



Neighbor Helping Neighbor

2016 Year in Review

It has been another busy, successful year for Gaithersburg HELP. You may have noticed that we have a new logo! We thought it was time for an upgrade and are very happy with this new, modern look. The integrity of our original logo remains intact – and, of course, the same mission continues to propel us forward. We are all neighbors, helping our fellow neighbors in the Gaithersburg and Montgomery Village communities!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME, CLARK ROBINSON & MARY GRAY!



Gaithersburg HELP welcomes two new officers to our organization – Clark Robinson, Pastor of Worship and Missions at Pathways Baptist Church, as President and Mary Gray, Senior Accountant at DeLeon & Stang, as Treasurer. Due to an increase in commitments outside of HELP, our former President, Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence of Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church, and former Treasurer, Eddie Heppes of DeLeon & Stang, felt it necessary to step down.

On behalf of all HELP's volunteers and supporters, we sincerely thank them both for their dedicated service! And we are looking forward to working with Clark and Mary, well into the future. Thank you both for answering the call and stepping into these vital leadership roles!

FAREWELL TO INGE HARMON

HELP bids adieu to **Inge Harmon**, Spanish Translator Coordinator for over 20 years! Inge handled the scheduling of all translators, trained new translators and often took calls herself, to cover any holes in the schedule. Inge moved on from HELP to join her husband in Colombia. We wish her "Godspeed" and all the best in her new home!

HOST A FOOD DRIVE!



Whether you're looking for SSL hours or simply hoping to make a contribution to your community, this is the perfect time to host a food drive to support HELP's pantry! HELP has easy, portable Food Drive Kits

that can be delivered to/picked up from your school or place of business. We can help you plan and organize a successful drive that will benefit residents in need throughout Gaithersburg and Montgomery Village. Click the following links for more details about [How to Hold a Food Drive](#) and [Food Items Currently Needed](#).

THANK YOU, HELP VOLUNTEERS!

GIANT FOOD DRIVE

On January 17th & 18th, HELP participated in a food drive at the Flower Hill Way Giant located in Gaithersburg. As always, Giant food shoppers contributed generously. Donations weighed in at roughly 900 lbs. of food! HELP truly benefitted from an



enthusiastic group of volunteers, of all ages. Many students, who were able to accrue necessary SSL hours, made the transport of heavy food bags MUCH easier.

(Pictured: Volunteer, Amy Allnutt, weighing food at the HELP pantry with her son, Jack.)

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

On May 14th, HELP supported the annual USPS food drive by sorting through hundreds of pounds of donated items brought to the Firstfield Road Post Office. HELP



benefits from this event every year and continues to be extremely grateful to the USPS employees. They do the hard work of retrieving donations from their routes, loading them onto trucks and deliver them to our pantry, helping our volunteers to unload and stack them. More than a hundred bins and countless bags of food were collected. We simply could not accomplish this task without the dedication of time from our amazing volunteers – and the strength provided by our younger volunteers and students!

(Pictured: The Spector brothers, stacking food at the HELP pantry.)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

An important part of the work that our volunteers do is getting out into the community and spreading the word about our programs, along with volunteer opportunities, fundraising and other ways to get involved with/support Gaithersburg HELP. Here's a look at a couple of our most impactful efforts in 2016.



The **Active Aging Expo** took place at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park on May 2nd. Volunteers had a chance to engage retired attendees, who might be looking to get more involved in nonprofit work.

(Pictured: Volunteer, Janet Neumann, speaks with an interested party.)



On June 12th, we had a great opportunity to introduce HELP to a diverse audience attending the 34th annual **Celebrate! Gaithersburg Festival** in Olde Town Gaithersburg. It was a beautiful day and our volunteers worked in shifts to interact with passersby, young and old, alike.

(Pictured: Volunteers, Janet Neumann & Hope Walker conversing and handing out HELP-branded gadget-man keychains.)

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING UPDATES

NCC CONCERT



On the evening of Saturday, March 19th, the National Christian Choir gave a rousing performance of selections from their latest album, *Faithful*. The sale of tickets and silent auction items from the evening resulted in thousands of dollars raised to support Gaithersburg HELP programs. We are so grateful to our friends at the [National Christian Choir](#) and [Pathways Baptist Church](#), for the donation of their resources, talent and time! Big thanks also go out to the individuals and businesses who contributed goods and services to our successful silent auction.

DOGFISH HEAD ALEHOUSE DINE-OUT



THANK YOU to everyone who participated - whether donating goods, donating your time or planning to dine with family, friends at the restaurant. It was great to see so many of you there! The event was, once again, a great success! We received a donation just over \$2,000 from the restaurant (15% of sales from the day) and we raised \$500 from the silent auction.

DON JORGE DINE-OUT



HELP extends our gratitude to all who stopped by Don Jorge's on June 13th – and to Don Jorge, himself! We had a great turnout and the restaurant owner was very pleased to partner with Gaithersburg HELP, donating more than \$500 to support our programs.

GAITHERSBURG HOLIDAY GIVING

Gaithersburg HELP is proud to be a partner in the City of Gaithersburg's Holiday Giving Program. It was another successful year with the hard work of numerous volunteers. Donations helped local families in need who are referred by schools, social service agencies and partnering nonprofits. This year the Thanksgiving Program served 655 households in the City of Gaithersburg. They were provided with the supplies to make a Thanksgiving dinner. The Christmas Program served 770 households which included 1662 children. Families were given books, toys, games as well as other items. Planning is already underway for the 2017 Giving Program which Gaithersburg HELP will once again participate in.

MOCO INTERFAITH 5K



Thanks to the organization efforts of our friends at Shaare Torah Jewish Community, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and the Islamic Society of the Washington Area (ISWA), the first-ever Interfaith 5K Walk & Run event was a success! Held on September 5th at the Maryland Soccerplex, donated food items and \$5,000 in funds raised were generously delivered to Gaithersburg HELP. We appreciate your partnership & support very much!

GRANTS RECEIVED

Gaithersburg HELP relies on the ongoing support of individuals AND organizations. A large portion of monies raised come from city, county and state grants. We also actively pursue funding from corporations and foundations. Here are a few highlights from recent awards we received:

\$1,000 award (General Use)

\$10,000 award (Pantry)

\$5,000 award (Transportation)

\$16,800 award (Pantry & Rx)

EXCITING PROGRAM NEWS

COMMUNITY FOOD RESCUE



Gaithersburg HELP has committed to supporting the countywide initiative known as Community Food Rescue. The program is dedicated to minimizing food waste and to redirecting

useable food to those in need. This offers a considerable benefit to our clients, providing access to a wider range of foods, including more nutritious and wholesome options. Learn more here - www.communityfoodrescue.org.

During the past year, our clients have benefited from donations of sandwiches, trays of prepared meals, breads, and fresh produce. This is an important service that we hope to keep going! To do so, we need to build a corps of food runners, who would be able to drive to the donor source, pick up the food and then transport it to the HELP pantry. If you would like to learn more about this opportunity, please email our volunteer coordinator at patty.bronson@gaitersburghelp.org.

COMPANY MATCHING & FOUNDATION GRANTS

Many companies offer to match an employee's donation, for eligible nonprofits. Your donation of \$50 could easily become \$100! If you have not



already done so, we would greatly appreciate your consideration and investigation of such opportunities, along with any relevant foundation grants that may be offered. HELP was recently awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Allstate Foundation, based on an employee-sponsored application (THANK YOU, again, to our devoted volunteer, Doris Banegas!) Should you have any questions regarding this process, please reach out to our Fundraising Chair, Jacquie Bayer at jacquie.bayer@gaitersburghelp.org.

RIDESCHEDULER FOR TRANSPORTATION



In February 2016, the Transportation team transitioned over to the RideScheduler database, which makes managing requests easier and saves time when scheduling drivers. Drivers can login to their account and accept ride requests themselves. RideScheduler is provided free of charge by the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA) VillageRides program, which is funded by grants to support transportation for seniors and adults with disabilities.

The use of RideScheduler has helped us schedule more drivers than taxis and reduce our taxi costs. These savings have allowed us to increase our taxi range to 10 miles without exceeding our budget. We have also started to enforce the 48-business-hour notice requirement for ride requests. Since the adoption of RideScheduler, we have noticed a reduction in these late requests, and more clients are providing a week or more notice. Overall, feedback from Transportation program volunteers has been very positive and the team is looking forward to continued improvements in 2017.



OPEN VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- Food Coordinators
- Food Runners
- Grants Coordinator
- Grant Writers
- Recording Secretary
- Transportation Drivers
- Transportation Schedulers

GAITHERSBURG HELP ~ 2017 CALENDAR

Check the [FULL CALENDAR](#) for the most up-to-date information!

February 10 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
March 10 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
March 28th	HELP Board of Directors Meeting – 7 pm to 8:30 pm @ Pathways Baptist Church
April 7 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
April 23rd	HELP Volunteer Appreciation Event – SAVE THE DATE (details to come!)
April 23 rd – 29 th	NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
May 8 th	<i>Active Aging Expo – 9 am to 2 pm @ The Activity Center @ Bohrer Park</i>
May 12 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
May 23rd	HELP Board of Directors Meeting – 7 pm to 8:30 pm @ Pathways Baptist Church
June 9 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
June 11 th	<i>Celebrate! Gaithersburg – 12 pm to 5 pm @ Olde Town Gaithersburg</i>
July 14 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
July 25th	HELP Board of Directors Meeting – 7pm to 8:30 pm @ Pathways Baptist Church
August 11 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
September 1 st – 30 th	HUNGER ACTION MONTH
September 8 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
September 26th	HELP Board of Directors Meeting – 7pm to 8:30 pm @ Pathways Baptist Church
October 8 th	<i>Kentlands Oktoberfest – 12 pm to 5 pm @ The Kentlands</i>
October 13 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
November 10 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church
November 28th	HELP Board of Directors Meeting – 7pm to 8:30 pm @ Pathways Baptist Church
December 8 th	Executive Committee Meeting – 9:30 am to 11 am @ Pathways Baptist Church

Stay on top of Gaithersburg HELP news!
 Visit our website - gaithersburghelp.org



Gaithersburg HELP depends on donations from individuals. Workplace campaigns are an easy way to give. Please consider designating Gaithersburg HELP to receive a portion of your **United Way**, **CFC**, or other campaign contributions. **JustGive** is available at any time for your gift.

