands summer season and was a smashing success by all accounts and measures. Never letting the grass grow under their feet, the committee has already been hard at work on what will be a wholly new and reimagined **Kentlands Under the Lights** for 2023 with a new and expanded footprint, more music options, more food and drink options, and more places to sit and linger and enjoy the company and fellowship of our friends and neighbors.

Kentlands Wine Club (“KWC”) concluded its fifth year with a return to pre-Covid wine tastings and events. The Kentlands Wine Club is dedicated to the community enjoyment and education of wine and is open for registration to residents over 21 years of age who reside in the greater Gaithersburg area. In 2022, the Wine Club hosted its monthly clubhouse events and held outdoor tastings during the summer months. The club featured guest speakers and was able to offer special discounts on purchases through area wine shops. 2023 will bring more great wine and socializing.

Kentlands Go Green group, the Foundation’s environmental group, continues to meet monthly and is comprised of 7 volunteers/members. They have been working with the City of Gaithersburg to improve the nature and plants next to the dam areas in Midtown. This is part of a larger environmental projects that include Maryland Department of Environment. Go Green’s community wide activities included a daffodil bulb planting in late October and the annual neighborhood cleanup in April for Earth Day. In addition, the committee has been working with the Kentlands Citizens Assembly to plant native grasses in medians and to change the leaf blowers used in the neighborhood to lower decibel. In November they held a Zoom meeting with the City of Gaithersburg to educate stakeholders on the importance of minimizing salt usage in winter month reducing salt flow will into the waterways and improving our drinking water. A continuing activity throughout the year is plogging, *i.e.* jogging while picking up trash, whenever they want. Eligible students can receive SSL hours for their plogging activity. 2023 will continue some of the projects and add new activities that help keep our community clean.

Kentlands Community Bridge Group continues to meet weekly, on Wednesday afternoons at the Carriage House. They are attracting new players, primarily through recommendations of current players and community members, and we now have a list of 22 players. However, space constraints limit participation to 16 persons so they do rotate the roster of players to ensure all have the opportunity to play. Game play will continue in 2023.

New Urbanist Programs and Events

Kentlands Holiday Tree and Menorah Lighting has become a cherished holiday tradition in Kentlands Market Square. In past years, the Foundation was a supporter of the event. This year the tree lighting transitioned to a Foundation program. Celebrating the art of community, the tree lighting brings together local business owners, Maryland State and City of Gaithersburg officials, local choruses, bands and other performers and residents of the community. The event culminates with a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus atop a Rockville Fire Department Hook and Ladder truck. 2022 was the largest event to date and planning will begin in the summer to create a very special event for the holidays in 2023.

2022 Support Kentlands Initiative.

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 on Kentlands Blvd. near 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 2023 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 2023.

In the July of 2022, the Board held a strategic planning session. This session had been postponed to the pandemic. The goal of this meeting was to chart a way forward to support our growing programs in a meaningful and impactful manner. Over the course of the past four years, all of our programs have grown in size and scope and their needs have changed. As a result, the Board has decided to hire an assistant director. The assistant will report to the executive director to support the programs through volunteer recruitment, marketing and event management.

One of our major goals continues to be 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 was updated in 2022. It will make it easier to find relevant information, as well as contact our leadership team and programs. COVID brought to the forefront the importance of our online presence and virtual programming will continue to be part of our online presence. 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 were 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 continues to examine. We will continue our major initiative of a Joint Fundraising Committee that will provide a coordinated effort for all of our programs to reach out to the community for support. 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 continuing to explore ways for student internships. In 2022, we provided valuable opportunities to high school and college students in writing articles for publication and preparing advertising flyers. In 2023 we hope to be able to continue to provide opportunities for young volunteers to gain valuable work experience, earn SSL hours and obtain recommendations for college and beyond. 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 returning even stronger after facing 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.

We would like to thank all of our partners, sponsors, donors and grantors, but especially our major supporters which include:

- Kentlands Citizens Assembly

- Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Council
- Maryland State Arts Council
- Montgomery County Health and Human Services
- The City of Gaithersburg
- Lakelands Homeowners Association
- Novavax
- The Carnegie
- Paul M. Angell Family Foundation