



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Meals on Wheels “Marches” for Meals

During March, Meals on Wheels (MOWSC) is asking County residents to “March up to the plate” and help fight hunger in their own backyard by donating the cost of a meal. The month March for Meals campaign is designed to raise funds, recruit volunteers and create awareness about Meals on Wheels.

MOWSC asks that individuals throughout the county consider donating lunch money for one day during March to Meals on Wheels. Volunteers are also needed. Volunteers can become part of a corporate team or deliver on their own. It takes two hours, one time, every four weeks.

“It is crucial that we have a successful campaign this year,” said Executive Director Sharron Sparks Boyle. “Federal and State dollars to fund Meals on Wheels has shrunk by nearly \$14,000 over the last two years,” Boyle explained. This year MOWSC will also see a decrease of \$1,100 a month as United Way revenues spiral downward in this flagging economy. MOWSC Board Chairperson Rebecca Call encourages the community to become involved. “We have literally served thousands of clients over the last 30 years. If only 2,000 family members of those we have served donate ten dollars, we would reach our 2009 March for Meals fundraising goal of \$20, 000,” she said.

On Wednesday, March 18, local mayors and other officials will deliver meals throughout Salem County. The event gives officials an opportunity to see first hand how crucial MOWSC services are to elderly County residents.

In 2008 Freeholders Julie Acton, Dave Lindenmuth, Lee Wae and Jeffrey Hogan, County

mayors; John Crawford, Harry Moore, Joe Fedora, Joe Donnelson, Donald Asay, Peter Voros, and John Washington along with Elmer Councilman Ben Laury participated along with over 1,000 officials nationwide who joined the “March for Meals.”

Senior meal programs like MOWSC operate in almost every community in America. Together these local programs provide more than one million meals each day to elderly citizens who cannot shop or prepare meals for themselves. Despite the success in providing nutritious meals to these needy seniors, literally hundreds of thousands of other senior citizens still go to bed hungry each night in this country. Four out of every ten Meals on Wheels programs have waiting lists.

Although most programs receive some funding from government sources, all programs rely heavily on donations and contributions to fund their services and meet local match requirements needed to generate government dollars. March for Meals was designed to raise public awareness about this fact.

Locally MOWSC operates solely with volunteers. Salem County volunteers drove over 63,000 miles in 2008, donated over 6,500 hours of time and delivered over 43,000 meals to seniors.

To learn more about how you can “March up to the plate” this month, please call 935-3663.

TEN WAYS YOU CAN HELP MARCH FOR MEALS!

- 1) Donate \$10 to Meals on Wheels during March.
- 2) Sign up to become a Meals on Wheels volunteer.
- 3) Throw your change in a quart jar during March and donate proceeds to Meals on Wheels.
- 4) Start a month long Van Bank campaign with your co-workers.
- 5) Place Meals on Wheels coin canister in your place of business.
- 6) Take a special offering at your church during March.
- 7) Brown bag your lunch for a month and donate the difference to Meals on Wheels.
- 8) Challenge employees to donate the cost of one lunch and reward departments

that raise the most money.

9) Spread the word about March for Meals to friends and neighbors.

10) Buy a Mannington cookbook from Meals on Wheels for \$15.