



# NEWSLETTER

6801 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 203  
Riverdale Park, MD 20737  
PH: 240-680-2527  
www.ckarcdc.org

Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR CDC)

September 2019

## CCMA AmeriCorps VISTAs — Game Changers at CKAR

CKAR is privileged to have three AmeriCorps VISTA staff members serving in various capacities. They are with us for 1 year (2019-2020). They each have their own career goals and are using their skills, knowledge and abilities to create programs, perform community service activities and complete defined service programs. Several partners have already had the opportunity to work with them since they've joined CKAR. Meet Our VISTA Staff Members:

### Increasing Affordable Housing Opportunities

**Brontë Nevins** is a native Marylander and recent graduate of Johns Hopkins University, where she earned her BA in Public Health and Social Policy. As a student, she developed a passion for housing issues while performing casework and patient advocacy at the Red Cross and Harriet Lane Clinic. She later interned at the Baltimore City Department of Planning

*(Continued on page 3)*



### Develops Health & Wellness Programs for Sarvis Cafe

**Mattea Keister** — Mattea is from Denver, Colorado and recently graduated from the University of Kansas where she earned a BS in Biochemistry and a minor in Spanish. As a student, she conducted undergraduate research in Epigenetics, volunteered at her local hospital, and was an active member of several pre-medical organizations. Mattea is excited

*(Continued on page 3)*



### Enhancing Workforce Development

**Imari Alvarez** was born in Bronx, New York but was raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She has recently completed her Bachelors of Science in Health Science at Coppin State University. While attending one of her classes she noticed that health disparities were in correlation with low income, poor housing, food deserts, and lack of educa-

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Lifting People Out of Poverty Since 1965

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) members bring passion and perseverance where the need is greatest: to organizations that help eradicate poverty. AmeriCorps VISTA members serve as a catalyst for change, living and working alongside community members to meet our nation's most pressing challenges and advance local solutions.

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/ameri-corps-programs/ameri-corps-vista>

## In This Issue

- AmeriCorps VISTAs
- CKAR's Executive Director honored
- Meet Our VISTA Staff
- VISTAs' Activities
- Surprise Birthday Party
- A Taste of Sarvis
- VISTAs' Work at CKAR & in the community

We are very pleased to have these young pioneers on board!

## Surprise Birthday Party

The ESOL students showed their love and appreciation for their instructor, Theresa Pfeiffer, by surprising her with a birthday party during class-time.

Each student has provided written testimonies about their success in the ESOL class and how they are using their new English language skills in the class, at home, and on their jobs.

CKAR is now offering a 1-day a week evening class for those wanting to learn and/or improve their English and also gain basic computer skills.

Registration closes September 16th.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

CKAR's Executive Director Mrs. Patricia Hayes-Parker, has been chosen as a Nominee for this year's Non-profit Civic Leadership Award given by the Greater Washington Community Foundation of Prince George's County. Please join the staff of CKAR as we congratulate Mrs. Parker and send our well wishes for her well-deserved selection.

## Press Release

### Non-profit Opening a Game Changing Cafe for its Community Providing Culinary Arts Training and Healthy Eating & Living Series

September 6, 2019 (Riverdale Park, MD) – CKAR's Sarvis Empowerment Café is currently under renovation with an expected opening this fall. This café is a game changer in that it will provide culinary arts training and a healthy eating and living series to its communities. Prince George's Community College, our partner, will provide a 14-week certified culinary arts & customer service training program that will enable students to advance in their career and educational goals. Trained chefs will fill positions at local restaurants, catering facilities and other businesses in their own community. Mentoring will be provided by chefs and other professionals employed at Sarvis. CKAR will provide job search and placement services to students completing the program.

Sarvis Café is a breakfast and lunch café that offers menu items from a variety of different cultures. It will promote healthy eating and healthy living to over 240 customers per day. All food will be made fresh daily with sustainably sourced ingredients from local stores and farms. CKAR has received support for the Sarvis café project from several organizations enabling this to be a change agent for the communities. More information about Sarvis Café's products and services can be found on its website: [www.sarviscafe.com](http://www.sarviscafe.com) and on CKAR's website: [www.ckarcdc.org](http://www.ckarcdc.org)

The Hard Hat Launch, Tour & Fund-raiser will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Sarvis Empowerment Café, 5711 Sarvis Avenue, Riverdale Park, MD 20737. MGM chefs will be our guests to prepare "A Taste of Sarvis". This event celebrates the 1960's café renovation, gives partners and supporters a tour of the build-out, and is geared towards generating additional funding needed to complete the project.

# CKAR's CCMA AmeriCorps VISTAs



Flyers & Pamphlets created by our VISTAs

CKAR's AmeriCorps VISTAs at work at headquarters



## Brontë Nevins (cont'd from page 1)

and Johns Hopkins Economic Development Office, where she performed analyses to enhance the racial and economic equity of community development efforts. She also has done extensive qualitative research on community change with the Poverty and Inequality Research Lab, including writing a thesis on young people's responses to the Freddie Gray protests and contributing to research on place-based and mobility housing programs. Brontë is excited to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA, and hopes to contribute to the preservation and creation of safe and affordable housing in Greater Riverdale.

## Mattea Keister (cont'd from page 1)



to work as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation developing health & wellness programming for the Sarvis Empowerment Cafe. This opportunity will provide valuable insights into the public health of the Greater Riverdale community and how health disparities can be addressed through comprehensive programming. In the future, Mattea aspires to continue addressing inequality in the US healthcare system as a physician.



## Imari Alvarez (cont'd from page 1)

tion. From this discovery, she was determined to help individuals gain services in these areas in order to improve their health. Imari is planning on pursuing her Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration to create or enhance policies/programs that tackle the health disparity issue.

The colored stars represent the vast array of skills, talents and abilities these three CCMA VISTAs bring to CKAR. Each one is a star in her own rights!

## Another Star Employee!



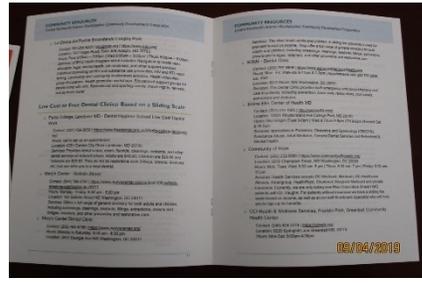
Russel Martinez, Receptionist

Ms. Russel Martinez is another star employee at CKAR. She is our full-time bi-lingual receptionist who is guaranteed to greet you with a warm smile with much gentleness. She has been with us for 6 months and enjoys her job. Ms. Martinez is also studying to become a para-legal. Her hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

A big shout-out to Russel!

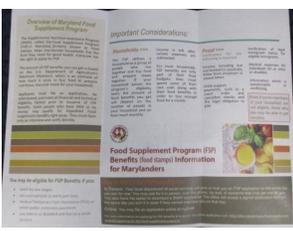
# More on our CCMA AmeriCorps VISTA Staff

**Brontë Nevins in Action**



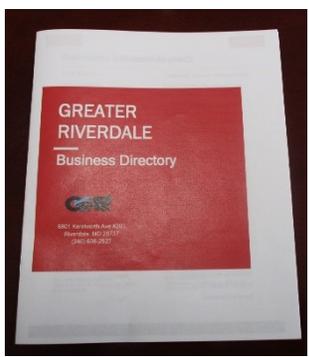
**Community Resources guide & Ambassador Program pamphlet**

**Mattea Keister in Action**



**Sarvis Café brochure & Sarvis Programming poster**

**Imari Alvarez in Action**



**Greater Riverdale Business Directory & Sarvis Café Hiring Poster**



**The Community Resources and Greater Riverdale Business Directory booklets, and the Food Supplement Program, CKAR Ambassador Program and Sarvis Empowerment Cafe pamphlets can be obtained by contacting Jeanette Mitchell at 301-329-8134 or by requesting an electronic copy by email to [jmitchell@ckarcdc.org](mailto:jmitchell@ckarcdc.org)**

*Central Kenilworth Avenue Revitalization Community Development Corporation (CKAR CDC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that forms strategic partnerships to implement projects in the Greater Riverdale community, including community and economic development, workforce training, environmental sustainability, business retention, and advocacy. Greater Riverdale consists of several communities in Council District 3 within Prince George's County, Maryland. They are: The Town of Riverdale Park, the unincorporated communities of East Riverdale (Riverdale Heights, Riverdale Hills, Templeton Knolls, Eastpines, Crestwood Community, and Madison Hill Homeowners Association), Beacon Heights, Rosswill, Hanson Oaks, Woodlawn and West Lanham Hills. Our overall mission focuses on building "Better Lives, Better Communities, and Better Businesses".*