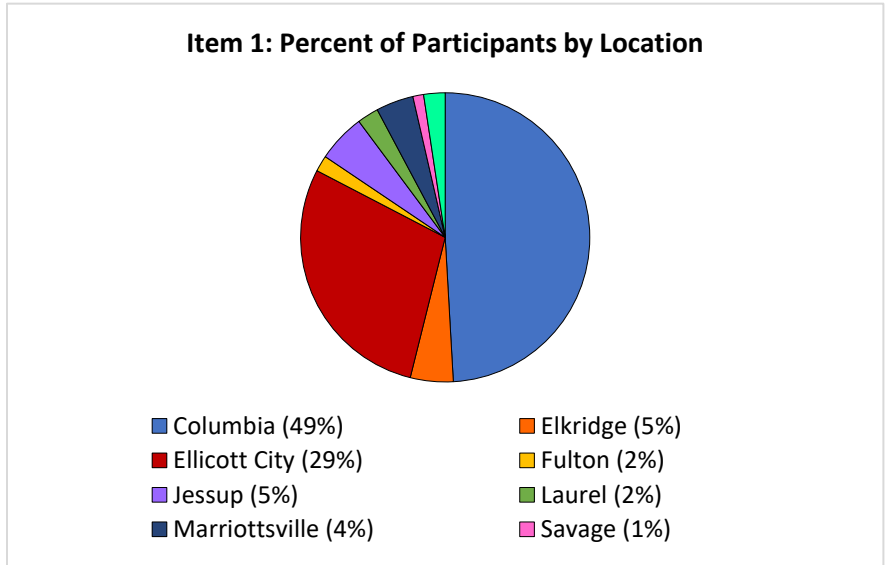


**Project Holiday 2022 Summary Report**  
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December 20, 2022

***Gift Recipients***

Each year the Office on Aging and Independence (OAI) leads Project Holiday, an initiative that delivers holiday gifts to residents of assisted living facilities and nursing homes, and older adults in the community who may not otherwise receive a gift. In 2022, all gift recipients were previously connected to or served by OAI. Gift recipients were identified through outreach to assisted living facility managers, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Supportive Services for Older Adults Program, OAI Supports Planners, and Maryland Access Point of Howard County.

These groups were asked to identify older adults who may not have family or friends involved or nearby and who may be at risk for not receiving any gifts during the holiday season. In 2022, the program served a total of 167 older adults from the community (25%), assisted living facilities (62%), and nursing homes (13%). The program was able to serve an additional 73 clients of the Home Delivered Meals program thanks to the Home Instead partnership. This is more than three times the number of individuals Project Holiday served in 2021. Gift recipients are located across the County. Item 1 shows the percentage of gift recipients by their location. Most recipients lived in Columbia (49%), followed by Ellicott City (29%). The Project Holiday Planning Committee recommends expanding outreach in 2023 through partnerships with organizations who serve older adults, including faith-based communities, to expand and increase support across all areas of Howard County.



***Donations & Partnerships***

Donations were collected across the County at seven sites including the six 50+ Centers and the Department of Community Resources and Services' (DCRS) office at Patuxent Woods. This year, wish list items included hygiene products (e.g., shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste), cognitive engagement tools (e.g., jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzle books, other activity-type books), self-care items (e.g., comfy socks, hairbrushes, hats, gloves, scarves, body lotion), and more (e.g., ornaments, cards, blankets). There was a substantial increase in gift and monetary donations for Project Holiday. An article in the OAI Digital Newsletter, posts in the Ball Bulletin and on the DCRS Facebook page all contributed to the increase in donations, partnerships, and volunteers alike.

Over 4,000 items were donated. This collection of items included 106 handmade quilts from the Faithful Circle Quilters Guild, 37 afghan blankets from the Howard County Recreation and Parks' Knit and Crotchet Club, and 54 handmade assorted purses and bags from Beverly's Beautiful Bags.

Several community members and organizations made substantial monetary donations, as did several OAI staff members. A total of \$1890 of monetary donations was received. An employee of the Howard County Education Federal Credit Union not only made a considerable donation of her own, but she spoke with the manager and the Credit Union and that institution also donated generously to the Project. The Coalition of Geriatric Services (COGS) donated the proceeds of their annual 50/50 raffle to the Project and the winner of the raffle donated half of her winnings, collectively donating \$1500 to Project Holiday. Home Instead has been a longtime partner of Project Holiday. This year, they increased their support by sponsoring 100 individuals and providing a full bag of gifts items for each of them. The Project Holiday 2022 Planning Committee is sincerely grateful for the significant amount of community support received this year.

## **Costs**

In 2022, there was no budget line for Project Holiday. Funds used to support Project Holiday 2022 were from revenue funds. The only cost to the County was the cost of the Project Holiday gift bags. Five hundred bags were purchased. Monetary donations received for Project Holiday this year covered the cost to purchase items to supplement donations. Small quantities of shampoos, conditioners, deodorants, body washes, and hand sanitizers were purchased to complete all Project Holiday gifts. These supplemental purchases cost \$777.40. The remaining \$1112.60 will serve as seed money for Project Holiday 2023.

## **Volunteers**

Project Holiday is supported by a dependable group of volunteers who help with donation pick up, item sorting, packaging, and gift delivery. Darlene Vaselaros played an integral role in recruiting volunteers for Project Holiday this year. Despite the terrible weather on packing day, all but one volunteer fulfilled their service commitment. There were 23 community members who helped with sorting and packaging gifts. The team would like to specifically acknowledge the civic partnerships with groups who volunteered together, including the Howard County Community College Softball Team and the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Lambda Gamma Zeta Chapter. In addition to the sorters and packers, we partnered with 4 groups and 1 individual to deliver gifts to recipients, including Howard County Fire & Rescue (12 individuals), Howard County Police Department (24 individuals), the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Tau Pi Chapter (62 individuals), Columbia Baptist Church Fellowship (64 individuals), and supports planner Stephen Lee (5 individuals). Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland also delivered 73 gift bags to Home Delivered Meals program clients.

Community support was clear in the enthusiasm and commitment of these volunteers, and they encouraged the Project Holiday Planning Committee to build and expand upon these partnerships in the future to serve even more people. Attached are photos from Project Holiday headquarters of a handful of volunteers from this year.

PHOTOS FROM PROJECT HOLIDAY 2022 HEADQUARTERS

