

Atheists Helping the Homeless DC

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Annual Report for 2023

January 2024

Note from the President

We are beginning our third year as a nonprofit charity providing a vital service to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. I appreciate your support and help. Thank you all for your donations, for writing and editing documents, for helping us store materials in your homes, for prepping items, and for helping us at distribution events. We have a steady group of 10-15 volunteers and that is wonderful.

Joe Shaw

Executive Summary

Atheists Helping the Homeless DC is a small, nonprofit charity helping people experiencing homelessness in Silver Spring, Maryland and immediately adjacent Ward 4 of Washington DC. We serve about 1000 clients annually. We operate lightly as we have a solely volunteer workforce with very little overhead costs.

Our clients are between 18 to 65 years old and represent many races, ethnic groups, life situations, and belief systems. Those we help must walk everywhere they go, carrying their heavy and bulky belongings with them. We provide hygiene items, backpacks to protect and carry their belongings, and flashlights to provide a sense of security. Our clients report that they generally cannot get the items we provide, and they are in great demand.

We are addressing an unmet societal need in a new way that larger agencies cannot, especially because we systematically distribute hygiene items and because we are an all-volunteer group.

Notable Events

1. Our Board of Directors expanded from five to six persons.
2. We distributed Hygiene Kits and nonperishable food to about 1000 clients.
3. As they were available, we distributed backpacks.
4. We distributed gently used clothing and blankets worth over \$8000, some of which were donated by members of nextdoor.com and some of which were contributed by members who receive emails from us.
5. Our Community Donations Coordinator, Rima Banerjee, continued to collect gently used clothing.
6. At the end of the year, we were awarded \$4410 from the Cloudbreak Foundation for use in FY 2024. These funds are allotted to socks, some backpacks, and flashlights.



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Objectives for 2024

Based on feedback from clients, we have expanded our goal to include underwear and feminine hygiene products this year, and we are actively seeking funding for these latter items. Hygiene items will hopefully include:

men's and women's underwear, feminine hygiene products, alcohol-free roll-on deodorant, twin blade safety razors, shaving cream packets, nail clippers, towelettes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and crew socks.

We will also provide backpacks and flashlights. These are expensive items, and we will provide them as we can. However, a grant from Cloudbreak Foundation allows us to distribute up to 12 backpacks per event during 2024.

Population Served

Our clients were people experiencing homelessness in Silver Spring, Maryland and immediately adjacent Ward 4 of Washington DC. They were people apparently 18 and older. We do not have precise demographic information to describe our clients because we do not ask them personal questions, however, many of our clients voluntarily disclose information. From these conversations and our observations, we estimate the following about our clients:

1. About 50% stay in Silver Spring.
2. About 30% stay in Ward 4, Washington DC.
3. About 20% stay in unknown locations.
4. About 40% are Black/African American.
5. About 20% are Hispanic/Latino.
6. About 15% are age 50 or older.
7. Over 15% are immigrants.
8. About 25% are women.
9. Over 90% are unemployed.
10. An unknown number suffer from mental illnesses.
11. An unknown number have drug or alcohol abuse problems.
12. They have a large variety of religious beliefs and personal philosophies.
13. Over 20% have unmet, chronic medical conditions.
14. Over 20% have unmet, chronic dental conditions.
15. Our clients sleep rough, in shelters, in vehicles, or they couch surf.
16. Most are concerned about their personal safety.

As they move about the city, more than 50% have no backpacks and carry all their belongings with them in tote bags or plastic bags, or they leave them unattended, highlighting the great demand for backpacks and the difference our provision of backpacks makes to the local homeless community.

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Anticipated Benefits in 2024

The expected benefits of our program are that our clients will:

- Have an extra pair of underwear and socks
- Have toiletries
- Have feminine hygiene items
- Have a flashlight for personal security
- Have a backpack to carry their belongings wherever they go.

Financial Information

As a nonprofit group, we must file a Form 990 with the IRS each year. That form shows that our income for 2023 was \$12,377, most of which was in the form of donated clothing.

Cash donations:	\$3,700
Gently used clothing (estd. value):	\$8,677
Total:	\$12,377

Conclusion

Atheists Helping the Homeless DC is an important organization serving the local homeless community in Silver Spring, Maryland and adjacent Ward 4 of Washington DC through the provision of everyday items like socks, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. Funding from the Cloudbreak Foundation will allow us to distribute socks and flashlights in 2024 as well as some backpacks. This coming year we hope to find funding to allow us to distribute underwear and feminine hygiene items. With around 1,000 clients served annually, we make a significant difference in improving people's lives who need it the most. We depend on volunteers and donations, which allow us then to apply for small grants to provide additional items. As homelessness becomes a greater problem nationally and in the greater Washington DC area, the need for our services will only increase in the future.