

A Meals on Wheels of Mercer County Publication February 2024

A NOTE FROM OUR CEO, AMY FLYNN

In fond remembrance of Jeffrey Vega,
President & CEO of
Princeton Area Community Foundation
since 2015, a remarkable leader in our community.
Though I have never had the privilege of meeting him in
person, his indelible impact on the lives of those in
Mercer County and beyond resonates deeply.
On behalf of the Meals on Wheels of Mercer County
Board of Trustees and staff, deepest sympathies for the
Vega family and all who knew him.



MOWMC Updates



March for Meals is around the corner!

We are currently preparing for our annual March for Meals campaign! During March, MOWMC will be **partnering with local restaurants** to raise awareness around senior hunger.

During March for Meals, **you** can help us **"Save Lunch"** for our senior neighbors simply by having a wonderful meal at one of our participating restaurants. "Now is an important time for us to unite to ensure that Meals on Wheels is there for all of our senior neighbors in need," said Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America.

If you know a restaurant in the Mercer County community who would like to participate, please contact us!

We will also be hosting **community VIP's to deliver meals** throughout the month. Each year, our community leaders look forward to enjoying the opportunity to deliver hot, nutritious meals to our participants.

Stay tuned for more information on all of our participating March for Meals restaurants!

Thanks to generous support from **The Bunbury Fund at the Princeton Area Community Foundation**, MOWMC has hired Audacity Forward Wellness Group to conduct a comprehensive **Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI)** program. DEI training will help improve community engagement, influence organizational strategy and company policies, and have an overall positive impact on our decision making.

We look forward to bringing this valuable training to the Board, staff and volunteers!

MOWMC is so thrilled to announce that we have met our **2023 Times Holiday Appeal** matching goal!

This total funding ensures **1,428 hot, nutritious and medically tailored meals** are delivered by caring volunteers.

Thank you for helping us address senior hunger in Mercer County. The need is great, but *together we can deliver!*



In an effort to keep our participants better informed, we have partnered with the **Mercer County Department of Emergency Management** to implement an automated calling procedure to inform them of inclement weather closure.



A huge thank you to **Congressman Andy Kim**, for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit Rider University - where our meals are prepared and picked up by volunteers!

We look forward to partnering with Congressman Kim in the future to further our mission in providing for our homebound neighbors.

Pictured below are MOWMC volunteer Phyllis, MOWMC Chief Development Officer Evett Shulman, MOWMC CEO Amy Flynn, Congressman Andy Kim, Rider University President Gregory Dell'Omo, MOWMC Board President Brandon Gaines, and MOWMC Chief Operations Officer Beth Englezos.



Volunteer Spotlight

MOWMC volunteer Phyllis Vannoizzi shared her enthusiasm for Meals on Wheels - both our mission and the opportunity she has to be part of it as a volunteer - with Congressman Kim.

Phyllis has been a meal delivery volunteer with Meals on Wheels for two years - along with her husband Ray (who has been a volunteer for over 10 years!).



**We are always looking for meal delivery volunteers!
If you are interested, please click [HERE](#) to fill out an application.**

Participant Spotlight

Twice a year, Meals on Wheels sends out a survey to our participants. While we welcome participant feedback on a daily basis, this helps us determine areas where we are doing well, as well as what we can do better. Our most recent survey yielded some wonderful feedback, including:

“Before I started receiving Meals on Wheels, I felt hungry most of the day.”

“They all take a few minutes to talk to me and get my mail. Some days they are the only people I see or talk to and they really care.”

“They begin my day with a smile and so do I.”

We thank those who volunteer to deliver meals and make our program impactful for those we serve.

MOWMC in Our Community

Thank you to the **Mercer County 4H Program** for their donation of laminated placemats for our participants! They were put together by participants of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service hosted by the Program.

The 4-H Program also donated 25 birdfeeders, seeds and seed charts for our participants to enjoy!



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our **Pet Pantry** - both via food and monetary donations.

Pet food drives from **Pennington Presbyterian Nursery School**, **Pennington Quality Market**, **Pets Plus Natural in Lawrenceville**, **Princeton Girl Scouts & Incarnation St. James Church in Ewing** are helping our participants' pets thrive!

SAVE THE DATE!

Our **2024 Pet Walk** will be held on on Saturday, **10/19/24** at **Rosedale Park in Pennington**.

More information in the coming months!



MOWMC staff had the opportunity to attend the annual **Princeton Community Works Conference** in January. Staff noted that the sessions were informative, fun, and a great opportunity to learn with others in the non profit sector!

Donations

If you would like to make a donation **In Memory or In Honor** of someone, you may do so **HERE** and select 'Tribute Donation' in the drop down. Please leave details regarding names and acknowledgement in the notes box.

You may also set up **recurring monthly or quarterly giving** via our [website](#).

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



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