

# House call primary care to help elders age with dignity at home.

2024 Impact Report: Geriatrics at MedStar Washington Hospital Center

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The support of donors and grants for D.C. Geriatrics and our House Call program has made it possible for us to help the most vulnerable elders and their families in Washington to live with dignity in their own homes, until the last day of life.

Our collaborative team provides access to superb primary and specialty care to homebound elders who have suffered from a long legacy of poverty and discrimination. Our team provides a premium level of geriatrics care to those who are often invisible or left behind in our community.

## Eric De Jonge, MD

Director of Geriatrics,  
MedStar Washington  
Hospital Center

Director, MedStar D.C.  
House Call Program

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## Meeting older patients where they are—and need us most.



With philanthropic support, the MedStar D.C. House Call Program, one of few practices in Washington, D.C., that offers access to medical care at home for Medicare patients, grew by 10% in 2024. We provide geriatrics support and expertise to patients and family caregivers where they are most comfortable: at home. Thanks in part to your generosity, more than 525 elders are actively receiving home-based primary care from our team.

We are now fully staffed with three geriatricians, four nurse practitioners, three social workers, one nurse, and five office staff. Donor support has allowed us to create a new Geriatrics Center space, recruit additional staff, and grow our service in the face of major challenges from the pandemic and financial limitations within the health system.

## Year in review: 2024 by the numbers



**630**

patients received house calls

**170**

new patients enrolled for house calls

**5,000+**

house calls were done by our dedicated team

**150**

elders were followed by our geriatricians at the hospital, providing close continuity of care

**200**

patients seen through the new Geriatrics Trauma service

**30+**

residents and medical students received skills and knowledge geriatrics training, plus another 80+ attended our curriculum of 10 lectures



## Positively impacting real lives

A 75 year-old patient was homebound with diabetes and severe leg weakness, social isolation, and depression. He fell behind on his rent and utilities, lost electricity, and was facing eviction. Our team addressed each of his medical, emotional, and social crises, making multiple house calls to control his condition and arranged visits with a psychiatrist. Our social worker coordinated legal services, offered counseling, and used donor funds to restore power. The patient stabilized, his depression improved, and he retained his housing.

Donor gifts were essential to this outcome: supporting social work staffing, covering unfunded equipment and a crisis utility bill, and allowing us travel time to make numerous house calls.

## Research that powers change

Launched in 2023, our team has developed a Geriatrics Research Collaborative (GRC) with scientists at the Health Economics and Aging Research (HEAR) Institute at MedStar Health. With donor support, we have:

- Conducted three clinical studies of our House Call program
- Written abstracts with five Georgetown medical students
- Published these abstracts regionally and nationally

Philanthropy also allowed us to sponsor two 2024 students, and to engage renowned geriatrics researchers from Johns Hopkins and Harvard University to collaborate on research projects.



## New opportunities for support

**The John A. Sargent Fund:** Supports family caregivers with respite care, home modifications, and payment for unfunded essential services. Also supports the wellbeing and professional development of staff.

**GRC research:** Supports our study of inequity and historical trauma in our patients and family caregivers, and assesses the impact of our House Call program on access to high-quality care.



## Training tomorrow's leaders

A new five-year grant from The Washington Home supports the annual mentorship of medical students and residents, building the healthcare workforce pipeline to care for high-risk older adults. Our goal is to teach 15 medical students and 80 residents each year, building skills and empathy that will serve patients well throughout their careers.

## Your support makes this care possible.

We are grateful for the generosity of many individuals and foundations who support our mission. Donations support the daily work of our staff, who drive throughout the city to care for those most in need. Medicare does not cover the full costs of our team, travel time, and intensive efforts needed to care for elders until the last day of life.

To learn more, contact **Campbell Frank** at **202-877-2725** or **[campbell.l.frank@medstar.net](mailto:campbell.l.frank@medstar.net)**.



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