

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Campaign Participant No. 8473



301-972-8481

www.wumcohelp.org

info@wumcohelp.org

PO Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837

17821 Elgin Rd., Poolesville, MD 20837





MISSION & VALUES

WUMCO's Mission

WUMCO Help seeks to improve the quality of life for the most vulnerable residents of Western Upper Montgomery County by providing them with direct assistance to meet their basic needs, connecting them to other resources, and advocating on their behalf with the goal of helping them achieve and maintain self-sufficiency.

Our Values

WUMCO's guiding values include welcoming everyone in our community with dignity and kindness, being an effective and trusted resource, and working together with our neighbors to strengthen our community.

WUMCO'S HISTORY



Over 55 Years of Service

- **1968** Beulah Harper and Jane and Fred Stearns join forces to provide food and rides to those in need in Western Upper Montgomery County. Poolesville Help, later changed to WUMCO (Western Upper Montgomery County) Help, is born.
- 1986 WUMCO Help, Inc is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS.
- 1993 WUMCO begins providing holiday assistance.
- **1995** WUMCO is a founding member of the Emergency Assistance Coalition, a group of Montgomery County organizations working together to improve services to those in need.
- 2000 A grant is received enabling WUMCO to hire a part time administrative assistant.
- 2015 WUMCO moves from its quarters in Beallsville to a new location in Poolesville.
- 2018 WUMCO celebrates 50 years of service to the community.
- 2022 WUMCO moves to new, larger headquarters in Poolesville.
- 2022 WUMCO receives a grant to address health disparities in our area, hiring a Community Health Manager and holding medical and dental clinics.
- 2023 WUMCO receives a contract with Montgomery County to increase our work to address health disparities. As part of that contract WUMCO hires a bilingual Community Resource Coordinator.
- 2024 ESOL classes are offered as part of WUMCO's services.











Bill McDonald President Chuck Copeland Vice President

Brice Halbrook Treasurer

Jessica Gomez-Koehn

Secretary

Wanda Brown

Valaree Dickerson

Ralph Hitchens

Megan Lane-Cull

Dan Savino

Roy Sutliff

STAFF

Katie Longbrake Executive Director Patricia Brown Assistant Executive Director

Melissa Widenhofer Community Health Manager Ana Paula Bettinger Community Resource Coordinator

Nancy Kasner Bookkeeper

SERVING OUR CLIENTS



WHAT DOES WUMCO DO IN OUR COMMUNITY?

FOOD PANTRY

MEDICAL CLINICS

DENTAL CLINICS

HELP WITH:

RENT OR UTILITY
PAYMENTS

PRESCRIPTIONS AND COPAYS

AUTO REPAIR

RIDES TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

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AND SO MUCH MORE!

How Clients Were Served During 2024

Program	Total Individual Services	Compared to 2023
Housing	44	+29%
Utilities	131	+16%
Medicines and Medical Procedures	197	+38%
Medical Transportation	163	58.25%
*Emergency Food	433 monthly orders	+32%
Automobile Maintenance or Preservation	115	+83%
Thanksgiving	789 individuals	+9%
December Holidays (includes 440 children)	935 individuals	+12%
Primary Health Care Encounters	198	+52%
Dental Health Care Encounters	184	+56%
Total Health/Wellness Interactions	462	+10%

EMERGENCY FOOD



WUMCO maintains a food pantry, providing non-perishable, fresh and frozen foods to needy people. For the first time in our history, WUMCO purchased food for our pantry in 2024 as demand was so much higher than previous years. However, the vast majority of our food is still donated directly from the community! Special thanks to Drs. Pike and Valega, who have a 24/7 WUMCO food drop box in their parking lot.

2024 Pantry facts:

• Pounds donated: 61,167

Pounds distributed to WUMCO clients: 59,356

 Pounds donated to other area food providers: 4,975

• Pounds wasted*: 305

*Mainly due to expiration dates at time of donation





Produce Distribution

- WUMCO distributed over 6300
 pounds of fresh produce during the
 growing season, helping to provide
 fresh, healthy and mostly locally
 grown foods to our clients
- Local growers and farmers donated food to make this effort possible

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



ELECTRIC BILLING STATEMENT

WUMCO assists in financial emergencies involving rent or mortgage, utilities, medical needs, child daycare, car repairs, and other critical expenses. Our procedures for responding to requests for financial help are designed to evaluate and offer the best response. We owe our donors nothing less. To assure that the money goes for its intended purpose, bills are verified with the utility company, property owner, or other payee and payments are made directly to the vendor or service provider.

Limits on Assistance

None of WUMCO's services should be viewed as entitlement programs. The decision to provide assistance, first and foremost, is based on need, without consideration to a client's race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental condition, or political preferences.

Limits are designed to make the best use of our resources to help the greatest number of clients in need. WUMCO staff works to connect clients to other sources of assistance as well as advocates for greater access to services for residents of our area.

The Board of Directors sets limits on expenditures from general funds:

- · Household expenses, \$1000 over any 12-month period.
- · Medical expenses, not to exceed \$1000 for an individual over any 12-month period.
- · One fuel oil/propane delivery per year.

We recognize that these limits must be treated with care and may be exceeded, but only with sufficient justification.

WUMCO staff work to connect clients with other resources as needed.

HOLIDAY GIVING

gifts for the holidays.

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coordinate support for families in our service area through Montgomery County's Holiday Giving Project.
This is done in cooperation with the local firehouse, churches, schools, service clubs, and businesses. In 2024 WUMCO partnered with 21 organizations and individuals to make sure that 193 households (935 individuals, including 440 children) had food and

All toys given to children were donated by our community!



HEALTH ACCESS



In 2024 WUMCO continued to deepen our commitment to providing local access to healthcare within our service area. Since last January, we received a grant award through Healthcare Initiative Foundation (HIF), a contract for funding through the Department of Health and Human Services of Montgomery County, and dental funding from designated donations from community members and foundations. WUMCO partnered with **Care for Your Health**, a nonprofit that provides pop-up clinics to conduct twice monthly low-cost community health clinics. They provided **198 patient encounters**, including in person clinics and telehealth follow up. WUMCO also partnered with **The Mobile Dentist (TMD)** to provide monthly dental clinics, providing **184 visits** in 2024. Through an agreement with TMD, we provided four individuals with discounted dentures, allowing improved nutrition, speech and confidence. Finally, WUMCO co-hosted monthly **wellness** events such as diabetes education and health fair events for **80 residents**. **In all, our healthcare access program provided 462 opportunities to improve health and wellness in our community.**







ESOL (ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE)



In 2024 WUMCO launched an ESOL program to help local residents who want to improve their English language skills. We provided 3 semesters of classes, serving 44 individual students. We offered 4 different levels of instruction, depending on proficiency. The majority of the students were Hispanic, but we also had students from Ukraine, Russia, Hungary and India. Already our program is helping residents on their path to success - one of our students was promoted to a management position in one of our local restaurants, and another student found a job in an auto repair shop in town. Both of them were able to show improvement in their English speaking and felt confident seeking new job opportunities.

TRANSPORTATION

WUMCO provides transportation for medical needs, social services, and local errands. Volunteers, driving their own cars, provide this service. Our Transportation Coordinator manages ride requests from clients. In 2024, **14 volunteer drivers drove 20 clients 163 times, for 5187 miles and 173 hours driven.** <u>Huge thanks</u> go to our transportation volunteers who provide this much needed service!

FUNDRAISING MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN



WUMCO is well supported by our generous community. The 2023-24 Membership campaign brought us 375 new and renewing members and approximately \$185,590 in funding. In addition to helping their neighbors in need, members receive membership cards that make them eligible for discounts or benefits from local businesses through our Business Partnership Program. Member benefits can be found on our website - www.wumcohelp.org/membership.



VOLUNTEERS

It is impossible to quantify the number of people who volunteer their time and talent to WUMCO (surely in the 100's) or to estimate the number of hours they donate (surely in the 1000's) but it is not hard to characterize what it means to the organization. It can be said in a single word...indispensable!

The two areas where we can track volunteer hours are in the pantry and with our drivers. Volunteers weigh, date, and put away food donations and fill clients' food orders. Volunteers also delivered food to clients' doorsteps and brought food from our 24/7 donation box. Pantry volunteers donated over 600 hours of time to WUMCO. Drivers donated over 173 hours of their time. Over 50 volunteers participated in the Holiday Giving Program. Special thanks to Jeff Sypeck, WUMCO Food Coordinator, who arranges food orders for WUMCO clients.

2024 FINANCES (UNAUDITED)

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THANK YOU WUMCG



All gifts to WUMCO Help are fully tax deductible, pursuant to Sec. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as the donor receives no goods or services in exchange.

A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request. Financial statements, including the latest IRS Form 990, are available for inspection at the WUMCO office during normal office hours; we suggest that you make an appointment.

Documents and information submitted by WUMCO under the Charitable Solicitation Act are available, for the cost of copying and postage, from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401 (800-825-4510). Registration with the Secretary of State does not imply endorsement.

> Federal ID 52-1425830

Contact Us

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