

Information Regarding the Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Fund

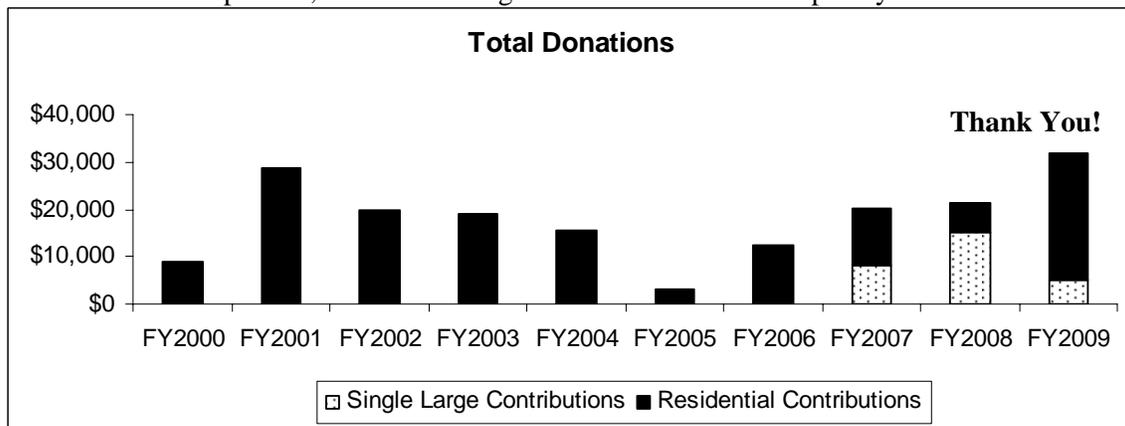
Dear Fellow Residents,

We are writing to provide you with updated information concerning Westwood's *Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Fund* and to ask you to consider a donation to this cause.

Fund Overview

Donations

- The *Fund* was established by Town Meeting in 1999 to provide real estate tax relief assistance to qualifying, low income Westwood elderly and disabled residents.
- Since establishment ten years ago, the *Fund* has received \$181,000 in total donations averaging \$18,000 per year.
 - Last year, we asked for increases in donations from our residents and you responded, almost doubling the donation level of the prior year.



Distribution

- Over the years, the *Fund* has assisted many long-time Westwood residents who wish to remain in the Town and homes they love. It is becoming increasingly difficult for these residents to afford living here on fixed incomes, particularly due to rising home heating costs and real estate taxes; and this fund can help.
- Since its inception, the *Fund* has provided assistance to a number of these qualified residents by paying a portion of their tax bill. Distribution for the ten year period totaled \$175,000.
- As our donations increased in FY09, we were able to increase our distribution to \$39,500, almost double the previous year.
 - Approximately 50 residents received a payment ranging from \$250 - \$2,000. The typical recipient in FY09 was 84 years old; had lived in Westwood for 50 years; and lived in a home valued at less than \$500,000.

The current balance in the account is \$5,142. We ask again that you consider a small donation to increase this balance and to help these individuals. Even a small donation will make a difference in the level of assistance this fund can provide.

Thank you for your help this past year and for your consideration of a donation in the upcoming year.

Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Fund Committee
Patrick Ahearn, Chairman

Donation Form on Reverse Side

How Do I Make a Donation to the Fund?

At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 3, 1999, Article 12 was voted to accept Chapter 60, Section 3D of the Massachusetts General Laws that permits cities and towns to establish a separate fund. This fund is a means of establishing aid to the elderly and disabled for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income in the Town of Westwood.

If you would like to donate,

Please make your separate check payable to:

Town of Westwood – Aid to the Elderly & Disabled Trust Fund

Please detach the following form and return it with your donation.

Your donation can be mailed separately or it
can be included with your tax payment.



Mail to:

**Aid to the Elderly & Disabled Trust Fund
Tax Collector's Office
Westwood Town Hall
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090**

_____ \$10.00 _____ \$25.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$100.00 _____ \$500.00 \$ _____ Other