




MEALS on WHEELS
MERCER COUNTY

CASE FOR SUPPORT



CASE FOR SUPPORT: MEALS ON WHEELS OF MERCER COUNTY

TOGETHER, WE DELIVER: NOURISHMENT, INDEPENDENCE, AND HOPE

NOURISHING LIVES, ONE MEAL AT A TIME

Every day in Mercer County, there are seniors like Mrs. Johnson who face hunger and isolation. Once an active community member, she now struggles with mobility and chronic illness. Before Meals on Wheels of Mercer County, Mrs. Johnson often went days without a hot meal or a friendly visit. Today, she eagerly awaits her daily delivery, a warm, nutritious meal and a volunteer's caring smile.

"I greatly appreciate receiving new items that expand my tastebuds. It's also a happy surprise to see what's inside the produce bag. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have any fresh fruits and vegetables."

This story is just one of hundreds. Every meal we deliver carries more than nutrition, it carries dignity, independence, and hope.

WHAT WE DO AND WHY IT MATTERS

Across Mercer County, hundreds of seniors face hunger and isolation due to health, mobility, and financial challenges. At MOWMC, we believe no senior should go hungry or be forgotten. We deliver nutritious meals, wellness checks, and fresh produce directly to their homes, helping them live safely and independently.

IN FY 2024-25:

- **69%** said they would not have a hot meal most days without us
- **97%** felt more confident living independently
- **86%** felt more socially connected
- **54%** of our participants lived alone

Our medically tailored meals meet the unique dietary needs of each client, including those with diabetes, kidney disease, or other health-related dietary restrictions, helping them maintain their health and quality of life.

HISTORY AND LEGACY

Since our founding in 1973, Meals on Wheels of Mercer County has been a trusted lifeline for homebound seniors. Over the decades, we have grown from a small volunteer effort into an organization serving over 700 participants annually.

Our longstanding commitment to stewardship and impact has earned the trust of donors, partners, and the community. We pride ourselves on transparency and maximizing every dollar to nourish our senior community.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We envision a Mercer County where no senior is left hungry or isolated, and where aging in place with dignity is the norm, not the exception. Over the next five years, we aim to:

- Expand our reach to eliminate waitlists and serve every eligible senior
- Strengthen volunteer engagement and delivery infrastructure
- Enhance therapeutic meal offerings and fresh produce distribution
- Advocate for policies that support senior nutrition and independence

With your support, this vision will become reality.

OUR IMPACT: TOGETHER, WE DELIVER...

Our numbers tell a powerful story of growth and need:

YEAR	MEALS SERVED	PARTICIPANTS SERVED
FY 2022-23	96,379	534
FY 2023-24	104,000	599
FY 2024-25	138,471	701

IN ADDITION, IN FY 2024-25:

- **2,120** emergency meals delivered and **5,405** holiday meals
- Provided **1,163** bags of shelf, stable groceries through Mercer Street Friends
- Distributed **5,360** bags of fresh fruits and vegetables in partnership with Farmer George and Asprocolas Acres
- Supported **37** clients and their **59** pets with monthly pet food deliveries

Our meals are not one, size, fits, all. In 2024-2025:

- **14,442** were chopped
- **3,530** were renal
- **1,224** were ground
- **1,058** were vegetarian
- **672** were gluten-free
- **655** were pureed

All meals are low sodium and diabetic friendly, prepared under registered dietitian guidance.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

We carefully manage funds to maximize impact. In FY 2024-25:

- **83%** of all meals were subsidized through donations and grants
- Only **10%** was paid by participants, and **7%** was covered by insurance

Your generosity directly supports:

- Food purchase and meal preparation
- Delivery logistics and volunteer training
- Therapeutic meal development
- Emergency and holiday meal programs

We project that increased funding will enable us to serve an additional **150+** seniors next year, reduce waiting lists, and maintain quality nutrition standards.

WHY WE DESERVE YOUR SUPPORT

Our unique role in Mercer County's senior care network, proven track record, and deep community roots make MOWMC the trusted solution for senior nutrition and independence. We don't just provide meals, we prevent hospitalizations, reduce isolation, and improve quality of life.

Through continuous program evaluation, partnerships, and community engagement, we have demonstrated measurable success. But demand continues to grow, and without your support, vulnerable seniors may face hunger, loneliness, and declining health.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your support changes lives. Here's how you can join us:

- Give \$10 to provide a hot meal and wellness check for one senior for a day
- Give \$50 to fund a week of meals for a senior
- Give \$500 to sustain a delivery route for a month
- Volunteer your time to brighten a senior's day
- Support Adopt-a-Route Program
- Advocate for policies that support senior nutrition programs

Every gift matters. Together, we ensure no senior in Mercer County goes hungry or isolated.

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Without your help, hundreds of Mercer County seniors risk:

- Going hungry or relying on nutritionally inadequate food
- Increased isolation leading to mental health decline
- Greater risk of hospitalization and loss of independence

With your support, we can continue to deliver hope, dignity, and nourishment to those who need it most.

KEY CONTACT

We welcome your questions and partnership:

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
VENETTA ELLERBE**

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Thank you for your partnership in nourishing Mercer County's seniors with care and compassion. Together, we deliver more than meals, we deliver life.

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