

## A 113-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.

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors for  
Over 100 Years

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

- Financial Aid
- 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 Education 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. After two years of COVID restrictions, 48 children were able to enjoy a full camp experience in 2022.

### 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. This program began with the class of 2018 and has continued despite the school disruptions due to the pandemic. Over this period, all participants who applied to college were accepted, many with scholarships.

## 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
- Moving expenses to low-income housing
- Afterschool tuition so a parent can work
- Preschool tuition for immigrant children
- Computer for Wellesley Connects graduate starting college
- Grocery gift cards

### Holiday Programs

For more than 100 years, WFA has brightened the holidays of residents in need. WFA distributes \$50 gift cards to over 250 low-income households so residents can purchase groceries for holiday meals.

### Social Activities for Seniors

When COVID restrictions limited WFA's ability to sponsor monthly socials for seniors and disabled residents of Wellesley's public housing, WFA collaborated with National Charity League, Inc. (NCL) to deliver gift bags to ease residents' isolation. With the easing of restrictions, WFA and NCL are once again hosting ice cream socials and holiday celebrations.

Friendship Circle weekly luncheons for senior women are back on schedule after pandemic interruptions. The women are 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. On average, 100 residents borrow this equipment each year.

#### English as a Second Language

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