

Gaithersburg HELP News

Fall 2014

Visit us at: www.GaithersburgHELP.org



Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk

Saturday, September 20

Our #1 Fundraiser! Gaithersburg HELP invites you to join us for the 3rd Annual Neighbor Helping Neighbor Fun Run & Walk! The event will be held on **Saturday, September 20 at Bohrer Park from 1 pm to 4 pm** (Runners Start is 1 pm; Walkers may walk anytime between 1:30 pm and 4 pm).

This year's event will also feature exciting activities and games—with prizes! We hope you will join us, make a pledge and help raise funds for Gaithersburg HELP's food pantry and other programs benefiting local residents.

We encourage everyone to gather your family, friends and colleagues to form a team. Show your Gaithersburg Spirit by wearing your company/ school/team colors or design a

special t-shirt in honor of September being Hunger Action Month! Registration is now open (visit our website at www.gaithersburghelp.org for more info) - Registration for Adults is \$20, Registration for Children (12 and under) is \$10.

Please feel free to reach out to our Walk Chair, Jacquie Bayer, with any questions at jacquie.bayer@gaitersburghelp.org. For those unable to participate in the walk, you may also make a non-participant donation on the registration page.

We are also seeking volunteers to help run activities and games during the event. Please reach out to Jacquie, if you are interested.

We hope to see you there!

Neighbor Helping Neighbor 3rd Annual Fun Run and Walk 09/20/2014



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.

Donate Online via
JustGive.org

From the Executive Director

Our Tribute Issue

I have struggled a bit on how to introduce this newsletter. As you hear in each issue, Gaithersburg HELP is an amazing organization with over 45 years of demonstrated service to the community based entirely on volunteer work and donations (of funds and supplies). It has grown from a few dedicated workers in a few congregations to a wonderful network of organized programs and volunteers from all around the community. You will read about two of our stars (see column to the right) who have moved on to other good work. Both **Msgr. Ralph Kuehner** and **Ralph Bunge** have witnessed much of our growth and have helped shepherd us to where we are today. We are grateful for the energy, dedication, and leadership they have provided.

Their departures give us the opportunity to reflect and be grateful, but also to review and renew the way we operate. New faces have joined our effort and we are putting in place a team of grant writers and reporters. Our online volunteer application is paying off with more activity, infant needs are now supplied 5 days a week, fresh milk as well as “recovered food” (more about that in another newsletter) is coming to the pantry for clients, “sign-up genius” is now used to recruit for many volunteer needs, and another awesome NHN walk is coming as part of the September focus food needs both here and around the country.

We bid both Ralps a fond farewell and welcome lots of new activity and new volunteers.

Until next time –

*Linda Hanson
Executive Director*

Two Happy Bits

- We've received many compliments on our web site!
- Our new on-line volunteer application is working very well. A great applicant sent in a form the same day it was posted!



Two Key Volunteers Have Retired

Gaithersburg HELP has benefited from the services of two dedicated individuals for a combined total of over 30 years.

Father Ralph Kuehner and **Ralph Bunge** (not pictured) have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the less fortunate in our society.



After supporting HELP for many years at St. Francis of Assisi, Father Kuehner has served as the vice president of HELP since 2006. He was instrumental in acquiring funds to assist with the move of the Gaithersburg Pantry to its new location. He has always, with a smile on his face, said, “Well, let me see if I can make some contacts” when funds have been needed to improve the services provided for clients. In addition to the assistance Father has provided to HELP, his outreach has been tremendous to others over the years. He was a major player in the organization of So Others May Eat (SOME), the Interfaith Council, and Action in Montgomery (AIM). His accomplishments have been noted by the numerous awards he has received over the years: Washingtonian of the Year by Washingtonian Magazine; Kennedy Institute’s Community Leadership Award; Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame to name a few.

Ralph Bunge started his service with Gaithersburg HELP delivering food to clients when HELP was located at the Epworth United Methodist Church in the late 1980’s. He also served as a food coordinator taking calls from clients to assist them with their visit to the pantry. Never one to shy from meeting a challenge, Ralph became an Executive board member and the chief grant writer. As a grant writer, Ralph has been instrumental in bringing major donations to HELP to continue our mission. However, Gaithersburg HELP has not been the only contribution to improve the lives of others. He and his wife, Paula, have been the backbone of Gaithersburg City’s Holiday Giving Program. Because of their hundreds of hours of work to make the Giving Program a success, Ralph and Paula were awarded the Distinguished Friend of Gaithersburg Award in 2012.

Father Kuehner and Ralph have retired from serving Gaithersburg HELP: Father for much

(please see next page)

needed rest and Ralph to Colorado to be closer to family (and skiing). You have served as models for recognizing that while much has been accomplished to help those in need, there is much to be done. We will miss you both tremendously. We wish you well.

—Leona O'Reilly

Do More 24™ Results for June 19

The *Give Where You Live* 24-hour online day of giving, powered by United Way NCA, helped to raise **\$2,072.00** for Gaithersburg HELP!

The Do More 24 campaign was a huge success, thanks to generous donors like you. Your help enables us to feed families, provide infant essentials, such as diapers and formula, and support our prescription and transportation assistance programs.

Do More 24™ is a local movement that brings together nonprofit organizations, companies, and people committed to making a difference.



Client Transportation Program

The Client Transportation program is in need of volunteer drivers to take someone who is elderly or unable to take public transportation to and from a doctor or service agency appointment. Since August 2013 we have doubled the number of transportation clients on record (from 130 to 260), however we have had a net increase of 0 drivers.

Most assignments take about 2-3 hours, two or more times per month. Driving distances are within a 10 mile radius of downtown Gaithersburg (Gaithersburg, Germantown, Rockville) with an occasional trip within a 20 mile range (Olney, Bethesda, Chevy Chase).



Note: You must be 21 or older with an active driver's license and an owner-insured vehicle.

Join our team of caring volunteers to improve access to medical care and increase peace of mind for our neighbors in need. Use the Volunteer Application form at gaithersburghelp.org/volunteer-application and select the "Driver-Client Transportation" volunteer position.

Gaithersburg HELP is "In the Cloud!"

Yes, we know it's just the Internet, but when people mention "the cloud" folks tend to stop listening because it sounds so confusing. What does it really mean?



Cloud computing uses a network of remote servers to store, manage, share, and process data, rather than on a local server.

This means you don't have to worry about whether your information is safe. It means you can access your files from anywhere. It means you have backups so nothing is ever lost.

Starting in 2013, the IT team implemented Google Apps to improve communication, collaboration, and centralized document storage. The new website also uses a Content Management System (CMS) that allows for a dynamic update and presentation of information that is most desired for community viewers. Our user-friendly administrative interface helps us quickly add and change content. Our events are synchronized with our Google public calendar!

Our technology team is growing with a number of volunteer IT professionals! We continue to meet quarterly and improve the processes available to us as a non-profit.

—Paul Jones



Like us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Service Numbers Comparison

(January to June)

	2013	2014	Change
Food			
Food Packages Distributed	1,707	2,095	Up 23%
Persons Served	6,892	8,685	Up 26%
Children Served	3,015	3,775	Up 25%
Prescriptions			
Persons Served	175	135	Down 23%
Number of Prescriptions	421	293	Down 21%
Diapers & Formula			
Families Served	454	638	Up 41%
Transportation			
Rides Provided	401	445	Up 11%

Public Service Announcement Video

Thanks to the team at Montgomery County Media, Gaithersburg HELP now has a wonderful [Public Service Announcement video](#) to help spread the word about our organization and cause!

The PSA shoot took place at the First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg on Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4. Enormous thanks go out to **Angelee Mullins** for coordinating and running the shoot and post-production!



We were able to capture interviews from a variety of volunteers, as well as a client, the Mayor and our own Executive Director, **Linda Hanson**. Many thanks go out to all of the volunteers who appeared on camera for interviews and action shots: **Jack Bell, Andrew and Theresa Bove, Mike Dellomo, Mariela Diaz-Butler, Joann Eastlack, Ginny Everstine, Mike Fandey, Linda Hanson, Father Ralph Kuehner, Winnie Leiendecker, Anne May, Bob Murphy, Suzanne Price, Eunice White and Dave Willis**.

The short version of the PSA video can now be seen on our website. A longer version of the PSA, as well as snippets from each interview, will be shared on our website at a later date.

—Jacquie Bayer
Fundraising Committee Chair



Dave Lechner (left) of the North Creek Swim Club with Assistant Executive Director, Steve Garvey

News From the Pantry and Infant Needs Program

- We now provide fresh milk to our clients. They tell us they are very happy to receive it!
- Nourish Now donates prepared food, broadening our offerings to clients.
- Diapers are now being distributed five days a week instead of three. This provides flexibility for our clients and lightens the load a little for our volunteers.
- 12 ounce cans of powdered Similac Advance is needed more than any other item right now. Donations always appreciated!

Thank you Seneca Creek Community Church!!

A huge summer food drive collected 100 bags to Gaithersburg HELP. Hats off to the Seneca Creek Community Church members!

All food drives are very important and appreciated by HELP, but we get very few in the summer months when demands often rise with kids out of school.



We don't want to forget to THANK our member congregations that have ongoing food collections that are brought in weekly. Every can or box makes a difference in a hungry person's life!

—Janet Neumann



...to our New Volunteers

- New delegate**..... **Ken Prather**, Prince of Peace
- Pantry workers**..... **Jennifer and Jeff Snook, Beth Miller, Kendra Neil, Olivia Evans**
- Volunteer coord asst**..... **Jennifer Snook**
- Administrative** **Dorothy Stewart**
- Infant needs calls**..... **Chandra Kitra**
- IT**..... **Hariku Yennu**
- Client driver**..... **Zia Tepie**
- Financial team** **Eddie Heppes**
- Grant-writing team** **Junaid Siddiqui**

Open Volunteer Positions

- Monthly pantry cleaning, evening or weekend; small group
- Work-From-Home people
- Infant Needs phone line, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesdays or Thursdays
- Spanish translators, mornings, 2 to 3 times per month
- Client drivers, daytime hours

Leadership positions

- Administrative Assistant
- Assistant Executive Director
- Food Coordinator
- Food Drive Coordinator
- IT Director
- Transportation Program Director
- For a current pantry volunteer—coordinate and supervise pantry work for small groups of adult volunteers from community services organizations

Grant Writing Coordinator Opening

Does this volunteer opportunity interest you?

Duties:

- Supervises and assigns duties to a team of grant writers
- Responsible for the yearly grant applications to the City of Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, State of Maryland MEFP program
- Ensures that proper billing and reporting is provided for each of these grants/contracts
- Works with the Fundraising Committee and the Executive Committee to research additional grant opportunities and prepare grant applications that appear promising
- Work may be completed at home; must have computer and Internet access
- Knowledge of grant writing preferable

—Patty Bronson

Thank You, Volunteers!

On Sunday, May 18, we celebrated the hard work and dedication of all Gaithersburg HELP volunteers with our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic at Bohrer Park. We had a great turn-out, though those who were unable to attend were missed! Attendees enjoyed a lunch buffet from Chipotle and the unique opportunity to spend the afternoon meeting and interacting with fellow volunteers. It is our hope to make this an annual event. The next Volunteer Appreciation Picnic will likely be a Pot Luck style event in the Spring or Fall of 2015.

—Jacquie Bayer
Fundraising Committee Chair



Calendar of Upcoming Events

See website for [latest updates](#).

Sep 12 Executive Committee Meeting

Sep 20 Neighbor Helping Neighbor Walk

Sep 23 Board of Directors Meeting

Oct 10 Executive Committee Meeting

Nov 11 Executive Committee Meeting

Nov 13 Homeless Resource Day

Dec 12 Executive Committee Meeting

Jan 9 Executive Committee Meeting

Jan 27 Board of Directors Meeting

Feb 13 Executive Committee Meeting

Mar 24 Board of Directors Meeting

Apr 10 Executive Committee Meeting

Note: Executive Committee and Board of Director's Meetings are held at Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church.



20878 Postal Workers Have Outdone Themselves!

Postal workers in the 20878 zip code collected 223 postal bins of food for HELP! This may be a record for their annual drives. Gaithersburg HELP says **thank you** to the postal workers and to our coordinator, Marjorie McClain.



Remember Gaithersburg HELP when designating contributions at your workplace campaigns.