SO MUCH MORE THAN A MEAL . . .
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At Meals on Wheels of Mercer County (MOWMC), our motto “so much more than a meal” refers not only to the services we provide our participants, but also to the daily experience of our volunteers. Last year, our volunteers donated a total of 10,800 hours of their time to meal delivery! This number continues to grow as the demand for our meals increases. We rely on a dedicated group of volunteers who are consistent, compassionate, and treat our participants with respect and dignity. Equally as important is that our volunteers find the experience meaningful as well, something which is magnified through their interaction with our participants, and seeing firsthand the impact they make in their own community. While all of our volunteers are truly valued, we would like to take a moment to recognize one particular set of volunteers.

These groups of volunteers are comprised of individuals from organizations which provide support to individuals with special needs. These services include residential and employment programs, housing support, and enhancing access to educational and social opportunities. Volunteering with MOWMC allows individuals affiliated with these organizations to interact within the community in which they live as well. At Meals on Wheels of Mercer County, we value and encourage all members of the community to participate. Interaction with our participants, and the notion of service to those in our community, is a benefit to all.

Volunteers from SERV Behavioral Health System Inc.’s PAC Program have assisted MOWMC for the longest period of time – since 2006! This dedicated group of volunteers deliver meals once a week to several of our Ewing participants.

The Arc Mercer, a longtime partner of MOWMC, not only have consumers helping prepare our meals via Touch of Taste catering, but they also assist in meal delivery to our participants. They are a key partner of MOWMC, and we are grateful for all they do!

Volunteers from Allies Day Program and Enable Inc. began with MOWMC in January of 2016, and continue to do so on a weekly basis. Each group assists meal delivery in the Hamilton area, with Allies devoting their time twice a week, and Enable every day.

We are lucky enough to have two groups of volunteers from Eden Autism Services – one delivering once a week in the Trenton area, and another delivering every day to our East Windsor participants. One volunteer from Eden, “Kevin”, stands out in his enthusiasm. His friendliness extends to not only participants when delivering, but also to other volunteers while waiting for meals to be prepared. “Kevin” is always ready to assist new Eden staff in learning about our participants!

Community Options (pictured above) also provides MOWMC with a stellar group of volunteers. These volunteers deliver meals twice a week to our participants in the Ewing area.

We are so grateful that each of these programs choose to volunteer with us on a regular basis. Their excitement to interact with the other volunteers and get out on their routes to deliver meals is contagious. In recognition of our volunteers from these programs, we thank you for sharing your joy with us and helping to take care of our homebound participants. You make a difference in our community!
WELCOME OUR NEW BRAND!

If you are surprised by the lack of orange in our newsletter, here is why! As of September, Meals on Wheels of Mercer County branded with Meals on Wheels America! The national organization initiated a campaign to rebrand all of Meals on Wheels affiliates nationwide in order to create a more cohesive network, and a nationally recognized logo for the fight against hunger in the homebound population. Now, wherever you are in the country, you can see the green and blue “MW” logo, signifying the unity of all Meals on Wheels affiliates across the nation in one cause (and color scheme!).

WE’VE MOVED BACK!

After a year of being temporarily relocated to the Ewing Senior and Community Center, we returned to our home base at the Hollowbrook Center at the beginning of September. We are very grateful to Ewing Mayor, Bert Steinmann, and the Ewing Council for finding us a space while ours was being renovated. While we really enjoyed our time at the ESCC, we are very happy to be back “home.” We returned to a completely refurbished building including: new HVAC systems, windows, roof, flooring, bathrooms, and paint. The Hollowbrook Center is truly like a new building! We invite you stop by and visit us if you are ever in the neighborhood.

#SAVELUNCH

At the beginning of this year, budget discussions began in our nation’s capital, including doing away with funding for Meals on Wheels programs and other programs which aid seniors. These funding streams allow states to fund Meals on Wheels affiliates across the country. In response, Meals on Wheels America launched the #SaveLunch campaign to bring awareness to the growing senior population, and encourage congress to provide more funding for programs like Meals on Wheels, rather than less. The budget process is finalized on September 30th, so stand with Meals on Wheels now to create a well-fed tomorrow. Skip your lunch, and share a picture of your own empty lunch plate with your representatives on social media, calling their offices to ensure that no senior in the United States go hungry. It only takes an empty plate, and a minute of your time!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

At Meals on Wheels of Mercer County, we have remarkably dedicated volunteers who donate their time to fight hunger in our community.

10,800 Volunteer hours

↓

Equivalent to $277,344 in pay

↓

But is PRICELESS to us and our participants

Volunteers, thank you for all that you do to feed those who are homebound, both through delivery and behind the scenes. We couldn’t do it without you!

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In Memory of Lorenzo “Bubby” Fletcher Jr.
Susie & Bill Johnson

In Memory of Steven T. Brandys
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In Memory of Dorothy Luciano
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In Memory of Paul Daly, Esq.
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MEALS ON WHEELS OF MERCER COUNTY
WE ARE SO MUCH MORE THAN A MEAL

Volunteer Drivers / Runners Needed
Are you looking for an opportunity to make a real difference in someone's life, like Asha above? What if we told you that this opportunity would also transform you? Are you looking for an opportunity where just your smile or a kind word will ease the daily isolation of a homebound person? Do you have a few morning hours to spare, perhaps to hear a funny story, build community, and share an experience which will uplift the rest of your day by touching the life of someone else? Oh, and by the way, you will also deliver meals! Join our volunteer team with Meals on Wheels of Mercer County and see for yourself how nourishment is not just about food but also about the soul!

www.mealsonwheelsmercer.org
1 in 6 seniors face the threat of hunger. 15 million live in isolation.
Call us today! (609) 695-3483

In an effort to save on postage and trees, Meals on Wheels of Mercer County posts all of our donors names in the online edition of our newsletter on our website. Please go to www.mealsonwheelsmercer.org to view our acknowledgment.

Thank you to all of our loyal supporters!!
Donors from February 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017

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Monsignor Hugh Ronan, President of MOWTE, presented Ellen Baker with a crystal vase honoring her 36 years of service at the July luncheon.
Monsignor Hugh Ronan, President of MOWTE, presented Ellen Baker with a crystal vase honoring her 36 years of service at the July luncheon.

Donors from February 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016

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Curt Hubert $75
All Risk Property Damage Experts $100
James & Kathy Mikosz $100
Jacqueline Crane $250
Linda & Richard Scheetz $250

Thank you to everyone who came out to play Golf and support our 25th Annual Golf Outing!
We are a comprehensive nutrition program promoting the dignity and independence of home bound individuals in Mercer County.

Meals on Wheels of Mercer County is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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Thank you for your generous contributions to Meals on Wheels of Mercer County!

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