MID-COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES (MUM)

ANNUAL REPORT-FISCAL YEAR 2021

(JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 31, 2021)

OUR MISSION

MUM helps people in crisis in the Silver Spring, Wheaton, Kensington, Rockville and Aspen Hill communities with food, medicine, eviction prevention and utilities, emphasizing client choice, problem-solving and self-sufficiency.

Westfield South Tower
7th Floor, Suite 710
11002 Veirs Mill Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902

Website: www.mumhelp.org
Email: office@mumhelp.org

Dewey Reeves, Executive Director

Elizabeth "Betsy" Binckes, President
Derrick Owens, Vice President

Dewey Reeves
Executive Director

Throughout this past year I have had the pleasure of serving so many families facing untold situations during this pandemic regarding food insecurities, threatened evictions, utility interruptions and the need for medical prescriptions. Without the continued and diligent work of our staff, volunteers, partners, friends and Donors, many families would fall short of securing their children and family members with choice nutritional foods.

In 2020, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic threatens the lives and livelihoods of people throughout the world. Decisions are being made that weigh economic cost against the lives of people here in the United States, and no matter the outcome, the most vulnerable members of society are in position to fare the worst.

The individuals who are at highest risk for serious illness associated with COVID-19, including seniors, people with chronic illness, and people of color are, in many cases, the same individuals who are being most adversely affected by the economic recession that began in the spring of 2020.

Throughout the pandemic, MUM has been privileged to help provide individuals and families with needed food through our mobile pantry. This opportunity has been possible thanks to the generosity of donors, Montgomery County Government and the work of Montgomery County Food Council. Montgomery County Food Council is a nonprofit organization/advocacy group that addresses food insecurity and inequity in the county. During the pandemic they, along with Montgomery County Government, have coordinated efforts to provide food where needed throughout the county. Through their efforts, MUM received grants from the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) and Montgomery County Government (Sudano's, and Stanley Foods), allowing us to buy food to provide to our neighbors each Sunday.

Nearly 1 in 4 households have experienced food insecurity this year. Even before the pandemic hit, some 13.7 million households, or 10.5% of all U.S. households, experienced food insecurity at some point during 2019, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That works out to more than 35 million Americans who were either unable to acquire enough food to meet their needs, or uncertain of where their next meal might come from, last year.

For about a third of these households, access to food was so limited that their eating patterns were disrupted, and food intake was reduced. The rest were able to obtain enough food to avoid completely disrupting their eating patterns but had to cope by eating less varied diets or utilizing food assistance programs.

The coronavirus pandemic has only worsened the problem. According to one estimate by researchers at Northwestern University, food insecurity more than doubled as a result of the economic crisis brought on by the outbreak, hitting as many as 23% of households earlier this year.

To friends, partners and donors, please take a moment to reflect and consider these thoughts…

"What more can I do as a friend of this community to support our neighbors" ?
"What can I do as a partner to support the efforts of MUM" ?
"What can I do as a sponsor to increase the efforts of MUM" ?

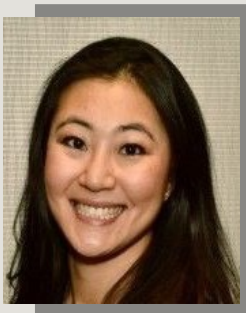
Millions more children are experiencing food insecurity…

Your dollars and contributions make a difference...

MID-COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FY 21

Elizabeth "Betsy" Binckes became Board President after volunteering in the Joseph A. Mattingly Jr. Food Pantry and subsequently joined MUM's Board of Directors six years ago.

Derrick Owens joined MUM's Board of Directors in 2016 and became Vice President in 2017. Derrick regularly helps with MUM's Mobile Pantry and canned food drives.



Tara Z. Kern, DC, CCSP® serves as Treasurer for MUM's Board of Directors since 2019. Dr. Kern relocated to the DMV area from Rochester, NY in 2017.

Marge Higgins joined MUM's Board of Directors and became Secretary in 2020. She retired in early 2019 after a 33-year career with the federal government.

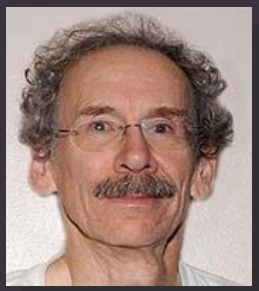
Rosemary "Ro" Clarke joined the MUM Board of Directors in 2017. Professionally, Ro is a projects coordinator, and accounts receivable and payable administrator for Capitol Pool Service, Inc.

Sanita DeBose joined the MUM Board of Directors in 2016. She came with a long and diverse history of community service and volunteering.

Ben Ferrell joined the MUM Board of Directors after he began working with MUM as a volunteer in 2017, working at the mobile food pantry and participating in fundraising events.

William Moore joined the MUM Board of Directors in 2013. Bill lends his expertise and support to a number of organizations including the Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee, where he serves as Secretary.

Abbe Levin joined the MUM Board of Directors in early 2021. Professionally, Abbe continues to work with her family running the legendary Chuck Levin's Washington Music Center, a presence in Montgomery County for over 50 years.



Jules O'Rear, Ph.D., joined MUM's Board of Directors in 2012. Jules moved to the Washington, DC area in 1999 when he accepted a position with the FDA where he works currently as a Supervisory Microbiologist.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

MUM assists clients with:

- eviction prevention, providing financial assistance for rent to individuals and families who have suffered temporary financial setbacks;
- utility cutoff prevention and utility restoration services, giving financial assistance and seeking additional funding from other public agencies to help those who are behind in their utility payments; and
- emergency prescription drug needs, assisting clients to obtain needed prescriptions for a short-term period, as they are referred to community agencies for long-term prescription needs.

Based on emergency safeguards put in place by the county, state, and federal governments during the pandemic, MUM received fewer calls for eviction and utility assistance. As those safeguards go away, we anticipate significant increases in the need for these services.

Utility Cutoff Prevention and Utility Restoration

Emergency Prescription Drug Assistance

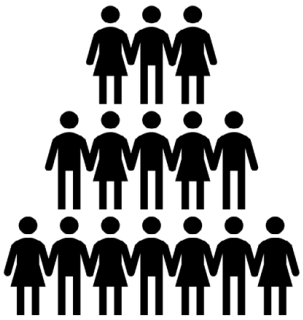
Eviction Prevention

- MUM's success is based on partnerships with the State of Maryland, Montgomery County government, Montgomery County Food Council, non-government organizations, corporations, and individuals, through monetary and in-kind donations.
- Each year MUM aims to help those in need, making a positive difference in our community, county and state.
- For more information on MUM and how you can make a donation or become a volunteer, see our website at www.mumhelp.org.
- Contact us at office@mumhelp.org.

Families and Individuals Still Count on MUM

Since 1996, families and individuals have turned to Mid-County United Ministries (MUM) when they're facing hardship. When they've needed food or emergency financial support, we have been able to provide it in a safe, comfortable and caring manner. As the pandemic continued through the year, we had to adjust our way of doing things so that we could provide that same level of support or better in the midst of unusual and difficult times. Meeting this increased need was a financial challenge. We had to be more resourceful and work more collaboratively with the community to make sure we could be there for our clients when they needed us most. Below, we share a few highlights from the year:

FY20 - 4,254



FY21 - 7,828

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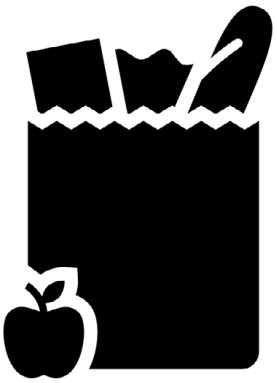
FY20 - 104,275
Pounds of Food Distributed



FY21 - 300,243
Pounds of Food Distributed

WHY MUM MATTERS
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FY 2021 HIGHLIGHTS !!

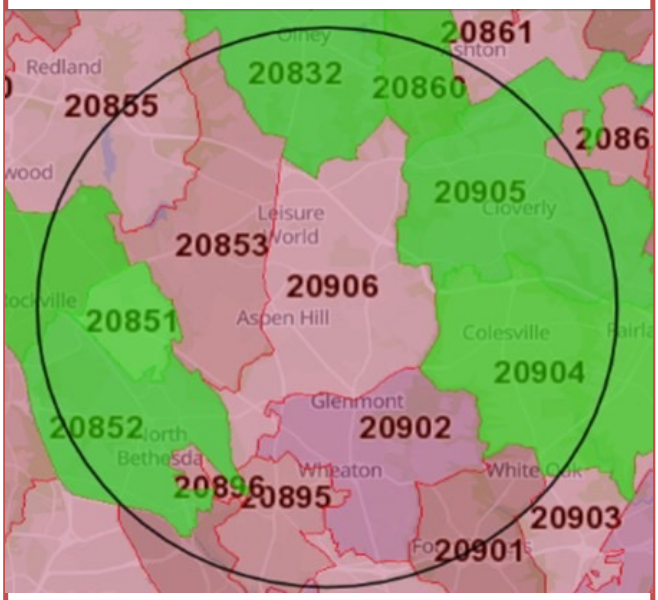
The need for food increased dramatically during the pandemic.

- Although our in-office pantry remained closed, MUM continued food distribution through our mobile pantry four times every month.
- Food pantry visits nearly doubled in FY21, and MUM distributed nearly three times as much food in FY21 as in FY20.
- This level of distribution was possible thanks to the generosity of donors, and the support of Montgomery County Food Council. Through its efforts, MUM received grants from the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) and Montgomery County Government (Sudano's, and Stanley Foods), allowing us to buy food to provide to our neighbors each Sunday.
- Connections with these local food providers allowed MUM to provide more fresh food to clients at every visit. Providing fresh dairy, eggs, produce, and other options meant not only supporting clients with healthier options, but supporting local farmers, too.
- MUM was also able to meet additional needs. MUM provided hundreds of diapers, as well as hundreds of Pepco-donated energy efficient light bulbs, to clients throughout the year.
- MUM also helps those who face utility cut-offs and eviction. This past year, MUM provided assistance to 53 families (totaling $7,153) who needed help to keep their utilities on; it also helped 17 families (totaling $11,060) from being evicted from their living quarters. While state, local and federal governments issued moratoriums preventing residents from being evicted or from having their utilities shut-off during the COVID pandemic, MUM expects those needing assistance in the near future to far exceed the level of support provided this past year. MUM also helped 8 families (totaling $1,568) with pharmaceutical services.

We came to MUM's Mobile Pantry because we really needed food assistance. My husband is on social security, but it doesn't go far enough. Then he lost his job due to the pandemic, and he was also sick. MUM has helped us a lot! If we didn't have help from MUM, we would have probably had to skip meals, maybe miss breakfast. We look forward to coming to the pantry every second Sunday. The people there are always friendly. We live next door, and they often have someone there who can help us with our bags. We appreciate it because we don't have a car. May the good Lord continue to take care of all of you at MUM because you help us a lot. ***The Cole Family***

SERVICE AREAS

More than ever, access to food has become not only a human right but a life necessity.



Zip Codes:

20853: Rockville, MD

20895: Kensington, MD

20896: Garrett Park, MD

20902: Silver Spring, MD (Wheaton)

20906: Silver Spring, MD (Aspen Hill)

MUM offers food assistance mobile pantry at the following locations each month.

First Sunday:
Aspen Hill Christian Church
13501 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20906
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Second Sunday:
Millian Memorial United Methodist Church
13016 Parkland Drive
Rockville, MD 20853
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Third Sunday:
Wheaton Veterans Park
11200 Amherst Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902
2:00 - 4:00 PM
(New Location)

Fourth Sunday:
Peppertree Farms Apartments
14120 Weeping Willow Dr.
Silver Spring, MD 20906
2:00 - 4:00 PM

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL

Abby Mendez, her mother, Lucero and brother, Josiah regularly volunteer at MUM's Mobile Pantry. They have also assisted with administrative tasks in the MUM office.

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It has been a great honor to volunteer with MUM and to work with young adults like myself and other volunteers. As a volunteer, I have realized that there are more families in need than one can imagine. Lack of food is a problem that has worsened during the pandemic. Packing food bags and participating in food distribution are a few of the ways I have been able to give families another chance to live life adequately and reach some sort of stability during these very difficult times. Seeing the faces of the children and the elderly, I fully comprehend the difference I am making.

Sometimes, I think about how fortunate my family really is. MUM has helped me acknowledge the fact that different people have different situations, and we must do our best to help others when we can. This organization has also helped me value the importance of friendships and community service. Working with members of different ethnic and racial communities has helped me understand the value of unity and how we must accept each other.

One lesson I live by every day is that it's always better to give than to receive. Helping the community is one of the many ways that can enrich our lives and connect us to people and ideas that will positively impact our perspective for the rest of our life. Volunteering at MUM has both impacted my life and has helped me impact others in a positive way by giving back to communities in need.

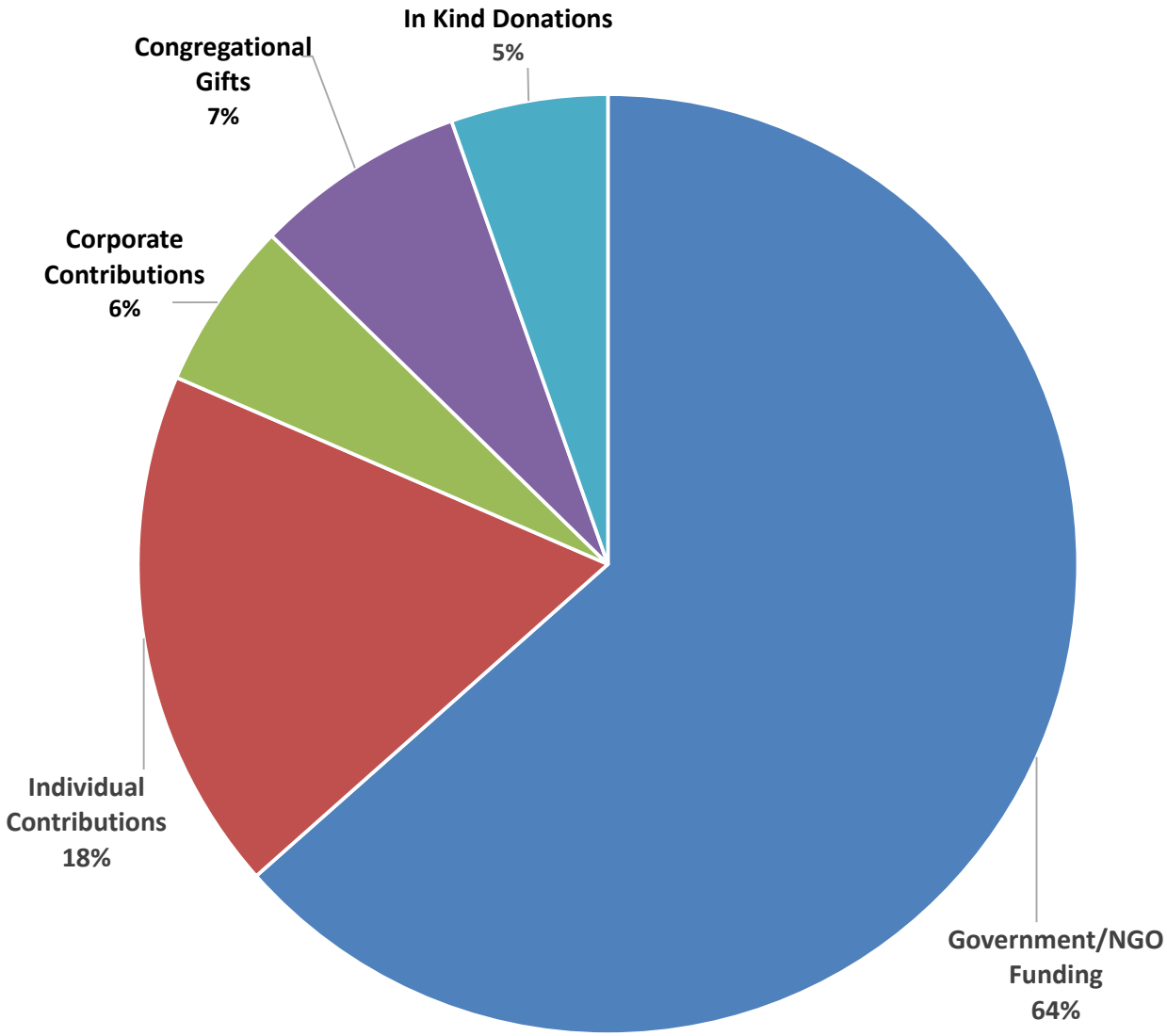
~ Abby Mendez – High School Senior & MUM Volunteer ~

MID-COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES (MUM)

FISCAL YEAR-2021 AT-A-GLANCE

INCOME

Cash Income as of June 2021

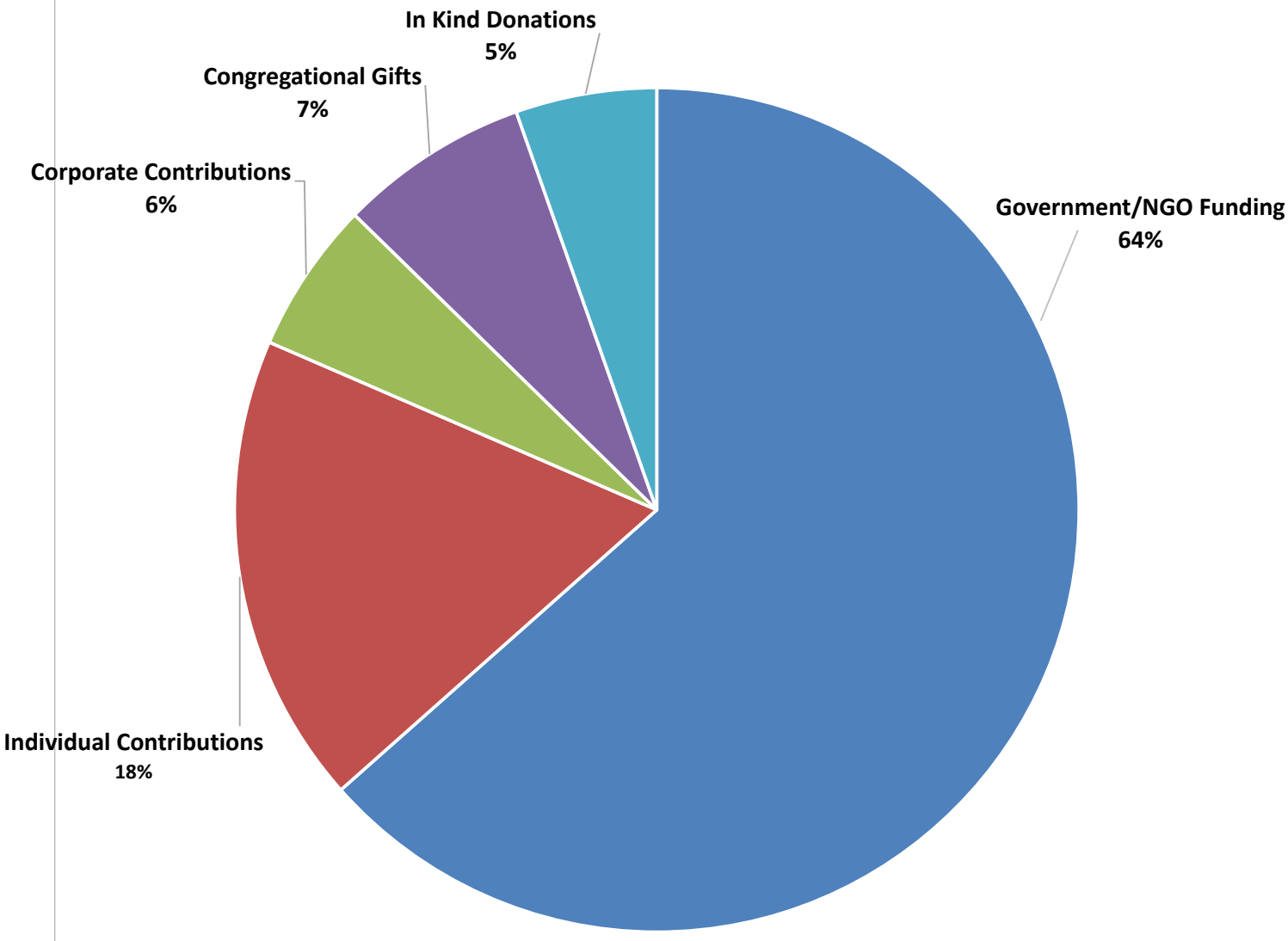


MID-COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES (MUM)

FISCAL YEAR-2021 AT-A-GLANCE

INCOME SUMMARY

Government/NGO Funding	$273,980.12
Individual Contributions	$77,925.00
Corporate Contributions	$25,088.67
Congregational Gifts	$31,465.01
In Kind Donations	$23,316.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$431,774.80**



MID-COUNTY UNITED MINISTRIES (MUM)

FISCAL YEAR-2021 AT-A-GLANCE

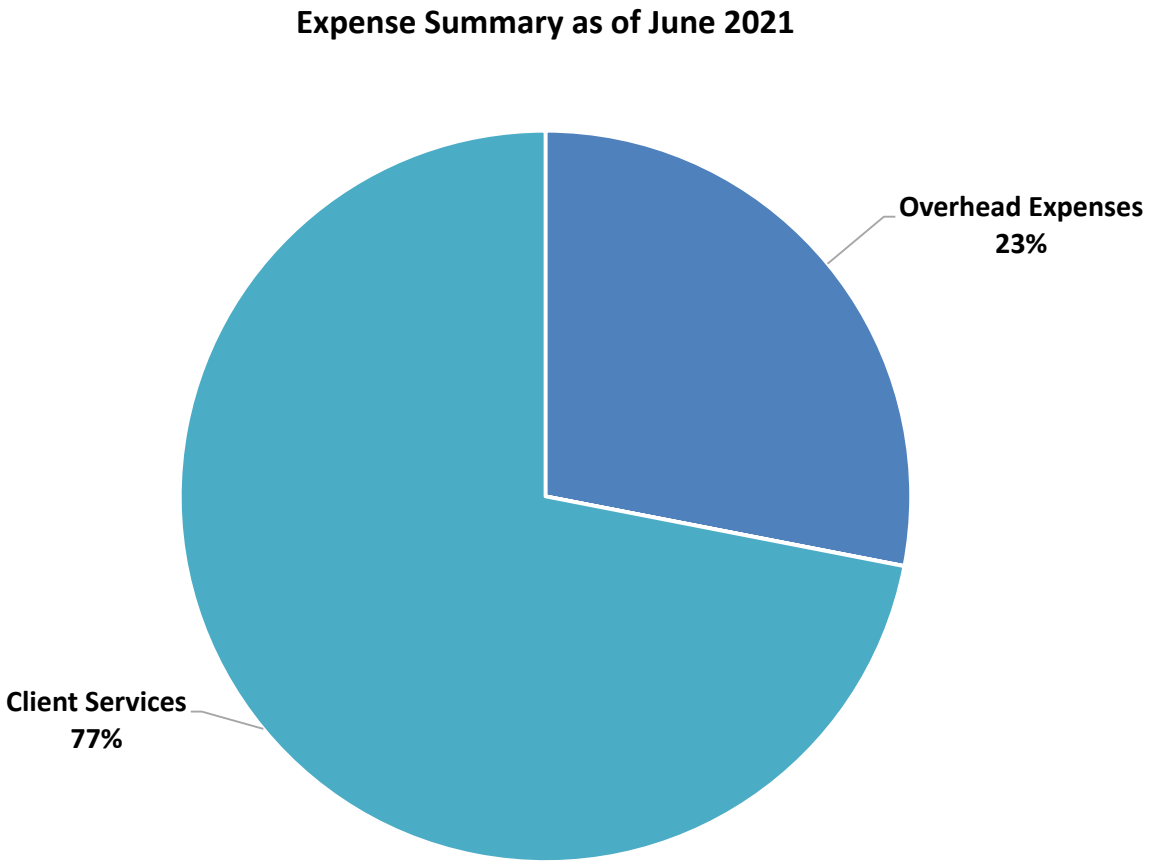
EXPENSE SUMMARY

Overhead Expenses…..……..……...$94,600.07

(includes: payroll, contract services, telecom, subscriptions, legal & professional, etc.)

Client Services……..…..…....$314,382.36

TOTAL EXPENSES…….....**$408,982.43**



Mid-County United Ministries (MUM)

MUM Provides Emergency Food and Assistance to People in Crisis

KENSINGTON – SILVER SPRING – WHEATON – ROCKVILLE – ASPEN HILL

11002 Veirs Mill Road, Suite 710, Silver Spring, MD 20902
Telephone: 301-929-8675
www.mumhelp.org

MUM is an independent 501(c)(3) organization registered within the State of Maryland.
Gifts and donations to MUM are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Binckes
Board President

Dewey A. Reeves
Executive Director

October 25, 2021

Dear Partners, Friends & Donors,

I became the Executive Director of Mid-County United Ministries (MUM) almost a year ago, during the heart of the pandemic. I am humbled and grateful to serve in this role, particularly during this time. I have to say the journey has certainly had its ups and downs. Clients have shared countless stories with me about how Covid has upended their ability to provide for their family's basic needs. The desperation on their faces has been sobering. At the same time, I have been inspired by the resilience of some of the same people who continue to persevere despite the pandemic's challenges, determined to strive towards a better and more stable life. I have also been encouraged by the generous spirit of those who have diligently worked with MUM to make sure our neighbors in crisis have what they need. Their compassion has touched my heart.

Founded in 1996, MUM's mission is to help people in crisis in five zip codes of Montgomery County (20902, 20906, 20895, 20896 and 20853). We offer emergency food assistance through our Mobile Food Pantry, as well as financial assistance to people who are facing eviction, utility cutoffs or cannot afford their prescriptions. To be perfectly honest, we can't fulfill this mission without the support of the community.

While we started the year with a growing need among our client base, we, like similar organizations, were also facing a decrease in financial donations, in-kind donations and volunteer support - all casualties of Covid. So MUM has been challenged to adapt throughout this public health crisis. We have adapted the way we deliver emergency assistance; we've had to figure out how to improve the quality and quantity of the food options we provide; and we have had to seek additional partners in the community to ensure that families have the help they need.

We're grateful to government supporters such as Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and the Maryland Emergency Food Program; organizations such as the Emergency Assistance Coalition; churches and other faith organizations; as well as individuals who have stepped up and worked with us to support our mission. So many have freely given resources, time and energy to our efforts during this extremely difficult season. For that we are thankful.

Between fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021, visits to our food pantry nearly doubled as you'll see in the attached annual report. MUM also distributed nearly three times as much food. Sadly, the impacts of Covid are far from over for our community. Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization, projects that the number of Montgomery County residents facing food insecurity could grow from 120,000 to 140,000 by the end of 2021. More than 1 in 10 Montgomery County rental households are behind in payments as of early August 2021, according to Surgo Ventures, a nonprofit that uses data to analyze health and social problems in communities. That number is expected to increase. Families in MUM's service areas were already facing disproportionate rates of food insecurity and poverty prior to Covid, and they have continued to be more negatively impacted during the pandemic. Recovery will be much longer and more difficult for these families.

Despite the tough road ahead, MUM's mission will continue. But we really need your help. As you review the annual report and get more acquainted with our work over the past fiscal year, we hope you will consider helping us provide emergency assistance throughout the months ahead. There are many ways to support MUM's ongoing work:

Give Funds — A financial donation would allow MUM to distribute funds to those areas of greatest need, whether providing food, helping people stay in their homes, helping them keep utilities running or pay for life-saving prescriptions. A donation envelope has been included. Or you may give through our website, mumhelp.org.

Give Food – Picking up extra items at the grocery store can help supplement MUM's stock. Holding a food drive is another opportunity to help feed hungry families and to give members or colleagues a chance to make a big difference in their own communities. Some groups like to give their food drive a seasonal theme or hold a friendly competition within the organization. A list of needed items is available on our website.

Give Time — Volunteering at our MUM Mobile Pantry or in the office is a great way to give hands-on support. From checking in clients to helping prepare bags of food, we can always use a few extra hands. MUM even provides Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for students who need them. Bi-Lingual speakers are always a plus. You may learn more about volunteering and sign up through mumhelp.org.

If I can answer any questions about MUM's work, or discuss other ways to support our efforts, please feel welcome to contact me at (301) 929-8675 or email me at midcountyunitedministries@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your partnership. Together, I am confident we will continue to help struggling families throughout the pandemic and beyond.

With great appreciation,

Dewey Reeves
Executive Director
Mid-County United Ministries, Inc.

(Enclosure)