

On the Move

Providing meals to the homebound in the State College area since 1971



Winter 2008 Newsletter

A Million Meals...and Counting!

It was a steamy hot July morning as the crowd gathered on the lawn of Grace Lutheran Church. Excitement was in the air as an incredible milestone was about to be celebrated. Thirty-seven years in the making, State College Meals on Wheels (MOW) has now delivered *more than one million meals* to clients throughout the State College area. Thousands of volunteers over the years have teamed with the MOW staff to produce and deliver tens of thousands of nutritious meals a year to those who cannot shop or cook for themselves.

Grace Lutheran Church has been the home of Meals on Wheels since its founding in 1971. At the ceremony on July 16th, Pastor P. Stevens Lynn highlighted the enduring partnership between the church and Meals on Wheels and looked with hope and optimism to the future as MOW works on its second million meals.

Enid Borden, CEO of Meals on Wheels Association of America, was present for the celebration and praised the local operation for its performance and for doing its part to eliminate senior hunger. After the ceremony, Ms. Borden and her staff helped deliver meals on one the regular routes.

A highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of a new Chevrolet delivery van to State College Meals on Wheels from

Photo courtesy Chuck Fong, Studio 2



Celebrating a million meals: MOW Board President Bill Haner; Lisa Mariani of Harrah's; State Senator Jake Corman; MOW Executive Director Anna Carol Buffington; Enid Borden CEO of Meals on Wheels Association of America; and State Representative Scott Conklin.

Harrah's Foundation. Harrah's is a national partner of the Meals on Wheels Association of America. Lisa Mariani of Harrah's presented the keys to the van to Bill Haner, MOW board president, who then passed them to Anna Carol Buffington, executive director. The beautiful new van will be used to deliver meals on the longer, more distant routes, and will bring relief to volunteer

drivers on these routes. It will also be put to good use on food rescue missions.

Also on hand to bring the congratulations of the community and the region to Meals on Wheels on this historic day were Mayor Bill Welch, State Senator Jake Corman, State Representatives Scott Conklin and Kerry Benninghoff, and Kim Bierly, field representative for U.S. Senator Robert Casey.

More pictures on page 3 →

MEALS ON WHEELS ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Your donations over the years have been the fuel that keeps State College Meals on Wheels on the move and for this we sincerely thank you. We hope that you will choose to support us this year. Client numbers have reached an all-time high and food costs and other expenses continue to increase. Your tax deductible donation

will help us cope with these challenges and allow us to provide the best possible meals service. From the entire Meals on Wheels organization, thank you for your support!

Donation Form Enclosed

Volunteers—the Heart and Soul of Meals on Wheels

It sounds like such a cliché...“Our volunteers are critical to our operation. We couldn’t do it without them.” But in the case of State College Meals on Wheels, it couldn’t be more true.

MOW has only three paid staff: executive director, head cook, and cook’s assistant. Preparing more than three hundred meals on a delivery day (one hot and one cold meal per client) would be impossible without the many hands and boundless energy of our volunteers.

Adjacent to the kitchen, volunteers portion and package meals into insulated food carriers that keep the food warm

(or cool) during delivery. Every meal is then transported by a volunteer driver and brought to the door by another volunteer. There you have it—volunteers from kitchen to client table!

In recent months, our list of volunteers has been shrinking as many long-timers retire or move from the area. “We are just not seeing that many replacements and many of our substitutes are now first-stringers,” says Anna Carol Buffington. “The need for delivery drivers is especially critical.” Mileage reimbursement is available to help offset the cost of driving. Or if driving is not for you, you can help

package meals or accompany a driver to assist with delivery.

The wonderful thing about volunteering for Meals on Wheels is that you can set your own schedule. Once a week, three times a week—it’s up to you. As much or as little time you can devote...every hour is valuable and is gratefully accepted. MOW’s four volunteer coordinators will work with you and weave you into the weekly volunteer plan.

Please consider volunteering. It is very satisfying knowing that you have contributed to a great cause and given back to the wonderful community in which we live.

A Meal that Matters

A New Community Tradition!

Now an MOW and State College tradition, **A Meal that Matters** annual benefit dinner has become a popular community charity event. The dinner features an interesting speaker and a fun-packed live auction.

Lady Lions head coach, Coquese Washington, entertained the crowd in May 2008 with the story of her path to Penn State and her coaching philosophy. The sponsors for that dinner are listed below. Thank you again for your generous support!

The 2009 benefit is scheduled for Thursday, April 30th in the Nittany Inn Ballroom. Lady Lion soccer coach Erica Walsh will be guest speaker and talk about her experiences as assistant coach of the U.S. women’s Olympic soccer team, gold medal winners in Beijing this past summer. It promises to be another great event!



Save the date—A Meal that Matters annual benefit dinner
Thursday, April 30, 2009, 7:00 pm, Nittany Lion Inn

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(vacant)

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Thanks to last year’s sponsors

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Bill Welch, State College mayor, congratulates MOW Board President **Bill Haner** on a million meals served.



Scott Conklin and **Kerry Benninghoff** look on as **Jake Corman** speaks to the crowd.



Lisa Mariani talks about Harrah's donation of a van to State College Meals on Wheels.



Ike the Spike tries out the new Meals on Wheels van, a generous gift from **Harrah's Foundation**.



Enid Borden, CEO of Meals on Wheels Association of America, praises State College Meals on Wheels for its good work and reaching the million meals plateau.

Millionth Meal Celebration

Photos courtesy of Chuck Fong, Studio 2 State College, PA

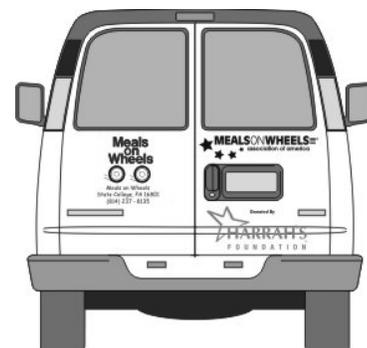
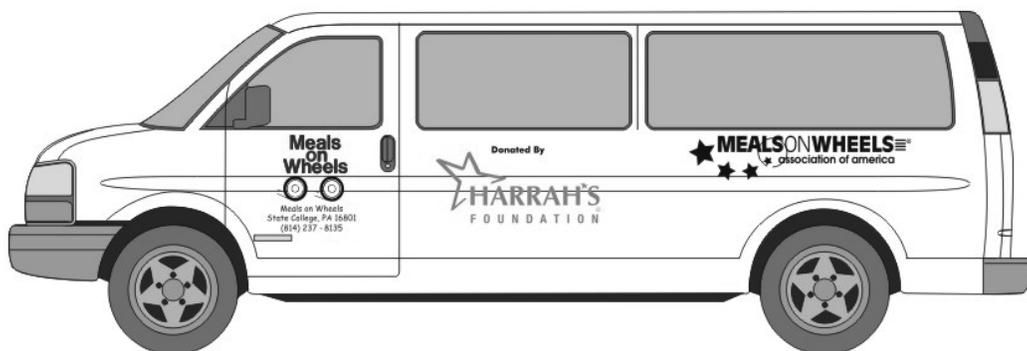
NEW VAN DELIVERS THE GOODS

State College Meals on Wheels is the proud recipient of a new Chevy van donated by **Harrah's Foundation**, a national partner of the Meals on Wheels of America Association (MOWAA). About four vans a year are given out by MOWAA through grants from Harrah's. Enid Borden, CEO of MOWAA, says the State College group was chosen to receive the van because it is a strong, well-run operation. "This program was a natural," Borden said at the July 16th ceremony celebrating the organization's millionth meal delivered.

The vehicle is being used on the longer delivery routes negating the use of volunteer driver vehicles on these routes. The van will

be a visible sign of Meals on Wheels in the community as it moves about the region. "Food rescue" will be another prime mission for the vehicle. Food rescue involves picking up perfectly good food that would otherwise have to be discarded, such as end-of-semester food inventories at Penn State dining commons.

Meals on Wheels is pleased to announce that **Stocker Chevrolet** is donating general maintenance on the vehicle. The Stocker donation will reduce operating costs and help keep the vehicle in excellent operating condition. Thank you Stocker Chevrolet for "stepping up to the plate!"



Client Quote

"I am so pleased with your program. I look forward to getting my meals every week. I enjoy the hot meals; they are so delicious and the cold meals are a nice variety of soups and sandwiches. Thanks so much for your service, from those who prepare the meals to those that deliver them. You are much appreciated. Thanks also to those who decorate the bags. And thank you for my poinsettia plant; that was so thoughtful."

Volunteer Opportunities with Meals on Wheels

DRIVERS – Deliver meals to clients on a standard route within the State College School District using your own vehicle. Valid PA driver's license and automobile insurance required.

VISITORS – Ride with the driver, take meals to the clients.

KITCHEN WORKERS – Help package meals in the MOW kitchen at Grace Lutheran Church.

FOOD RESCUE – Assist with food rescue efforts as needed throughout the year. This job is perfect for someone with a pickup truck or van.

To volunteer, call the Meals on Wheels office at (814) 237-8135, email acbuffington@yahoo.com, or clip and mail this form to: State College MOW, P.O. Box 1235, State College, PA 16804

Name _____

Street/Box # _____

City _____

State _____ Zip: _____

Email _____

I would like to volunteer! Sign me up as a...

- Driver
- Visitor
- Kitchen Helper
- Food Rescue Volunteer

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we keep State College Area Meals on Wheels *ON THE MOVE!*

Notice of Registration: A copy of the official registration and financial information for State College Meals on Wheels may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania: 1-800-737-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.