

History

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 and healthy 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 (WFA), a community-based, non-profit organization, serves Wellesley residents in need through programs that provide direct service or financial assistance. WFA's wide range of programs helps individuals and families of all incomes and ages having needs that government or other private programs fail to meet. WFA provides services both directly and in collaboration with other organizations and agencies.

How to Help:

In addition to donating in response to our annual appeal and camp fund letters, Wellesley residents and businesses have found many different ways to donate 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 by sharing revenues for an afternoon or evening
- 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 in Need

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

"Many Thank You's to all at Wellesley Friendly Aid... I now have a comfortable wheelchair with working brakes."

"Thank you so much for your thoughtful coupons for the holidays. It is appreciated that you serve the seniors and disabled in such a loving manner!"



Wellesley Connects Mentoring

WFA 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 at a summer academic program. Since 1942, funded by donations and a generous gift from Wellesley Service League, this program has provided financial assistance to an annual average of 66 kids over the last five years.

Cradles to Crayons

WFA partners with Cradles to Crayons to distribute children's clothing, baby essentials, books and school supplies to an annual average of 42 kids over the last five years.

Wellesley Connects

In collaboration 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 of the participants in our first class were accepted to college.

WFA Program Offerings

Emergency and Hardship Assistance

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

- Grocery gift cards
- Car repair to help commuters in need
- Uncovered dental and vision expenses
- Furniture, clothing and household items
- Wheelchairs for disabled residents

Holiday Programs

For more than 100 years, WFA has brightened the holidays of residents in need. Today we distribute over 200 grocery gift cards along with turkeys donated by Roche Bros.



Medical Equipment

WFA lends wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and other medical equipment to residents at no cost. Over the last five years an annual average of 71 residents borrowed equipment.

Fuel Assistance & Food Stamps

WFA serves as an intake site for SMOC and SNAP, assisting individuals with submitting applications for these benefits.

WFA Program Offerings

Social Activities

WFA hosts an array of weekly and monthly events that serve a variety of the town's population:

- Friendship Circle weekly luncheons and programs for senior women in collaboration with Wellesley Service League
- Sunday afternoon programs and refreshments for seniors and the disabled in collaboration with the Wellesley Housing Authority



English as a Second Language

WFA is one of the sponsors of the ESL Program in Wellesley providing books, classroom materials and space for ESL classes that accommodate about 200 students.