

My name is Margi Helsel-Arnold, LCSW-C. I have been a licensed clinical social worker and certified aging life care manager for 30 years. Working privately in Montgomery County, my work entails home visits for assessments and consultations for aging in place resources and respite care settings. Many family members try to keep their loved ones in their homes using the MC Arc Respite senior program, and has been life changing for many people.

During the last 8 months, I have noticed an increase in the interest and need for this program.

I am aware that MC aging population is growing. I am frequently receiving calls about relatives in their 90's and even over 100. Many assisted living settings in MC have become extremely expensive and not an option for most seniors. I believe this is contributing to the increased respite need for extra funding to ensure that families caring for loved ones in their homes.