



Gaithersburg and Montgomery Village Community Survey Results

September 2021

About Cross Community & The Equity Center

Our mission is to advance equity & justice, empower generosity, and improve the quality of life in Gaithersburg and Montgomery Village - the GMV.

Our vision is for individual, community, and generational empowerment.

Dignity



Hospitality



Community

Key Impact Areas During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Food for Gaithersburg

Weekly food distribution in 4 locations, served 72,442 people

Educational Equity Hubs

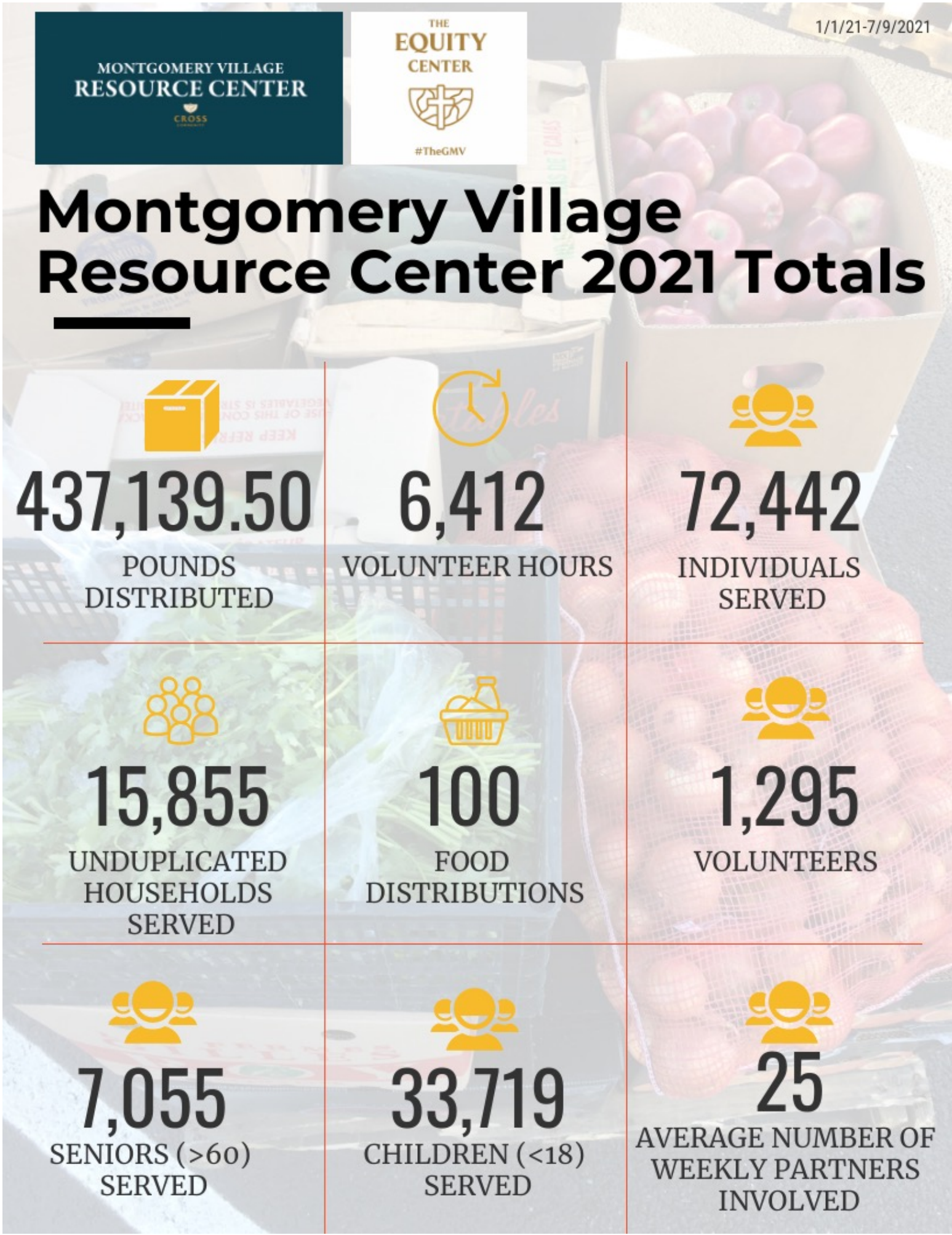
Launched Sept 15, 2020, served 1,400 students

The Resource Center at Lakeforest Mall

Launched in December of 2020, serving community of 5,000+

Covid 19 Equity Access Clinics

First of its kind in Upper County, over 2,000 vaccine doses administered



About the 2021 GMV Community Survey



Surveyed 1,300 residents of the GMV from June-August 2021.

A window into the struggles, the hopes, and the dreams of low-income, immigrant families living in GMV area of Montgomery County.

Community Partners for the 2021 GMV Community Survey



Gaithersburg
Beloved
Community
Initiative



South Lake
Elementary School

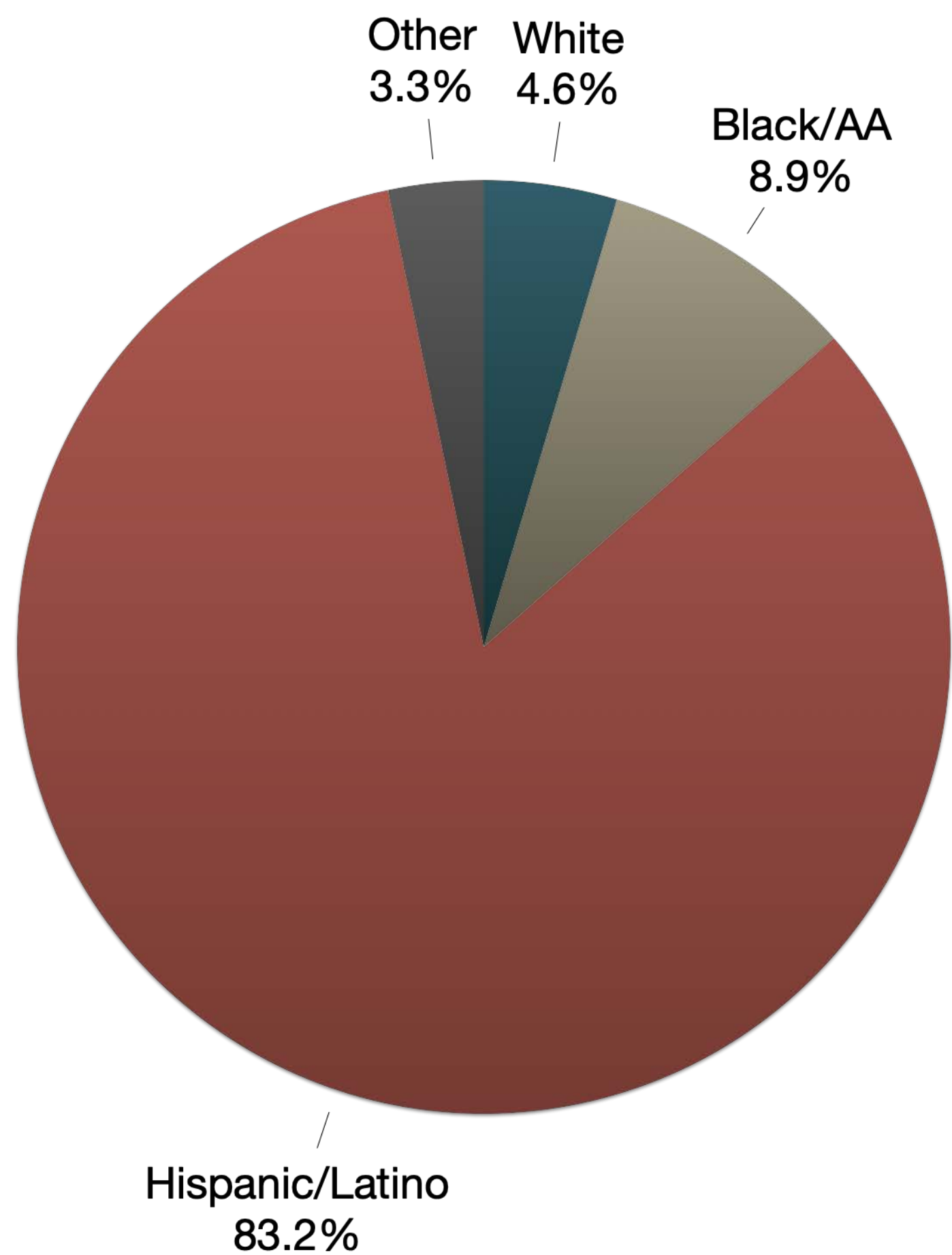
Gaithersburg
Elementary School

Watkins Mill Cluster

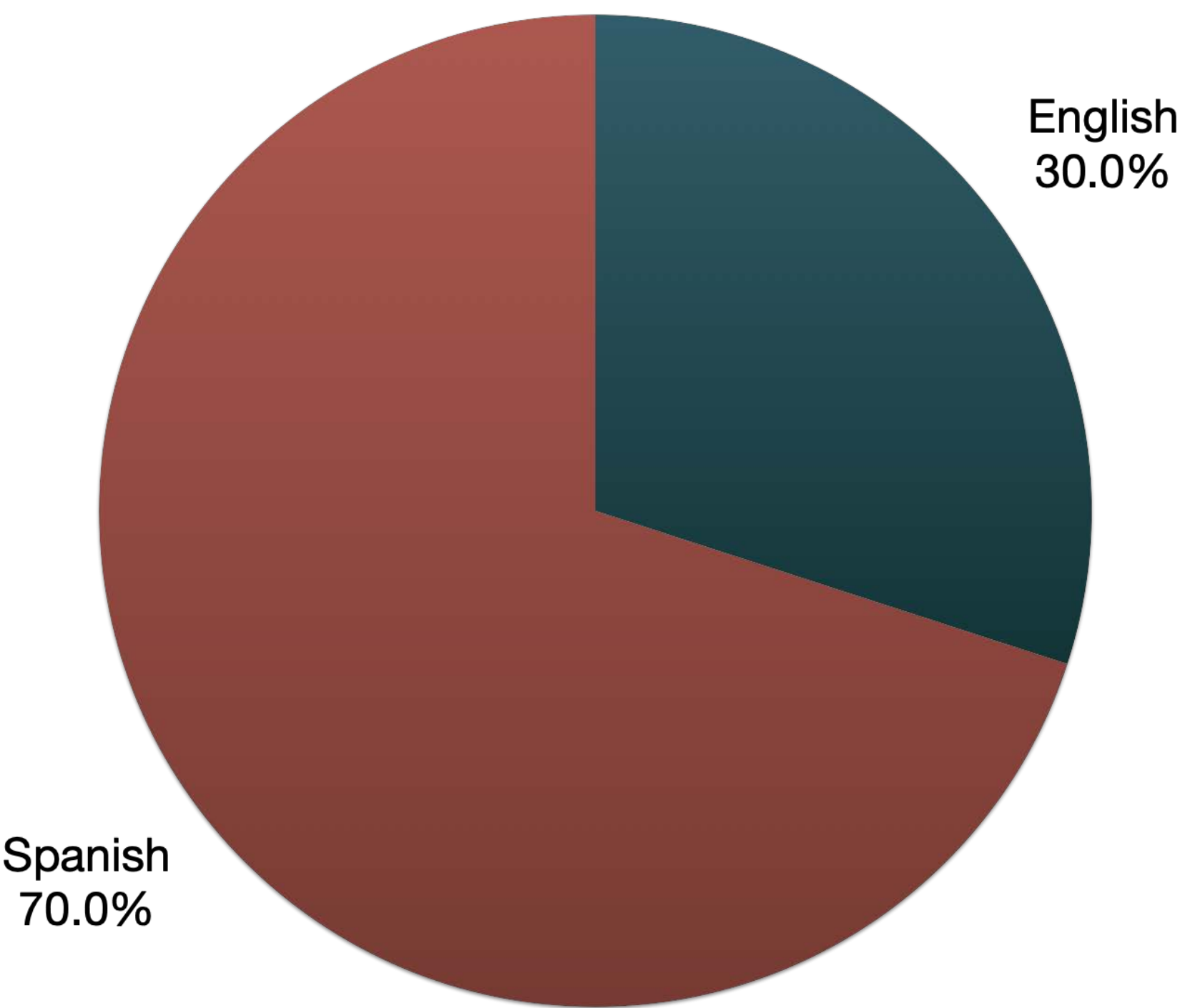


Demographics

Race/Ethnicity



Language Spoken



A Closer Look: Julia

- Julia and her family have lived in Gaithersburg for 17 years
- 3 children – ages 11, 7, and 22 months
- She and husband make \$38K annually
- She is working towards her GED through Linkages to Learning
- Has no health insurance



A Closer Look: Don Ivan

- Ivan and his family live in the GMV – have been in the U.S. for 20 years - married with two sons, ages 16 and 14
- Worked as landscaper for past 12 years
- No medical insurance – had a major medical issue 12 years ago and could not afford medical care, so traveled back to homeland to get surgery
- Lost significant income during the pandemic - typically earning \$500 per month
- Very active in his community, helping others with food and resources



Three Priority Results

- Pervasive and Systemic Poverty
- Need for Affordable Healthcare
- Need to Address Resource Barriers



Pervasive and Systemic Poverty

- **87%** of respondents make less than \$40,000 annual income
- **72.5%** of respondents that they do not have enough income to meet their families needs
- **87%** of respondents don't earn even half of what is needed to live modestly in Montgomery County

Pervasive and Systemic Poverty

- **51%** of respondents obtain some of their food from free food distributions
- **36%** responded that they don't have enough to eat
- **80.4%** did not have enough savings available to cover a \$500 emergency

Need for Affordable Healthcare

Quality affordable healthcare is the highest-ranked need

- **57%** of respondents identified healthcare as the highest social need
 - **Food (56%)** and **employment (53%)** were the 2nd and 3rd highest needs
- **52.6%** of respondents do not have health insurance
 - Among Spanish language respondents, **65.4%** do not have health insurance (approximately 595 respondents)

Most Desired Amenity: An Affordable Quality Health Center



When asked what resources are needed in the community, an ***affordable healthcare center*** was the most desired amenity for the future of Lakeforest Mall.

Addressing Resource Barriers

Montgomery County has done a great job of increasing the level of support available to low-income families, but there is much more work to be done in the GMV to connect residents to resources & support.

Investment in trusted community partners is needed to ensure this community gets the help that is available to them.



The Disconnect – So Many Barriers

- The number one barrier is language, with **59%** of community members indicating that language differences are a primary challenge to obtaining resources
- Second highest-ranked response was **“not knowing where to go for help” (51% of respondents)**, & **“too complicated and difficult to access”** was ranked third **(32% of respondents)**
- Only **10% of the Spanish-language respondents** indicated they are U.S. citizens – so understanding what support they are eligible for is critical

The Value and Dignity of the Community

The people we surveyed see the GMV as their community & are concerned about **public health & personal improvement.**

- **More than 70%** of respondents have lived in the GMV for 4+ years
- **74%** are very satisfied with their children's public school education
- **98%** have never been incarcerated or in jail
- **More than 80%** believe it is important to get a college degree
- **Over 83%** of respondents had been vaccinated at the time of the survey

Critical Takeaway: Equity Requires Access

Access brings opportunity and empowerment and comes through trusted members of the community

Action Items

1. Intentional investment and capacity building in organizations that work closely with members of the community.
2. Hiring and investing in community JEDI's (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) - The way to build up a community is to invest in its people.



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