



2025



Main Street:

Where
Community
Rises
Together

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Main Street: Where Community Rises Together

Every day at Main Street, I am reminded of the countless ways a community can rise—through gratitude, through connection, and through showing up for one another. We rise when we gather for a program, when we lend a helping hand, and when we celebrate each other's strengths. Rising up isn't just something we do here—it's something we feel.

Before joining Main Street, I was searching for the next step for my own son, Kade, now a young adult. Like so many families, I longed for a place where he could grow, feel supported, have independence and choice, and truly belong. When a friend mentioned this incredible inclusive community called Main Street, I immediately wanted to learn more.

Soon after, I walked through the doors and was greeted with warm smiles from members, residents, and staff. In that moment, **I felt it: the spark, the connection, the sense of home.** I knew this was where I wanted to be—where my family and friends could come and **be part of a community**, build relationships, and be surrounded by other **adults who inspire and uplift one another.**

Since then, I've watched our community rise in extraordinary ways. Programs have flourished, partnerships have expanded, friendships have deepened, and our members continue to amaze us with their confidence, creativity, and courage. Every corner of Main Street—from the artist gallery to Poppy Boy's Kitchen to Mattie's Peace Room—echoes with **the energy of people lifting each other up.**

Together, we are rising up—in **Resilience, Inclusion, Strength, Empowerment, Unity, and Progress.** We rise when we show kindness, when we see possibility in one another, and when we remember that every person has value and a place here.

Here's to continuing to rise—together.

With gratitude and endless possibility,

Tara

Tara Owens
Executive Director



Majestic rainbows stretch across the horizon, calling us to begin our journey.

All of Mother Nature whispers, "Believe in the power to thrive."

In every challenge, through all kinds of difficulty, we rise.

Never give up—keep going, keep pushing.
If you fall, rise stronger than ever before.

Stay focused on your dreams, never stop chasing them.

Tough, life can be—but believing in yourself is the true key to success.

Rain or shine we are always ready to give our best.

Everything in life can disappear like melting ice—treasure each moment.

Even when you fall, stand tall—and come back stronger.

Try choosing joy. Don't carry the weight of what could've been.

Connect with those who value you, who see your light.

Off to a good start, each of us can make a difference—
through kindness, through action.

Never give up—keep thriving, keep rising.

Never forget your essence—it's what makes you shine.

Electrifying energy, contagious and joyful—it lives in you.

Come with us. Join our movement of inclusion, of love and strength.

Today and always—you are the star that never stops shining.

—David Godoy

Listen to David's Poem



David, a Main Street staff member, shared his Rise Up-inspired poem, reflecting the heart and spirit of our community.

Living, Learning and Belonging... Side by Side.



At Main Street, community is how we rise—together. Our 70-unit inclusive building, with **75% affordable apartments** and **25% set aside for adults with special needs**, offers residents independence surrounded by friendship and support. And because belonging knows no walls, you don't have to live here to be a member. Everyone is invited to rise with us.

Our location makes rising even easier—we're just **500 feet from the Metro**, fully walkable and rollable, and steps from Rockville Town Center's restaurants, shops, and community life. Inside our doors, our 282 members enjoy a vibrant **10,000-square-foot community space**, including a fitness center and Mattie's Peace Room for learning, workshops, and creative exploration. With **three membership levels**—including our Pro Membership for featured events and professional learning—there's something for everyone.

Whether you live upstairs, across town, or are visiting for the first time, one thing is true: **At Main Street, we rise together—living, learning, and belonging side by side.**

BECAUSE OF
MAIN STREET
OUR MEMBERS ...

87%
TRIED SOMETHING **NEW**

93%
HAVE MORE **FUN**

87%
FEEL LIKE THEIR OVERALL
LIFE HAS **IMPROVED**

85%
FEEL MORE **CONFIDENT**
TO TRY NEW THINGS

91%
FEEL LIKE
THEY **BELONG**



“Being in a space where people are truly seen and celebrated for who they are is rare and that sense of community will stay with me...” – *Chloe, Intern*

Listen to Tiffany's Poem

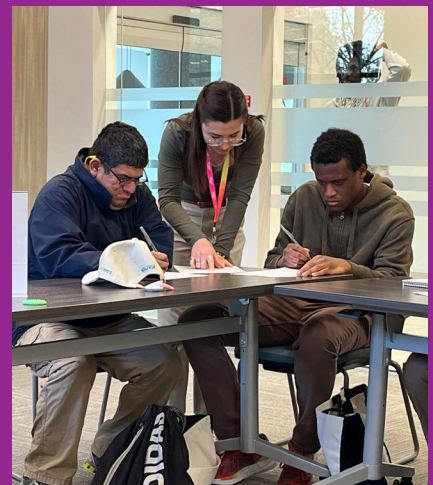


From left:
Mama Peace
and Tiffany



“What I love about volunteering at Main street is being able to support inclusion. I really value being able to be part of a space where everyone is empowered to participate, be themselves, and feel welcomed by all.”

– David, volunteer





Staying active is part of how we rise!

This year, our programs helped our community rise in **confidence**, **creativity**, **strength**, and **voice**. We launched a **Writing for Well-Being** series, explored spoken word through a **Poetry Workshop**, and took the stage at our own **Poetry Slam**. The best part? Members later attended a public **poetry reading** and bravely shared the work they created—proof that when we rise together, our voices carry farther.

Art took center stage too. We proudly showcased a **Main Street member artist** in our gallery space—**Justin Valenti**, whose fluid art filled the walls with color, movement, and joy. Justin didn't just display his work; he shared his creative process and led a hands-on workshop, teaching members to create their own swirling masterpieces.

We stayed active with **Music City Workout**, **Yoga**, **Stretch & Strength**, and **AquaFit**, while **Parent Connects** and **Food for Thought** continued to grow, offering resources, conversations, and new partnerships. When member Maddie spoke up with an idea, a brand-new **Book Club** was born—complete with books, audiobooks, films, and lively discussions.

And through it all, our **volunteers** rose with us, supporting programs, cheering on members, and helping create a warm, **inclusive** environment.

At Main Street, programming isn't just something to attend—it's something to **experience**.



282
ACTIVE MEMBERS

536
EVENTS

11,291
ATTENDEES

10 -15
WEEKLY EVENTS

128
VOLUNTEERS



See how we rise together—
visit our program and events
calendar and jump into the fun!



CRAB Sailing in Annapolis



Acceptance of Proclamation,
City of Rockville

World of Beer



Peace Celebration in
Rockville Town Square



U.S. Adaptive
Golf Open





KID Museum

Big Papis



Nationals Game



Where does Main Street go when we're *not* creating magic at home? Everywhere!

63
Outings

Have you ever strolled through a **farmers market** with friends, indulged in **ice cream** on a summer day, or caught a spontaneous **salsa dance** in the square? That's a typical week for our members!

This year, we explored, learned, and celebrated together. We checked out the **Rockville Library**, got hands-on with a new partnership at **KID Museum**, and even received travel training with The Arc of Northern Virginia. Our creativity took center stage too—members' artwork was featured in a gallery exhibit asking the big question: "How do you see happiness?" And we spread that happiness around town, creating and delivering painted flower pots to local Rockville partners on **International Day of Happiness**.

And the best part? Our voices were heard! Main Street was honored with a city proclamation, and members had the chance to speak at the acceptance ceremony—sharing firsthand how our community rises, connects, and makes an impact. From **picnics in the park to museum adventures**, from tacos out with friends to lively community celebrations like **Peace Day**, Main Street members are rising into every corner of our city.

Want to join the fun? Keep an eye out—you never know where we'll pop up next!

Main Street's 5-Year Fest

Nearly 250 people gathered to celebrate!



Main Street's 5-Year Fest was nothing short of extraordinary! Nearly **250 people gathered** to celebrate not only a milestone but a movement—five years of rising up together in **resilience, inclusion, strength, empowerment, unity, and progress**. The air was filled with joy, gratitude, and pride as our community reflected on how far we've come and dreamed about the future we'll build together.

DJ Aaron kept the party going with high-energy tunes, while guests enjoyed local brews, refreshing non-alcoholic drinks, and the kind of **good vibes** that only Main Street can deliver. Throughout the night, we took time to honor the incredible people who have made this journey possible—visionaries, supporters, and community builders who turned a dream into a thriving reality.

The anniversary was a reminder that Main Street is more than just a place—it's a living, breathing example of what happens when people believe in something bigger than themselves. To our longtime supporters and those just discovering Main Street, thank you. Your belief, energy, and love fuel our movement and ensure that the **next five years will shine even brighter**.



We celebrate the people who help our community rise—leaders, neighbors, and champions whose impact shines throughout Main Street.



★ Champion ★

Lt. Javier Baquero, Ret. Officer Joe Lowery,
and Cpl. Ronnie Crowe



★ Rising Star ★

Elle Baskin and Kathy Juda
(pictured with Maddie Baskin)



★ Heart of Main Street ★

Ilene Weiss
(pictured with Heather Weiss)



★ Visionary Trailblazer ★

John Bogasky
(pictured with John Bogasky III)



★ Cornerstone ★

Patricia Trissler and
Axel Montoya Reyes



★ Guiding Light and Inspiration ★

Jeni Stepanek

Listen
to Mama
Peace's
Poem



“Nick has been living at Main Street since 2021. Moving into his own apartment changed his life and ours. Nick is a guy who thrives on connections, and Main Street has provided these for him, not only through its own fabulous programming, but through the many ideas about additional activities and organizations Nick gets from other Main Street members. As for me, my life has been enriched by the amazing parents I’ve met through Main Street. It’s not easy parenting an adult child with disabilities, and I feel less alone and better resourced through my connections with other Main Street families. Whether or not your adult child lives at Main Street, you can be part of the MS Community. Come join us!”

–Ellen Jennings, Main Street Member and Parent





Together, we are rising— one swing, one connection, one act of inclusion at a time!

Our **6th Annual Golf Outing** proved once again that Main Street magic extends far beyond our building—it shines out on the greens too! What began as a dream has grown into a **movement of inclusion** and connection, and this year's outing showed exactly what that looks like in action.

On September 15th, 236 golfers, 60 volunteers, 23 vendors, and 127 sponsors and donors came together for a day of competition, camaraderie, and community impact. But the true highlight was watching **Spencer**, a Main Street resident, become the first to play in our outing—and he didn't just participate, **he won the Closest to the Pin competition!** Spencer's achievement reminded us all that everyone deserves the chance to participate, to belong, and to shine.

THIS YEAR'S **GOLF OUTING** BROUGHT TOGETHER:

236
GOLFERS

60
VOLUNTEERS

23
VENDORS

127
SPONSORS
& DONORS

Golf
Outing



“It was wonderful to see so many people learning, engaging, and enjoying themselves.”

- Ryan McNulty,
Exhibitor with
The Arc of Northern VA





What happens when...

What happens when you close off Monroe Place, roll in emergency vehicles, add music, food, and a whole lot of fun? You get Main Street's very first **Neighborhood Safety Day**—a spectacular celebration of learning, connection, and community spirit!

Together with the City of Rockville Police Department, we welcomed more than 250 attendees, joined by over 30 exhibitors and first responder units, 22 enthusiastic volunteers, and 3 generous sponsors. From **mock traffic stops** and **pedestrian safety walks** to **bike demonstrations** and a **crowd-favorite police dog**, the day was filled with interactive ways to learn about staying safe. Everyone loved the **face painting**, DJ Matt kept the energy high, and everyone enjoyed treats from **Clayboy's Shave Ice** and food trucks parked right outside.

The event wasn't just about safety—it was about rising up for one another in our community. We learned, laughed, and built connections that make our community stronger and safer for all. Thanks to our partners, sponsors, and every person who joined us, Neighborhood Safety Day was an unforgettable success. And yes—there's already talk of making it an annual tradition!



“He’s getting to experience life in a way that I didn’t know was necessarily possible, and I think it will continue to push him to be more and more independent which is what we always have hoped for, what most of us hope for.”

—Jeninne, parent

At Main Street, rising forward means...

At Main Street, rising forward means expanding opportunities and building pathways for independence, inclusion, and lifelong growth. This year, we proudly launched a groundbreaking partnership with the **University of Maryland’s TerpsEXCEED program**—a transformative college experience for students with intellectual disabilities.

Together, we’re piloting a unique **+1 transitional year for program** graduates. Through this partnership, alumni now have the chance to live at the brand-new affordable **Flats at College Park** apartments. UMD graduate students provide weekly coaching and lead practical workshops on topics like safety, meal planning, and navigating public transportation—empowering participants with skills for daily living.

And in true Main Street fashion, the learning goes both ways. **Nicol**, who has lived at Main Street for five years, stepped in as a peer leader—sharing how he manages his weekly meals, plans menus, shops for groceries, and keeps himself organized. His leadership gave our Plus One participants real-life examples of independence in action.



UMD
Partnership



Your generosity fuels resilience, inclusion and change.

Donations from 11/1/24-10/31/25

\$25,000-\$99,999

Stacy & H.J. Brody
Jillian & Scott Copeland
Jen & Vito Dragone
EagleBank
RST Development, LLC
Terrapin Development
Company

\$10,000-\$24,999

ANONYMOUS
Atlantic Union Bank
Susie & Michael Barnello
CAPREIT
CBG Building Company
City of Rockville
Ann & Robert Copeland
Foundation Housing
Debbie & Gary Friedlander
Shelly & Joseph Galli
Glickfield Family Foundation
Jill & Robert Granader
Hawkins Electric Service, Inc.
Hercules Fence
Sari Hornstein
Chuck Irish
Jefferson Apartment
Group, LLC
Patrice King Brickman Family
Jodi & Jay Klebanoff
& Family
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Architecture Studio
Ronald & Joy Paul Family
Foundation
Laurie & John Schwan
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Corporation
VIKA Maryland, LLC
Wealthspire Advisors
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Company
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\$5,000-\$9,999

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Asset Living
Dr. Lawrence Bennett
& Joe Obermeier
Beveridge Family
Melissa & Al Blount
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Bubes Family Foundation
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CRES Inc. | Commercial Real
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Family Foundation
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Payne Capital, Inc.
Janette & David Pepper
Norma & Russ Ramsey
Roadside Development, LLC

RPM Construction Corp.
Lauren & Gene Sachs
Silver Foundation, Inc.
Rachel & Thomas Sullivan
Telligent Masonry, LLC
The Bernstein Companies
Tommy Raskin Memorial Fund
for People and Animals
Tribalco, LLC
VWG Wealth Management
Veronika & Pierce Walmsley
Nancy & Mark Weinberger
Leslie Train Westreich
Andrea Santman
& Howard Wiener
Wilkes Artis, Chartered

\$1,000-\$4,999

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PC | Dr. Glenn Sandler
Gail & Keith Allen
Stephanie & Keith Anderson
ANONYMOUS
Lisa Benjamin
Bernstein Family Foundation
Nancy & Lanny Breuer
Dan Brigati
Lisa & Steve Bryer
Burke Family
Cardinal Civil Contracting
Michelle & Michael Citren
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Closet Interiors Plus, Inc.
Abby Orlansky & Jack
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 Justin Valenti



The Bean Bag is open!

After years of serving the community with smiles, delicious treats, and a warm gathering space, **Soulfull Café** left a beautiful legacy at Main Street. And now, that legacy is rising into something new. In November we announced our partnership with The Bean Bag Deli & Catering Co.—expanding offerings and hours in a new café venture: **The Bean Bag at Main Street!**

Check out the expanded menu of iced **lattes**, signature **sandwiches**, made-to-order **salads**, fresh **soups** (yes, including **Maryland crab!**), a **hot dog bar**, and rotating flavors of freshly baked **cookies**.

Even more meaningful than the menu is the mission behind it. **Owner Mitchell Wool** is deeply committed to inclusive employment and is excited to **hire people of all abilities**, build leadership skills, and collaborate with Main Street’s existing team to model what inclusive workplaces can be. “We want to create an environment where the people of Main Street feel welcome at The Bean Bag,” Mitchell says. “We’re all about the community.”

With great food, a beautiful gathering space, and a shared commitment to inclusion, The Bean Bag at Main Street is rising into a new era—one cookie, one cup of coffee, and one connection at a time.



Here are 5 easy ways to get involved, connect and make a difference:

Become a Member

Programs, workshops, outings, fitness classes, social events—there's something for everyone. Membership is open to residents and the wider community, with multiple levels to choose from.

**Rise through connection,
friendship, and belonging.**

Try a Program or Event

Check out our calendar and jump in! From Friday Vibes to Food for Thought, art workshops to yoga, our programs build confidence, community, and joy.

**Rise through creativity,
learning, and fun.**

Donate

Your generosity fuels affordability, accessibility, and community connection. Rise through impact and kindness.

**Let's keep rising
—together.**

Host an Event or Rent a Space

From meetings to family celebrations, our beautiful spaces—including Poppy

Boy's Kitchen and our classroom (Mattie's Peace Room)—are available to rent.

**Rise together in spaces
that welcome all.**

Volunteer With Us

Our volunteers cheer, support, and help our community shine. Whether it's once a month or once a week, your time makes a difference.

**Rise with us through service
and friendship.**

**Visit mainstreetconnect.org
or stop by in person to get started!**

