

A Meals on Wheels of Mercer County Publication April 2025

A Message from Our New CEO



It is with great excitement and gratitude that I introduce myself as the new Chief Executive Officer of Meals on Wheels of Mercer County. I am truly honored to join an organization with such a strong legacy of compassion, service, and lasting impact in our community.

For years, Meals on Wheels of Mercer County has been a vital lifeline, providing nutritious meals, meaningful connections, and peace of mind to homebound neighbors. I am humbled and thrilled to now be part of this incredible mission.

With over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector, including in direct service, fundraising, and organizational leadership, I am deeply committed to the belief that everyone deserves to live with dignity, connection, and access to the resources they need to thrive.

As I step into this role, my goal is to build upon the strong foundation already in place - expanding our reach, strengthening our partnerships, and ensuring that every individual who needs our services can rely on us. I am particularly excited to explore new opportunities for innovation, volunteer engagement, and sustainable growth.

To our dedicated donors, volunteers, supporters, and board members: **thank you** for your unwavering commitment to this organization. I look forward to working closely with all of you as we continue to serve our community with excellence and heart.

Venetta Ellerbe
Chief Executive Officer

Click [here](#) to read the official Press Release!

Recent federal funding cuts have created significant challenges for Meals on Wheels of Mercer County, impacting our ability to provide essential services to the seniors in our community.

With reduced resources, we are more reliant than ever on the generosity of our donors and volunteers. **Your support ensures we can continue to deliver nutritious meals and vital services to those in need.**

Now, more than ever, **we need your help to maintain our programs** and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our seniors.

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[Volunteer](#)

Volunteer Shoutout

A Princeton resident, **Lise** has been a dedicated volunteer for 15 years, regularly serving our community in her free time. She was introduced to Meals on Wheels through an aide who helped her father during his illness. After attending an information session, she was instantly hooked.

Lise shares that the participants are always very generous in showing their appreciation to the volunteers.

"A lot of them just smile when you hand them the meals, but once in a while there are a few favorites who want to talk and share their experiences," Lise said about her interactions.



Lise (left) with Asw. Michelle Drulis

Many Mercer County residents may not know the rich backgrounds of the people we serve — they may simply seem like people who are "homebound," "sick" or "elderly" — but they have marvelous talents, people that love them and interesting stories that are meant to be shared. It's important to listen, Lise noted, because they've lived full lives.

Lise acknowledged that it might sound simple, but at its core, it's true — her favorite part of volunteering for MOWMC is seeing the smiles on participants' faces when she delivers their meals.

"When the weather is terrible and you show up and some of them will say, 'I didn't think you would come today!'" she noted, is something that brightens her day.

Let's End the Wait!

Recap of MOWMC Champions Month



NJ State Senator Andrew Zwicker with volunteers Frank and Thomas in Princeton

"[Hopewell Mayor Courtney Peters-Manning] jumped right in and did everything I would do.

She seemed to enjoy meeting the participants, and also seemed impressed that we do welfare checks along with delivering meals. When we were with Rosa (a participant) she asked Courtney if she was taking the route over as a volunteer. Courtney explained that she was along for the ride as Mayor to learn what MOWMC does for the community. Rosa then peppered her with questions about the big issues in the Township. Courtney, of course, handled everything beautifully."

-Guy (MOWMC Volunteer)

The Meals on Wheels of Mercer County **Champions Month** was a success, with **14** proud Champions in Mercer County who took time out of their busy schedules to coordinate deliveries with us!

Thank you to our volunteers for hosting our champs with nothing but enthusiasm. Our participants were delighted to have been given the opportunity to see members of the community who make a difference in our day to day lives.

It was a treat for us to have our community VIPs raise awareness on our behalf, especially during critical times like this.



Hopewell Mayor Courtney Peters-Manning (middle) with volunteer Guy (left) and our CEO Venetta Ellerbe (right).

[More Pictures!](#)

Looking for delivery volunteer opportunities?

Email our Volunteer Director Lisa Kasabach, at lkasabach@mealsonwheelsmercer.org or call (609) 695-3483

National Volunteer Week

Mark your calendars... April 20-26!



Volunteer Richard at Rider



Volunteer Lindsay at Rider



Volunteer Jennifer at Rider

In honor of the upcoming National Volunteer Week, we would like to thank our volunteers for their commitment and dedication towards Meals on Wheels of Mercer County.

Thank you for delivering meals and friendly connections to our homebound neighbors - **your support does not go unnoticed!**



Tributes



If you would like to make a donation
In Memory or In Honor
of someone, you may do so by selecting
the type of 'Tribute Gift' on our donation page.

*Please leave details regarding names and
acknowledgement.*

You may now donate via Apple Pay & Google Pay!

Be sure to check our [website](#) for quarterly updated
acknowledgements for tribute dedications!

(currently listing donations received January 1, 2025 though March 31, 2025)

[Donate Now](#)

*You can also set up **recurring monthly giving!***

Contact Us: (609) 695-3483 or Email at info@mealsonwheelsmercer.org



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