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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sandy Sipes



Since 1997 Worcester County GOLD, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, continues to promote dignity by providing financial aid for families in crisis, vulnerable adults, and children in foster care.

# THE GOLD STANDARD

[www.WorcesterCountyGOLD.org](http://www.WorcesterCountyGOLD.org)

Annual Report 2017

**"There are three constants in life... change, choice, and principles."**

~ Stephen Covey

**New Executive Director:** Worcester County GOLD, Inc.'s (GOLD) Executive Director, Claire Otterbein, left her position at the end of December 2016. GOLD's dedicated Board members and an administrative assistant performed necessary duties through March 2017.



Sandy Sipes was hired as GOLD's new Executive Director, effective April 3, 2017. Sandy has over 20 years' experience in nonprofit management and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from the University of Maryland University College in 2013. She previously served as the Vice President of Development & Communications for Target Community & Educational Services for 10 years. Sandy and her husband, Mike, relocated to the Chincoteague Bay area from Finksburg, Maryland in early 2017, fulfilling a dream to live by the water.

**Ongoing Evaluation of Programs & Services:** The quote above comes to mind when thinking of several changes that have occurred at GOLD during the past year. We are grateful to have strengthened our partnership with the Worcester County Department of Social Services (DSS) by forming the DSS/GOLD United Team. This team evaluates programs and services and makes changes, as needed, to most effectively support our mission of meeting the needs of Worcester County residents, who live in poverty and low-income circumstances, during times of financial difficulty and crisis.

**Spring Baskets:** During a DSS/GOLD United Team meeting, it was determined that GOLD's annual Spring Basket project puts a heavy workload on both GOLD's staff (one full-time and one part-time employee) and DSS staff, who have a demanding schedule to assist families with emergency services and case management support, while not aligning with our mission. We hope that previous supporters of the Spring Basket project will support the School Supplies for Students Program, which provides the tools necessary to encourage students to be successful in their academic studies.

**Fashion Show Fundraiser:** We are saddened to share the news that GOLD will not have a Colors of Spring Luncheon & Fashion Show fundraiser this year. The Bayside Skillet advised us that they will not host the Fashion Show again this year. GOLD's Board searched for another venue where the layout would work for a fashion show and the meal cost would permit a profit that would justify the time to coordinate the event. Unfortunately, we were not successful. We wish to express our deep gratitude to the Bayside Skillet for generously hosting a Fashion Show fundraiser for GOLD at a minimal cost for the past 13 years. The food was always awesome; Bayside Skillet's service was outstanding; and the event was so much fun! Sincere appreciation goes out to CraZy LadyZ for coordinating the models and gorgeous outfits! A note of thanks goes out to previous attendees and supporters of the Fashion Show events!

## Did You Know?

According to the U. S. Census Bureau, 50,748 individuals in Worcester County, 11% of the Population in 2017, lived below the poverty level. The Opportunity Index shows that Worcester County has an 8.4% unemployment rate versus Maryland's overall rate of 3.9%.

Due to low overhead costs, **92% of all donations to GOLD goes directly to provide support** for Worcester County citizens, who live in poverty and low-income circumstances, during times of crisis.

All requests for emergency assistance are entered into GOLD's online referral system by our partners, listed below. This ensures that each individual's financial situation has been expertly assessed to confirm the necessity for assistance and to capture data for accurate reporting.

**Worcester County Department of Social Services**

**Worcester County Health Department**

**Maryland Access Point of Worcester County**

**Worcester County Public Schools' Student Services**

As GOLD works to provide immediate vital assistance, the referring agency works to provide the resources and programs to assist these individuals with ongoing support, as needed, until they are back on the road to self-sufficiency.

GOLD provides vital assistance to support Worcester County citizens in times of crisis to: avoid eviction (keeping families under roof), prevent disconnect or reconnect utilities, meet urgent medical needs, assist with the critical needs of vulnerable adults and children transitioning from homes into foster care, provide crucial transportation, assist individuals and families who are homeless, provide emergency food assistance, and offer items to meet basic needs of infants and children.

## 2017 Community Support & Assistance

**In 2017, Worcester County GOLD, Inc. provided vital support for 2,103 adults and 1,696 children, a total of 3,799 Worcester County citizens served.**



**School Supplies for Students**  
492 Children Served



**Thanksgiving Turkey Meals**  
Partnered with Worcester County Bar Association & Worcester County Department of Social Services  
Provided 265 Thanksgiving Turkey Meals



**Helping Hands for the Holidays**  
With community support, provided holiday gifts for 801 children and 68 vulnerable adults.



**Mark Your Calendar!**

**GOLD on the Green  
Golf Tournament**

**Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start**

**Ocean City Golf Club, Newport Bay Course**

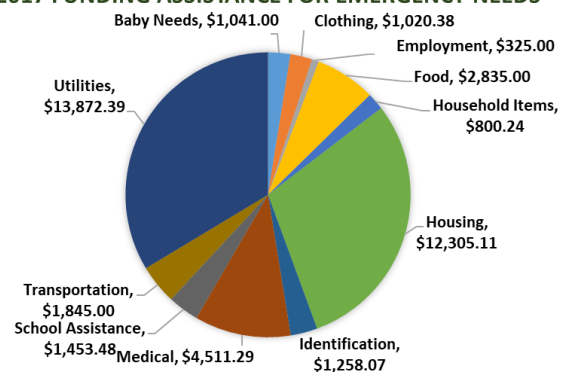
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### WORCESTER COUNTY GOLD, INC. 2017 FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR EMERGENCY NEEDS



**Please know that we are sincerely grateful for your support!**