

A 110-Year History of Care and Compassion

In 1898, a committee from the Wellesley Hills Woman's Club helped a family left destitute by fire. This group of concerned residents eventually helped form Friendly Aid. In 1909, the Wellesley Friendly Aid Association incorporated as a non-profit, private charitable agency. Today, Friendly Aid is a vital organization managed by an all-volunteer board of directors, funded by the caring people and organizations of Wellesley. As an agency committed to minimizing non-program expenditures, Friendly Aid relies almost exclusively on volunteers.



Mission Statement: Wellesley Friendly Aid Association is a community-based, non-profit organization that works to improve the well-being and quality of life of the residents of Wellesley, Massachusetts. Through our evolving range of programs and services, made available both directly and in collaboration with other organizations and agencies, we offer assistance to Wellesley individuals and families of all incomes and ages who have a variety of unmet needs.

How You Can Help:

In addition to donating to our annual appeal and camp fund, Wellesley residents and businesses contribute time and funds to WFA:

- Shopping on smile.amazon.com
- Utilizing employers' matching funds
- Volunteering to help staff social programs
- Serving on WFA's all-volunteer board or committees
- Sponsoring a store fundraiser
- Holding a car wash to benefit WFA
- Running the Boston Marathon or other athletic events on behalf of WFA



Wellesley Friendly Aid

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Wellesley Friendly Aid is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.

October 2021



Neighbors Helping Neighbors for
Over 100 Years

Providing Services to Wellesley Residents of all Ages in Times of Need

- Financial Aid During Pandemic
- Medical Equipment Loans
- Camp Scholarships
- Mentoring for WHS Students
- Social Activities for Seniors

"Friendly Aid has made a huge difference in my life – especially making a difference between hope and despair. I so appreciate your assistance."



Wellesley Connects Mentoring

WFA Youth Program Offerings



Summer Camp and Educational Programs

WFA is dedicated to giving children of families with limited income an enriching experience at summer camp or a summer academic program. Funded by donations and generous gifts from Wellesley Service League, this program has provided scholarships to generations of Wellesley children since 1942.

Cradles to Crayons

WFA partners with Cradles to Crayons to distribute children's clothing, baby essentials, books, and school supplies to Wellesley children in need.

Wellesley Connects

Working with Wellesley High School, Wellesley Connects bridges the opportunity gap through mentoring and educational support for first-generation juniors and seniors to help make the college and post-secondary planning process a success. All participants in our first two classes were accepted to college.

WFA Program Offerings for Families and Seniors

Emergency and Hardship Assistance

WFA offers financial support in hardship situations, such as the following:

- Uncovered dental and vision expenses
- Car repairs to help people get to work or medical appointments
- Moving expenses to low-income housing
- Grocery gift cards

In addition, the pandemic caused many residents to lose jobs, be assigned fewer work hours, or be required to stay home with children and help with learning remotely. As a result, families faced financial setbacks. WFA assisted by paying for rent and utilities, expenses not usually approved.

Holiday Programs

For more than 100 years, WFA has brightened the holidays of residents in need. WFA distributes over 210 grocery gift cards so residents can purchase groceries for holiday meals.

Social Activities

COVID restrictions limited WFA's ability to sponsor monthly socials for seniors and disabled residents of Wellesley's public housing. To help residents feel less isolated at this time, WFA collaborated with National Charity League, Inc. to deliver gift bags. Once vaccinations were available to all, WFA began hosting social activities again.

Friendship Circle weekly luncheons for senior women restarted in October 2021 after being on hiatus due to the pandemic. The women were thrilled to be together again for this program, which is done in collaboration with Wellesley Service League.



Friendship Circle Concert

Fuel Assistance

WFA helps individuals prepare fuel assistance applications.

Open to All Residents

Medical Equipment

WFA lends wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and other medical equipment to residents at no cost. Over the last three years an annual average of 100 residents borrowed equipment.

English as a Second Language

WFA anticipates providing classroom space to the Wellesley ESL Program once classes return to in-person learning.