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January 11, 2024

Dear Montgomery County Council,

We are writing to you today because we care deeply about the nonprofit, So What Else (SWE), and the purpose it serves for the community, and would like to urge you to consider investing in and funding their lifesaving work. We have been supporting SWE for the past 3 years both financially, and through volunteering. When we first met the team at So What Else they were still at Lakeforest Mall, working hard daily to provide help for residents of Montgomery County. Since that time we have seen the tremendous impact of their work on hunger and youth development both across the county and in surrounding communities.

We hope you will take into consideration how immense of an impact So What Else has had on thousands of Montgomery County residents' lives, and the magnanimity of what losing this work could mean for our community. Feeding people in this county has to be a priority and So What Else has proven over the last four years, since the onset of the pandemic, their value in solving hunger.

We can personally attest to the work, to the volume of food, and to the kind hearted effort we see on a weekly basis from SWE. We implore the county council to put their support into So What Else so that they may continue their wholehearted, critical mission. Investing in So What Else is the difference between dozens of local employees, many of whom were once hungry clients themselves, being able to support their families or losing their jobs. The difference between thousands of well-fed constituents or thousands of hungry ones. The difference between robust hunger relief support for organizations across Montgomery County, and those organizations tell their communities they must go without.

It's imperative the County supports this effort and the hard working individuals that make up the work being done. Please support So What Else today.

Sincerely,

Vicki and Howard Anderson