



Moving Forward

ANNUAL REPORT FY 23



United Way
of the National Capital Area



#74224



ECHO would like to thank John Olsen
and other volunteers and supporters
who contributed photos for this publication
and Intern Payton Davis for recording the client
stories



ECHO is Moving Forward and Looking Forward to New Opportunities to expand our assistance Fiscal Year 2023 was an exciting time as ECHO volunteers worked many hours to establish a Client Choice Food Room, purchased and learned how to drive our new van, welcomed Summer Interns, held our first Volunteer picnic and welcomed a new Executive Director.

After a successful Pilot Program to test the feasibility of setting up a Client Choice Food Program, the Food Team with much assistance from the Facilities Team and Counselors, converted our Food Room from a storage area to a store like room where clients can “shop” for food items their families are accustomed to eating. The program has been a big success with Clients and Volunteers.

Thanks to a grant from Fairfax County and a generous discount from Sheehy Ford, ECHO was able to purchase a Ford Transit Van. The van allows our Volunteers to pick up and deliver food and other items in quantities we could not accommodate in a private car and is a rolling advertisement for ECHO.

One of our Board Member congregations, Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, has a program for summer paid internships for college students. This year, ECHO was offered the opportunity to place two interns, one with an interest in Social Work and one interested in Communications. ECHO benefited greatly from the Interns’ enthusiasm and education and we look forward to welcoming interns next summer.

Since ECHO Volunteers work different days and in different areas of the building, we may not have the opportunity to talk to and get to know other Volunteers. The Volunteer picnic provides a great opportunity for Volunteers to meet and get to know other Volunteers and exchange Client stories.




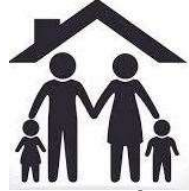

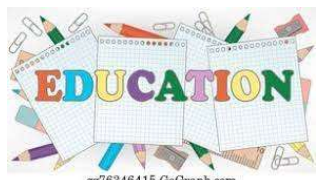






After four years as ECHO Executive Director – and steering ECHO through the pandemic – Anita King stepped down as Executive Director to join her husband in Germany. Thanks to Anita’s leadership in efforts to strengthen ECHO programs, ECHO was able to operate without an Executive Director until Mike Baier stepped forward to become the new Executive Director. Under Anita’s and Mike’s leadership ECHO continued to provide the assistance our clients need and expand the range and scope of assistance we offer.

Whether you are an ECHO Volunteer, a Donor or a community resident wanting to know more about ECHO, we hope that the following pages will inspire you help ECHO help others.

Bob Vitter
President

Mike Baier
Executive Director

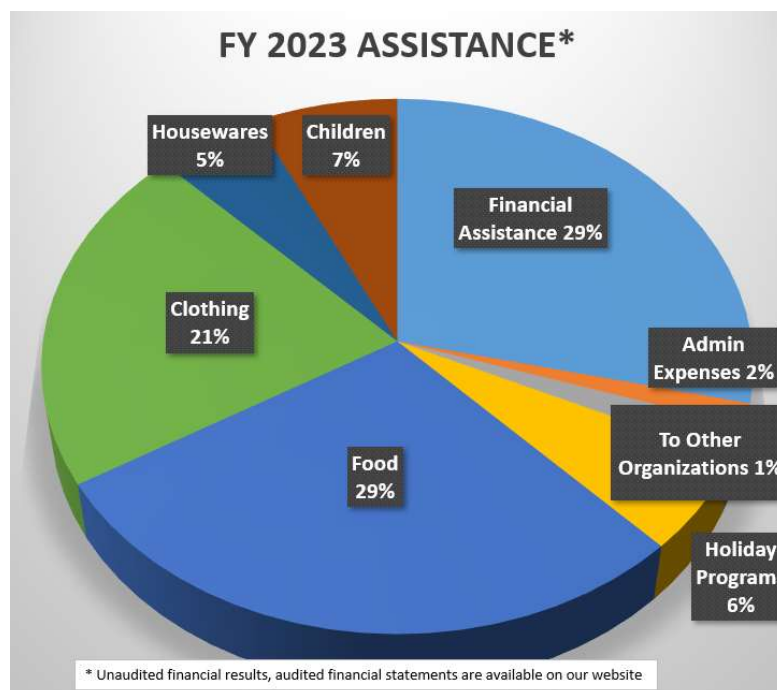
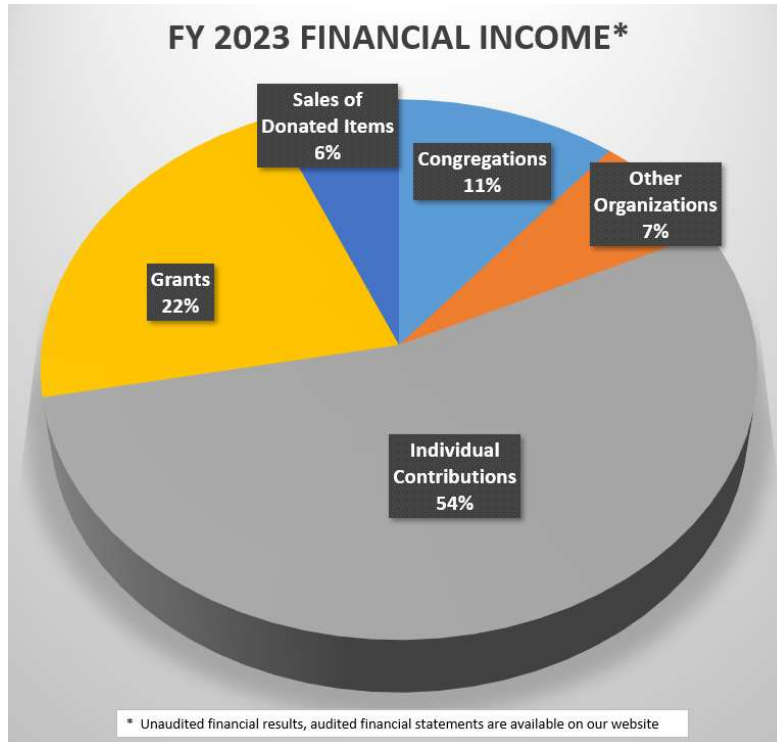
Your Generous Donations Made This Possible

<p>Families Fed</p>  <p>1,491 families</p>  <p>233,320 pounds of food</p> <p>\$51,120</p> 	<p>Households Maintained</p>  <p>\$195,811 in rent/mortgage assistance to 272 families</p> <p>\$112,779 in utility assistance to 238 families</p>
<p>Children Equipped</p>  <p>1,203 backpacks filled with school supplies</p> <p>1,363 Education Materials Kits</p> 	<p>Holidays Brightened</p> <p>470 Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets</p>  <p>588 children received a Christmas Gift</p> 
<p>Families Clothed</p> <p>963 families received 3,957 bags of clothing</p>  <p>1,398 coats and jackets</p> 	<p>Infants' Basic Needs Met</p> <p>277 32 oz containers of Infant Formula*</p>  <p>904 boxes of diapers</p> 

* Formula distributed in partnership with First Baptist Church of Springfield

FY 2023 Financial Summary

ECHO is able to provide much needed assistance to families in our community because of the generosity of many, many donors that contribute In-Kind (food, clothing, housewares, school supplies) items as well as financial contributions.



Ecumenical Community Helping Others Mission, Vision and Values



After a period of reflecting on the current needs in our community and the role ECHO can play in meeting these needs, the Executive Committee revised our Mission and Vision statements and added a Values statement. The draft statements were presented to and approved by the ECHO Board. The statements below will help guide a reassessment of the assistance we currently provide and identify potential additional assistance that fits within our Mission and Values.

Mission:

ECHO provides assistance to individuals/families in need within the Burke/Springfield community by offering food, clothing, housewares, and financial assistance for housing/utilities.

Vision:

A community where ECHO partners with religious, civic, commercial, and governmental entities to identify and address unmet human needs, assists clients to access services that ECHO does not routinely provide, and reinforces, rather than duplicates, services provided by other organizations.

Values:

We commit to and embrace our long-standing core values of Service, People, and Innovation:

Service: We endeavor to strengthen our community by assisting all members of the community in achieving an acceptable standard of living.

People: We value our donors, volunteers, and clients, and strive to treat all with respect and grace.

Innovation: We foster efficiency in delivering assistance through innovative solutions that include the assessment of existing processes and integration of new technologies where appropriate.

ECHO's Impact

For over 50 years, ECHO has sought to bring a level of care and assistance to residents in our community. For some, this is a one-time helping hand in a time of crisis. For others, the help rendered by ECHO has allowed for continuity in a family's ability to meet basic needs. Seeing the long-term outcome of these efforts brings meaning to ECHO's Values. Two stories from the children of clients show the long-term impact of these values for our community:

One family supported by ECHO for several years was able to celebrate the graduation with distinction of their eldest daughter from a Virginia university this past June. In a return visit to ECHO with her mother after graduation, the young woman saw a tray of bread located near the entrance. Tears came to her eyes as she recounted the times when her mother would return home from ECHO with groceries. Realizing that without ECHO's support for basic needs, her chance at the path to success she had found may not have been possible. The newly graduated student thanked ECHO for helping her get to where she is today.



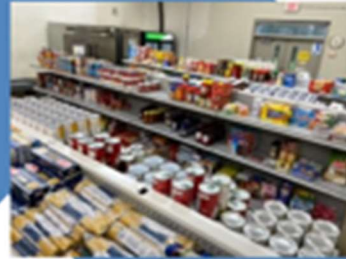
A few months ago one of ECHO's counselors was at home awaiting the completion of a home repair. As she began to strike up conversation with the technician, she discussed how she needed to leave for her work at ECHO. As she was explaining this, the technician turned around with an overwhelmed look on his face. He explained to the counselor of the times his mother would go to ECHO as he was growing up in an effort to provide food for her family. The man explained how ECHO helped his family overcome barriers such as food and clothing insecurity. He shed light on the fact that he might not have made it to the place he is in today without the support as well as aid offered by ECHO to him and his family when he was a young boy.

FY 2023 Highlights *Moving Forward*

New Van



New Food Choice Pantry



New Partnerships



New Leadership



New Summer Intern Program



New Volunteer Recognition

In Appreciation



Business and Organization Sponsors

Cardinal Plaza Shell
Language on Demand
Bangladeshi Community
Fresh World
Sheehy Ford
Sheehy VW/Subaru
Alpha Beta Alpha Omega Chapter,
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Merry Maids

Special Sponsors

- Burke Data Services
- Celebration Singers
- Clifton Community Women's Club
- Crescent Counseling Center, LLC
- Greenspring Village
- Great Harvest Bread, Burke
- Hayfield Secondary School
- Interstate Van Lines
- Lake Braddock Vocal Music Boosters
- Malek's Pizza Palace
- McGavin Group
- MightyMeals, Burke
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Springfield Franconia Lions Club
- TDS Writing Solutions, Inc.
- Thermo Quick, Inc.
- Welcome Club of NOVA
- VFW Post 7327



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FY 2023

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Adat Reyim Congregation

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