

SPRING 2021

TOGETHER, WE CAN DELIVER!

At the time of this writing, it was exactly one year ago that the first case of the COVID-19 virus was reported in the United States. No one knew at the time what havoc this would wreak upon our country and the world, upon many of our loved ones, families and friends, and on our daily lives which were upended and still not back to what we knew pre COVID-19.

For us, like many charged with the care of the most vulnerable, our reality became an exercise in resilience every day. We had to adjust to changing conditions daily, sometimes several times a day, as everyone tried to hold on to some sense of normalcy when there was nothing normal about what we were all experiencing. But we knew that our seniors, especially now, were depending on us, many losing the fragile survival networks they had set up for themselves because of the uncertainty, and desire by others to keep them safe. But here is the good news; we did not do this alone. **YOU** all were there to help.

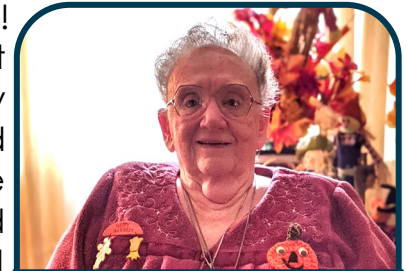
As it became obvious that the age group we serve was the prime target of this virus, **YOU** stepped up. There are those who in times of crisis step back, and those who step up. I am happy to report we overwhelmingly witnessed the latter. As our March for Meals fundraiser events were cancelled, we worried. But **YOU** filled the gap. As our more “seasoned” volunteers took a necessary step back for their own safety, **YOU** stepped up! As we worried about the increased costs for food and delivery and our ability to meet the increased demand for meals, **YOU** delivered!

There are so many individuals and organizations that helped us remain resilient, too many to name, and so many seeking no recognition, and there are no words that could adequately express our gratitude for all the blessings we received. In the midst of fear and uncertainty, we witnessed your selflessness and the care and concern for those you did not even know. It is this kindness and generosity that gives us hope and keeps MOWMC staff going daily.

On behalf of all those seniors we serve, and the Board of Trustees and staff of MOWMC, our hearts are full, and

WE THANK YOU!

Sasa Olessi Montañó
Chief Executive Officer



WHO YOU HELP



Ms. Trainor is one of our wonderful participants who has been receiving meals for almost 8 years! She adores her dog, Duchess, who also gets meal delivery, along with the many volunteers who have served her over the years.

Join us for Food Flick Wednesdays in March! See back for more info!

Meals on Wheels of Mercer County (MOWMC) is a comprehensive nutrition program committed to providing nutritious meals and related services, while easing the social isolation of our homebound participants. The goal of our services is to assist participants, who wish to remain in their homes, maintain independence, dignity, health, and well-being.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

COVID has been a challenging time for everyone, but with all challenges comes growth, resiliency, and new opportunities. Volunteer Services has not only continued to provide the same level of service to our participants while observing the new COVID guidelines, but we have done so in a more thoughtful, sustainable and creative way.

Since many of our volunteers have taken a step back to protect their health during the pandemic, we successfully on-boarded 250 new volunteers from April through August and continue to onboard new volunteers every day. The complete onboarding process has gone virtual, and volunteers fill out their applications and background checks online. This change has been a very positive outgrowth of the pandemic and will continue to be implemented moving forward.

Our volunteers have been amazing throughout the entire process, showing up every day with a smile behind their masks, and boundless energy wanting to make a difference and make a positive impact during this trying time. Many volunteers have expressed the importance of their volunteer work with Meals on Wheels and have said that for them, this is a saving grace.

We want to thank our volunteers for making what seemed impossible at the beginning, possible. Thank you for providing nutrition to our homebound participants and most of all for providing your compassion and kindness to those who are socially isolated.

MUSIC & MEALS EVENT SERIES

In light of the need to go virtual with events over the course of the last year, we have created a new series of free, virtual music events!

The first in our new series was a Princeton University Concert Series sponsored event (in partnership with The Simple Stove), featuring the extraordinary talent of Sheku & Isata Kenneh-Mason!

The second in our series was a Holiday Concert of Gratitude, where MOW staff and Board of Trustees members showed their appreciation for all of our supporters - donors, volunteers and participants alike. Holiday music was performed by the talented artists Victoria Browers, Kevin Radtke, and Pauline Worusski.

Please stay tuned and check our website for future events!

REMEMBERING BETTE

In January, we lost one of our beloved volunteers, Bette Hance.

Bette was always ready with a joke, her beautiful smile, and such a positive spirit that she enchanted all of us who came to know her.

She was also a member of our "Thursday lunch group", a group of volunteers who pre-COVID would all have lunch together after delivery.

Her memory will live on with us, and will always be a blessing to all of us who knew and loved her.



BY THE NUMBERS

PROGRAM FACTS AND FIGURES FROM 2020

1,000
ROLLS OF
TOILET PAPER GIVEN OUT



82%
FEEL LESS ISOLATED
BECAUSE OF MOW



91%
SATISFACTION RATE



58%
SERVED LIVE ALONE



104,341
MEALS DELIVERED



91
NONAGENARIANS SERVED



WELCOME BACK!



MOWMC is happy to welcome back Ruth Todd to our staff. She is returning to her role as Director of Program Services, which she previously held 2 years ago

Ruth is a compassionate presence for anyone coming to us in need of service, many of whom are coping with health or other life challenges. While unable to meet with them in person due to the pandemic, she is still able to make meaningful connections and make sure everyone feels their needs are being met.

We are so pleased to have her back as part of the Meals on Wheels family!

WANTED: "PET PANTRY PROVIDERS"

The Meals on Wheels *Pet Pantry*, which helps our participants feed their cherished pet companions with deliveries twice a month, is looking for people like you to keep it fully stocked!

As a "provider", you would select one of the needed items listed on our website and donate that specific type on a continual basis. One-time and financial donations are also welcome!

For more information, call or visit:
www.mealsonwheelsmercer.org/donate/

Memorial Donations

Fran Cook
By Karen & William Dwyer

Le-Arie P. Chambers
By John Chambers

John Druzbacky
By his niece Lisa Kroehling
Paula & Ike Turpenen & Family

Margaret Fleming
By Patricia Hice

Irene Griffith
By MOW Volunteers

Charles G. Groves, Jr.
from Titusville
By Jack & Ronnie Wert

MOWMC Volunteer Bette Gray Hance
By

A friend & co-volunteer
Mary Brown
Dolores DeBlasio
The Dixon Family
Beverly Gray
Linda Montervino
Roberta Morein
Rose Obinger
Carolyn Smith
Patricia & Raymond Swartz

Alice P. Harkness
By
Debra Floriani
Anna Grala
George Meyer
Andrea Eggert
Rebecca Doherty
Jeffrey Schrader
Jeanette & Charles Jr. Yrigoyen

Norman P. Herzberg
Barbara Herzberg

Kline Klockner (MOW volunteer)
By Susan & Gabriel Csapo

Margaret Cam Kreger
By Natasha Rosenbaum & Erwin Lewis

Volunteer Rudy Lowenstein
By Scott & Helene Dubin

Angela Mignone
By Helen Sue & Francis Mehalik

Paul Mitchell of Fredonia, PA
By Ryan Hogg

Nichola P. Russo
By his daughter Amy P. Chambers

Grace Scheetz
By Anonymous

Margaret Tomsaula
By
Gladys Harris
Michael Kane
Kathleen Kane
Catherine Kane-Martinelli
John & Laure Lee Luchansky

Louis Zanoni
By Patricia White

In Honor Donations

Dorian Adams
By The New School for Music Study

Pam Baumley
By Brian Baumley

Rachelle Bin
By Made L.

Alberto Carbonilla
By Stephanie Horner

Greg & Polly Dell'Omo
By the Cabinet & Deans of Rider University

*Ewing MOW volunteers (especially
Ruth Ann Gribbin & George Renwick)*
By Helen Ash & Robert Alan Kull

Patricia Flores' 87th Birthday
By Frances & John O'Brien

The Hogan Family
By Angela Leaney

Jim & Karen Kissel
By Brenda Bramley

Late Margaret Kreger
By Carol Hiner

Lara, Horacio, Brandon & MOW staff
By Charlie & Shelly Yedlin

*Margaret & Joseph Malczan
and Dolores & Fred Herpel*
By Wayne & Margaret Herpel

William Mallowney
By Paul Mallowney

Sue Nemeth
By Gabriella Morrone

Paper Carrier Michael S.
By Robert & Elizabeth Fraser
Jill & Jeff Freidman

Robin Fogel/Cohen & Joan Nuhn
By Debi Moore

Judy Pearson
By the Rice Family

Nancy & Mary Rittenhouse
By Susan Valentine

The Ruch Family
By Irene Schubert

Michael Smerconish
By Outdoor Lighting Perspectives

Naomi Udell
By Jonathan Udell & Jane Hawley

Dorothea D. Wiegner
By Lewis & Joann Price

Mr. & Mrs. David Wilson
By Betty & James Wallace



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

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STAFF

Sasa Olessi Montaño Chief Executive Officer	Brandon Verrault Director of Operations
Ruth Todd Director of Program Services	Lara Livne Director of Volunteer Services
Jabeen Obaray Project Manager	

SAVE THE DATES!

Every March, MOWMC dedicates the month to raising awareness and support for the plight of senior hunger and isolation by marking March for Meals. As we are not able to host our traditional Dine Out Event in partnership with local restaurants this year, we will instead be hosting a "feast" of **FOOD FLICK WEDNESDAYS**. *Space is limited! Follow our FB page for more info! Join us!*

March 3
Julie & Julia



March 24
East Side Sushi

March 10
Cook Off

March 31
Chef



March 17
Uncorked

** all movies are subject to change **

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!!

...to all of the generous individuals, civic groups, houses of worship, schools, corporations, foundations, and our tireless volunteers who support us all throughout the year!!

