

According to the 2005 American Community Survey, greater than 36% of families with related children under 5 years of age and greater than 44% of children under 18 years of age live below the poverty level in Detroit. Did you know that there is a local Detroit organization that has been working to help these Detroit residents maintain water service?

What does WAVE stand for?

WAVE is an abbreviation for Water Access Volunteer Effort. It is a Michigan non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation based in Detroit.

Who is eligible for WAVE assistance?

Detroit residents whose annual income is less than 150% of the federal poverty level (approximately \$30,000 for a family of 4) can apply for WAVE assistance. Eligibility is determined by trained Detroit Department of Human Services (DDHS) caseworkers who verify program requirements. The WAVE Board of Directors and the WAVE Volunteers are not involved in determining who receives WAVE assistance; their roles are solely related to fundraising and awareness efforts.

What is the difference between the WAVE Fund and other energy assistance programs?

The WAVE Fund is an independent non-profit organization. It is not part of any public or private utility.

What does WAVE do with the money it raises?

The WAVE Fund is administered by the WAVE Board of Directors and is subject to IRS rules governing non-profit organizations. Funds received are earmarked specifically for payment of water and sewer bills for eligible Detroit residents. By law, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) cannot administer the receipt and distribution of monies donated to the WAVE Fund. Since its creation in 2003, WAVE has raised and distributed over \$290,000 to more than 800 Detroit families in need, helping them maintain and/or restore the water and sewerage services. Greater than 90 percent of the monies raised by WAVE have been disbursed.

How did WAVE get started?

WAVE was established in 2003 by a group of concerned citizens and business leaders. Since its inception, WAVE has operated independently from the City of Detroit and DWSD.

Who is WAVE?

The WAVE Board of Directors and Volunteer Committee are comprised of members of the local business community, the Detroit Water Board, Detroit residents and water professionals. Members of the WAVE Board of Directors are not compensated for their service to WAVE.

What is WAVE's goal?

WAVE's goal is to provide assistance to low-income families by ensuring uninterrupted and safe access to drinking water and sewerage services. Through strategic partnerships with community agencies, businesses, government entities and private citizens, WAVE intends to marshal, leverage and coordinate resources to help make sure every Detroit resident has water service - a basic requirement.

How does WAVE raise funds?

Fundraising for the WAVE Fund has been a grass-roots effort by the WAVE Board of Director and Volunteer Committee working in collaboration with local businesses who host fundraising events. Once a year, in October, WAVE hosts its Annual Benefit, which is funded through corporate and private sponsorships. The monies raised at these events are deposited into the WAVE Fund. The monies raised by DWSD's opt-out" program introduced in Detroit resident's September 2006 water bill will go to the WAVE Fund as well. Until the DWSD "opt-out" program WAVE has received no other large-scale funding from local government or utility revenues.

How can I get involved and support WAVE?

Additional information will be available on WAVE's website, www.wavefund.org. Correspondence and donations to the WAVE Fund should be sent directly to:

WAVE c/o Compuware
One Campus Martius
Detroit, MI 48226

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Vision Statement

The Water Access Volunteer Effort (**WAVE**) Fund provides assistance to low-income families during crises by ensuring uninterrupted and safe access to drinking water and sewerage services.

Through strategic partnerships with community agencies, businesses, government entities and private citizens, WAVE will marshal, leverage and coordinate resources to help make sure every Detroit resident has water - a basic requirement.

The WAVE Fund is a Michigan non-profit corporation and all contributions are tax deductible.