

NETWORK REPORT

2020



FROM OUR DIRECTOR



DEAR FRIENDS, We are at a crossroads. During this period of COVID and heightened racial unrest, truths and realities that were hidden in the shadows are coming to light. The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Communities of Color has exposed and magnified long standing systemic inequities, egregious disparities, and structural injustices — not just in other parts of the nation, but right here in Montgomery County. We can either choose to travel together into a higher and more humane way of being, or we can fall further towards division and needless human suffering.

We at IMPACT aspire to the higher path. The disparities made more glaring by COVID-19, coupled with racial uprisings in response to the killing of Black lives by law enforcement, have highlighted both the importance

and relevance of IMPACT’s work and approach. Well before these recent events, we were already clear-eyed in our understanding that systems and mindsets rooted in white supremacy are leading us towards greater division and harm, and away from a sustainable future. We were already working to transform our wounded relationships and culture into healthy and harmonized ways of being together — so that we might all live with joy and dignity.

Since March, much of our focus has been on emergency response — supporting people from across Montgomery County who have fallen ill to COVID, lost their jobs and livelihood, lost homes, and struggled to put food on the table. We are still mourning the passing of several beloved network members to COVID — Alicia Lopez, Beatriz Cordero, and an 8 year-old participant in our sports program. In the pages of this year’s report, you will read about our efforts to get emergency relief and medical care to hundreds of our neighbors who have been stripped of a safety net. *But our story does not end there.* Through the pandemic crisis, we have also continued to press forward in creating spaces where authentic human connections are made, and beautiful things grow — all towards building the equitable and just world we know is possible.

So in this year’s report, you will also find stories of mutual support, unity, resilience, and hope. And to those of you who have responded so generously to our calls for financial donations to meet the unprecedented



levels of community need — you too are part of this story. In the unfolding of our collective narrative, may light, joy, compassion, and love for each other have the final word. And may we continue to harness our collective energy, gifts, and resources to build a new world together. Please consider IMPACT as part of your year-end giving efforts. We invite you to make your donation by using the enclosed envelope, or by going to our website www.impactsilverspring.org where you can choose either a one-time or recurring monthly gift.

With love and gratitude,

Jayne Park
JAYNE PARK
 Executive Director

THE DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF COVID



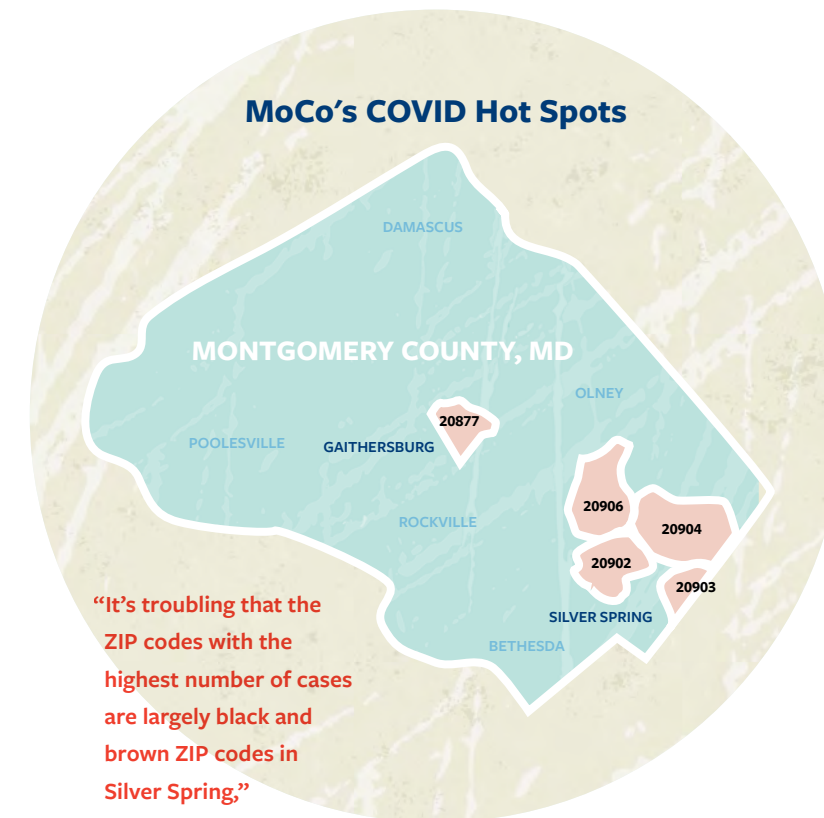
LIKE THE NATION OVERALL, the impact of Covid-19 on Communities of Color in Montgomery County has been catastrophic. Some of the highest infection rates in the county are in the zip codes most populated by these community members and in the neighborhoods of Wheaton, Aspen Hill and Long Branch where IMPACT has been highly engaged for years.

The Latino/a/x community represents only 20% of Montgomery County’s population, but recently has accounted for more than 2/3 of new cases of Covid-19. Key factors contributing to this situation include multi-generational living situations, large percentages of people in essential jobs with lower chances of being able to work remotely, greater reliance on public transportation, and lower rates of health insurance. Throughout the pandemic, IMPACT has been hearing heartbreaking stories from the community about the health and economic challenges they are facing due to this virus, and have been inspired by the strength of these same residents in persevering through this crisis.

TOP 5 CUMULATIVE CASES BY ZIP CODE + % BLACK / LATINO/HISPANIC as of October, 2020

- 20906 Aspen Hill**
2763 cases
24% B, 33% L/H
- 20902 Wheaton**
2108 cases
17% B, 36% L/H
- 20904 Colesville**
1905 cases
45% B, 15% L/H
- 20877 Gaithersburg**
1512 cases
18% B, 42% L/H
- 20903 Hillandale**
1384 cases
28% B, 48% L/H

MoCo’s COVID Hot Spots



“It’s troubling that the ZIP codes with the highest number of cases are largely black and brown ZIP codes in Silver Spring.”

— TOM HUCKER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

9,672

Of the 9,672 total COVID cases in the top 5 zip codes, 4 are located in the Silver Spring area.

Source: Montgomery County Government, “Cases by zip code”, 10/2020



OUR COVID RESPONSE

THE PANDEMIC thrust IMPACT into emergency response mode in early March. Highlights of our team efforts and achievements are listed here. It is important to note that the pandemic continues to have devastating economic and health impacts on many of the residents in our network, and that our emergency response efforts continue to the present day.

MARCH

■ IMPACT network builders begin making phone calls to over 700 vulnerable residents in our network to listen to issues and concerns. The members of IMPACT's network are grassroots residents who have been involved in IMPACT's neighborhood transformation efforts over the years. The deep relationships of trust we have built enabled us to quickly make contact, and to create a safe avenue for residents to share about their painful hardships. We quickly learned that many people were losing jobs and income, and had no money to pay for rent, food, diapers, and other basic necessities. We also learned that people were ill and dying from COVID, with no access to COVID testing and health care, and little ability to self-isolate because of overcrowded living situations.

APRIL

■ Leaders in state and county government as well as philanthropy hear about the health and economic impacts of COVID on vulnerable communities from IMPACT network builders.

■ Rapidly deployable, state-funded medical teams (called GO Teams) begin to be sent directly to people's homes to administer COVID tests and provide other support.

■ Over \$25,000 in individual donations is raised to purchase grocery cards that are distributed to over 425 families.

MAY

■ Partnering with Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), IMPACT connects 183 struggling households to the County's Emergency Assistance Relief Payment (EARP), resulting in payments totaling \$186,500.

■ Greater Washington Community Foundation (GWCF) grants provide \$74,500 in direct emergency cash assistance to 65 families in the IMPACT network.

■ 53 families/households symptomatic of COVID (156 adults, and 96 kids under 18) are connected to ready responder GO Teams for testing and support. However, within the first couple of weeks, IMPACT identifies significant challenges — including delayed/lost test results, and inadequate follow-up. IMPACT alerts state and county government leaders, and offers an alternative plan of action to ensure the most vulnerable communities can access COVID testing and treatment as well as holistic wrap-around social service support.

JUNE

■ Additional grants received from GWCF and other individual donations provide direct cash assistance totaling \$90,500 to 99 families. IMPACT also distributes 150 grocery store gift cards totaling \$7,500.

■ 132 families are connected to DHHS' emergency relief funds, for a total of \$128,900.

■ IMPACT staff testifies during the Montgomery County Council Health and Human Services Committee work session about the on-going challenges and barriers to COVID testing and other social service supports for vulnerable populations residing in highly impacted zip codes. IMPACT's advocacy work from the beginning of the pandemic helps set the groundwork for the creation of consolidated hubs in highly impacted neighborhoods, where vulnerable residents can go to receive food, COVID testing, and other social service support. IMPACT staff also provides extensive 2020 census outreach at these hubs.



"I started feeling symptoms May 6, coughing blood, body weakness, loss of smell and taste. I don't have health insurance, not because I don't want to, but because I can't qualify to purchase it, so I had no way to see a doctor."
— BIANCA, ZIP CODE 20905

JULY

■ 63 families are connected to DHHS' emergency relief fund, resulting in cash disbursements totaling \$65,850.

■ More funding from GWCF allows IMPACT to provide 3 families with emergency cash assistance totaling \$3,000, and another \$10,000 in grocery store gift cards are distributed to over 150 families.

AUGUST

■ 10 Families are connected to DHHS' emergency relief fund, resulting in cash disbursements totaling \$10,850.

SEPTEMBER

■ 16 families are connected to DHHS' emergency relief fund, resulting in cash disbursements totaling \$14,350.

■ Private donations provide 2 families with emergency cash assistance totaling \$1,500.

731

people were contacted by Impact Silver Spring in one-on-one outreach to offer assistance, aid and a lifeline.

"We are a family of 5. When COVID started, my husband and I were let go from work. Our landlord did not want to cooperate with us and took all of our stuff out to the street one day while we were out grocery shopping."
— OSMAN, ZIP CODE 20852



\$619,050

Total amount of cash and grocery gift cards disbursed to over 1200 families.

"My internet service was cut off last month because of back payments. As a family we had to sacrifice buying groceries to reconnect the service so that my kids can continue attending class."
— NELLY, ZIP CODE 20902



\$169,500 went to 169 families through direct cash assistance from private donations

\$406,450 went to 404 families through County EARP Funds

\$43,100 worth of grocery gift cards went to over 700 families

OUR WORK

WHILE MUCH OF OUR WORK this year has been focused on alleviating the immediate suffering experienced by those in our network as a result of COVID, we have also continued to press forward in building a community grounded in values of equity, justice and liberation. Through our human-centered spaces, we provided opportunities for diverse residents to learn, connect around their shared humanity, and build an equitable community together. From youth attending our sports programs to parents looking for ways to improve their family’s well-being, our programs are built to foster a strong, resilient multi-cultural community — and to grow leaders with the capacity to imagine and create a more just and compassionate world. Here are some highlights:

We Fight Racism.

SEPTEMBER 2019 Co-organized the **People’s Forum for Racial Equity in Montgomery County**, an event to engage and educate people on the newly introduced Racial Equity and Social Justice Act. The event drew 189 community members.



Latina women in Wheaton grow relationships through a crochet circle.

DECEMBER 2019 **Beyond Boundaries MoCo** workgroup created talking points and action steps that were accessed by over 900 residents to help them engage productively when attending MCPS public meetings on the contentious school boundaries analysis.

JUNE 2020 Online webinar, **Building a Multi-Racial Movement: Challenges + Promises**, brought together diverse racial justice activists to share their insights on cross-racial organizing and building multi-racial justice movements. 250 participated in the live event, 1000+ have viewed the Facebook video.

Weaver Learning Lab graduated two cohorts with a total of 46 participants. The Learning Lab brings a more holistic approach to addressing racism with an emphasis on inner work.

Youth Talk About Race conversations were facilitated for middle and high school students in the IMPACT Sports soccer program. Topics included systemic racism, identity, and equality. Sessions included fitness training, discussion, and meditation.

We Grow Leaders.

Bi-monthly **Civic Empowerment** training in Wheaton brought together Latino/a/x immigrants to learn about their rights and responsibilities in their new country within the context of international human rights. Before the pandemic, 47 residents attended one or more of these sessions.

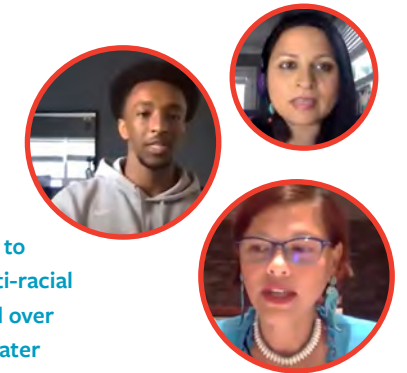
Technical assistance was provided for **resident-led collaborative actions** such as: hosting a vision and dental health fair for immigrants; building awareness within immigrant communities of available services for special needs students; improving conditions for pedestrians around Georgian Forest Elementary School; organizing residents on Grandview Avenue in Wheaton to apply for the county’s Residential Parking Permit program; growing the Montgomery Community Investment Cooperative (MCIC); and planning and hosting the annual Glenmont Forest block party. Hundreds of residents benefitted from these actions.

Bi-weekly **Women’s Empowerment** sessions were facilitated in Wheaton to support Latina women in tapping into their own power and talents while building supportive relationships with other women in their community. Before the pandemic, sessions averaged 22 women in attendance.

“I loved hearing from people who have experience organizing and speaking to issues of racial inequality. The [Building a Multi-Racial Movement] panelists were inspiring and thought provoking.”
—MARY, WEBINAR PARTICIPANT

250

People tuned in to “Building a Multi-racial Movement” and over 1,000 watched later on Facebook.



215

People participated in our five diversity dinners.

We Connect Communities.

Before the pandemic, a total of 5 **Diversity Dinners** brought people together across lines of difference to re-weave the social fabric over shared meals. Our co-hosts were Clifton Park Baptist Church, Hughes United Methodist Church, Takoma Park Mobilization, and MCAEL (Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy). A total of 215 people participated.

OCTOBER 2019 **Neighbors Exchange** at Hughes United Methodist Church connected Wheaton residents to each other through ice breaker activities and valuable resources such as youth services, food assistance, immigration services, and voter registration. 69 adults and many more children attended.

We Boost Economic Power.

Co-op Listening Session brought County leaders (including County Executive Marc Elrich) together with local worker cooperative members to hear about the challenges of starting and growing worker cooperatives in the County. 30 people attended.

Pro bono **Worker Cooperative Legal Clinic** connected emerging and existing worker cooperatives with volunteer legal advisors knowledgeable in the unique legalities of worker cooperatives.

Ongoing **worker cooperative technical assistance** helped stabilize and grow worker ownership in the County. Cooperatives we supported include: Montgomery Community Investment Cooperative (MCIC), Green Clean Cooperative, Park Montgomery Childcare Cooperative, and Anytime Union Taxi.

Food distribution hub at Hughes United Methodist Church in Wheaton.



"The moment we choose to love we begin to move against domination, against oppression. The moment we choose to love we begin to move towards freedom, to act in ways that liberate ourselves and others." — bell hooks

**IMPACT is grateful
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following partners:**

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Keren Cabral
Victor Carcamo*
Daniel Centeno
Kyree Clark
Michelle Faulkner-Forson*
Carmen Hernandez
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Jayne Park
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*FY20


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Beadsie Woo



8807 Colesville Road, LL
Silver Spring, MD 20910

www.impactsilverspring.org
(301) 298-5117 / info@impactsilverspring.org

  @IMPACTSS