

50
YEARS

Gaithersburg HELP

1968 · Neighbor Helping Neighbor · 2018

1968-1975

1968 - Gaithersburg HELP established by 12 local churches

Food storage at First Baptist Church

Offered emergency aid for clothing, housing food, transportation and referral services

Dues \$25 per year

1969 - Laytonsville and Damascus HELP groups became active

39 families requested food

Created first letterhead 231 rides provided

1970 - Year's budget was \$1,368

1972 - Monthly budget was \$114

Synagogue joined HELP organization

1975 - Opened additional pantry at Flower Hill Way Church of the Brethren

HELP had 56 drivers - 25 regulars and 31 floaters 344 requests for food; 323 rides provided

Maryland est. Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program

1976-1984

1976 - Only 50% of requests fulfilled due to lack of driver volunteers

1977 - Seven teams of volunteers support food program one week at a time

1978 - HELP had 1,782 calls

1979 - 548 food requests; 475 rides completed

Temporary pantry at Asbury Village due to construction at First Baptist

1980 - Capital Area Food Bank opens

1981 - Center Market becomes distribution center for HELP

1982 - HELP incorporated on September 9

Pantry moved to Epworth United Methodist Church

Manna Food Center opened

1983 - Average of 82 families a month receive food

1984 - Purchased freezer for Epworth pantry

Evaluated protein content of foods

1985-1989

1985 - Food requests down from previous year

Decided on sheaf of wheat logo for GBH

Assisted in launching Germantown HELP

1986 - Desperate need for additional volunteers

One-hour TV program created on GBH

Lord's Table opened at St. Martins

1987 - Volunteers received Food Stamps training

Disposable diapers replaced cloth

1988 - Gaithersburg mayor

1990-1994

1990 - Mayor and City Council provided old firehouse as temporary storage space

1991 - HELP accepted as designee for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

\$200,000 in food budget

Established contract with Barwood Taxi

Recruited volunteers for Spanish speaking clients

1992 - Received a \$3,000 FEMA grant & \$1,500 from the Lord's Table

Collaborated with Shady Grove Pregnancy Center for diapers and formula

1993 - City of Gaithersburg provided \$2,500 grant for

prescriptions
Developed a 5 year business plan in response to application for a City grant

1994 - Shortage of food coordinators caused shut-down of Friday pantry service

1,246 food deliveries made
Got large bump in funding from CFC & United Way

1995-2000

1995 - Pantry space leased at 431 N Frederick Ave. (Demory Building) in September

Most clients came to the pantry waiting room to pick up food

1996 - Estimate of donated goods and services was \$205,826

1997 - Added American cheese to food list

Switched from answering service to voicemail

1998 - Implemented laptop computer for all food records

Implemented voicemail on April 1st

1999 - Formed partnership with Interfaith Counseling Service

Mayor and City Council recognized HELP as "Outstanding Organization of the Year"

Improved nutrition of food packages by adding more canned fruits and vegetables

2000 - Increased helps for food from 6 to 8 times in 12 months

Added cooking oil and dried beans to address cultural food choices

6,791 persons received food

2001-2007

2001 - Distributed 3-day supply of food to 7,700 persons

Received \$50,000 from United Way

2003 - Gaithersburg HELP website launched, emphasizing "breaking news" items

2004 - Put Rx, diapers and formula programs on computer

2005 - Additional pantry space acquired and used for storage and sorting next door to existing pantry



2006 - HELP approved for County SSL hours

Began to email the monthly roster

Ensured that prescription drug assistance procedures aligned with HIPAA rules

Website used mostly as electronic poster

2007 - Evening pantry limit of 10 families had to be increased

2008-2013

2008 - HELP the Homeless Walkathon raised \$49,522 for HELP

3,537 families receive food, 821 infants served, 457 rides provided

2009 - Work began on a client database project

City changed it's funding basis for nonprofits from grant base to contract base

HELP partnered with Manna for food and Mobile Med for Rx.

2010 - HELP the Homeless Walkathon raised \$60,589 for HELP

2011 - Infant Needs module added to client database

2012 - New pantry leased in the Festival

Shopping Center

Fundraising Committee established

2013 - HELP became official partner of Capital Area Food Bank

Google Drive site launched for document management

Received one-time foundation grant of \$30,000 for pantry move

2014-2018

2014 - Transportation records moved online

In March, the National Christian Choir performed a benefit concert for HELP

2015 - Community Food Rescue System launched in September

2016 - Joined the JCA's Village Rides program, a centralized call center

First year IT included as a budget line item

3,822 families served; 1,206 babies served; 869 rides provided

HELP was beneficiary of first Interfaith 5k Labor Day Run/Walk

2017 - 3,513 families served; 1,182 babies served; 1,048 rides provided

2018 - Redesigned logo for 50th anniversary

QGiv software replaced JustGiving as website link for online donations

Comcast Business Service replaced Verizon for telecommunications and internet services

National Christian Choir scheduled for November benefit

