

Services

In 2007, Gaithersburg HELP lived up to its motto of “Neighbor HELPing Neighbor.” We helped more neighbors than in any previous year, providing infant needs to 40% more families, food to 10% more families, and prescription assistance to 6% more individuals. Transportation was the only area where we saw a decrease, probably due to shortage of volunteers who are able to provide daytime rides to clients.

Our goal is to provide emergency services, and the numbers show that we achieved that. In the food area, 63% of families were served only one or 2 times during the year, and 22% of our clients were new.

Service Numbers for 2007

Food:	
Families served	2,657
Persons served	10,462
Children served	5,087
Infant Needs:	
Families served	669
Babies/Diapers	871
Babies/Formula	192
Prescriptions:	
Persons served	448
Transportation:	
Rides provided	451

Finances

2007 Financial Summary

Income***	Expenses***
\$185,733	\$205,364
34% Campaigns*	52% Food
18% Local Events**	19% Client Rent/Util
14% Congregations	17% Prescriptions
14% Government	3% Transportation
11% Individuals & Businesses	3% Infant Needs
8% Foundations	2% Other Needs
1% Other	4% Mgmt/Gen

*Workplace campaigns, such as United Way & Combined Federal Campaign

**Primarily the Homeless Walkathon

***Not including estimated donated goods

HELP operated at a net loss of \$19,631 due to the significant increase in numbers of clients in need. Client rent and utilities accounted for about \$9,000 of that increase, with other increases spread across the various service areas. Fortunately we received an estimated \$50,300 in donated goods, mostly food, which kept our net loss from being even greater. Financial reserves were sufficient to cover the loss.

HELP instituted an Alternate Giving program in 2007, where donations can be made to HELP in someone’s name. Gift cards are available through our website as well as some congregations. We saw a 73% increase in individual donations at year end, as compared to the previous year.

Operations

Due to the dedication of about 120 families, Gaithersburg HELP is able to operate as a 100% volunteer organization. Money that might be used for paid staff instead goes directly to client services. We deeply appreciate our loyal volunteers who make this possible. Each day a Translator, Food Coordinator, Pantry Worker team, Infant Needs, Rx/Financial and Transportation volunteers are scheduled to work with our clients. In addition, a host of other volunteers work behind the scenes on tasks needed to run an organization: stocking shelves, maintaining our website, sending out mailings, etc. Recruitment of volunteers is an ongoing activity.

Many groups organized food drives throughout the year. We are increasingly dependent on these food drives to provide food to our expanding client base.

A major activity in recent years has been participation in the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walk and Mini-Walks. 2007 saw our highest ever participation with over 1,000 walkers, which included participants in our First Annual Community Walk at the Washingtonian Center

HELP created a new bilingual brochure for outreach to clients, and a video for outreach to congregations and organizations.

Board of Directors

December 2007

Our governing structure includes an Executive Committee consisting of elected officers and program leaders. The committee meets monthly to evaluate operations and resolve problems. The Board of Directors includes the Executive Committee and delegates from each of the member congregations. The Board elects officers, approves the budget and sets operating policy.

Special thanks to:

St Luke's Lutheran and **St Francis of Assisi**, our newest member congregations
The Washingtonian Center for partnering with us on a Community Walk



Annual Report 2007

GAITHERSBURG HELP, Inc

431 N Frederick Ave

Suite 105

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Phone: 301-216-2510

Fax: 301-977-3212

Email: GaithersburgHELP@yahoo.com

Visit us on the Web

www.GaithersburgHELP.org

United Way Combined Federal Campaign

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United Way

