

NOVEMBER 2024



## A VALUED VOLUNTEER

On Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 2024, Meals on Wheels of Southwest OH & Northern KY presented its first ever Presidential Volunteer Service Award. This award recognizes someone who completes between 50 and 500 hours of volunteer service in a year. The recipient of the award was high school student, Laura McCormick. Laura has volunteered over 100 hours in just eight short months. She has

supported a variety of activities including packing meals, building snack boxes, and decorating birthday bags for seniors.

We are extremely grateful for Laura's time, hard work, and dedication to our seniors and the greater community. Congratulations Laura, and thank you for your service!

# LETTER FROM THE CEO



*Mike Dunn, CEO*

Dear Friend,

There is so much to be thankful for here at Meals on Wheels! I have been here six months now, and have come to realize our community is blessed to have a dedicated, talented Meals on Wheels staff committed to serving seniors in need. There are so many moving parts that must be thoughtfully executed each and every day at Meals on Wheels to ensure seniors receive the essential services they need, and our staff always rises to that challenge.

Meals on Wheels also benefits from numerous community partners all dedicated to serving the needs of seniors. We certainly could not do what we do without the support of our 4,300 annual volunteers. Volunteers bring so much positive energy and joy to our collective work. Donors of all kinds help make our services possible. As you can imagine, it takes a great deal of resources to meet the ever-increasing needs of seniors. If you have been able to volunteer with us or donate to us in the past, I thank you. If you would like to become involved, please check out our website, [www.muchmorethanameal.org](http://www.muchmorethanameal.org).

It is the seniors themselves, I am most thankful for. They are the treasures of our community with so much life and wisdom to share. I encourage you to get involved in the life of a senior. It will impact your life more than you can imagine.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunn".

## MUCH MORE THAN A CAR

We are thrilled to announce Subaru's "Share the Love" event is back for another impactful season! Between November 21<sup>st</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>, for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased, Subaru will donate \$250 to the buyer's choice of four national charities. Meals on Wheels America is honored to be one of these selected partners for the 17th year in a row. Since the "Share the Love" program began in 2008, Subaru and its customers have contributed more than \$32 million to support Meals on Wheels' mission, reaching seniors and neighbors who rely on this critical support. With your help, we are excited to see what we can achieve together this year. Thank you, Subaru, for making a difference!







## BUST A CRUST

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, the air fills with joy and gratitude—and at Meals on Wheels, that also means it is time for Bust a Crust! Our annual pie fundraiser has become a beloved tradition, bringing the community together to support our seniors. This event would not be possible without Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church (HPCUMC), whose ongoing support and shared dedication have helped make Bust a Crust a success year after year.

Meals on Wheels' partnership with HPCUMC is rooted in decades of shared purpose, going back to when the church graciously opened its kitchen to Wesley Community Services—now Meals on Wheels of Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky—before we had a commercial kitchen of our own.

As Rev. Kate Smith explains, “At Hyde Park Community UMC, our long-term partnership with Meals on Wheels is a testament to our commitment to putting faith into action. This partnership

embodies our dedication to loving our neighbors and supporting the well-being of all, especially the most vulnerable among us. Over the years, multiple generations (from pre-schoolers to seniors) have enjoyed being able to help pack snacks, portion pet food, deliver smiles and birthday bags to seniors, collecting donations, and of course, serving each year at Bust a Crust!”

Bust a Crust is more than a fundraiser—it is an opportunity for the entire community to share in the spirit of Thanksgiving by ensuring our seniors feel cared for and valued. Each pie sold provides meals and support to seniors in need, making it as heartwarming as it is delicious. You can still be part of the joy by donating at [bustacrust.org](http://bustacrust.org). Without the unwavering support of HPCUMC and many other community partners, the mission of Meals on Wheels would simply not be possible. Together, we are bringing nourishment, connection, and care to seniors who need it most.

# FEEDING BODIES, MINDS, AND SPIRITS



Margo R., Meals on Wheels volunteer

Part of our mission at Meals on Wheels is to feed bodies, minds, and spirits, and the Friendly Caller Program does just that. The Friendly Caller Program is a telephone reassurance program that aims to reduce social isolation among seniors via weekly phone calls made by dedicated and trained volunteers. Plus, it is safe, accessible, and completely free!

Each participant in the Friendly caller Program is matched with a volunteer based on shared interests. From there, calls are made by the volunteer and scheduled with the senior based on the senior's individual needs. By providing confidential and supportive listening, meaningful connections are built and lasting impacts are made – one call at a time.

*If you or someone you know could benefit from increased social connection, or if you are interested in volunteering, please call 513-559-4482 for more information.*

## JOIN THE MADNESS



# SAVE THE DATE MARCH 19, 2025

Cintas Center, Xavier University | Cincinnati, Ohio

Visit [muchmorethanameal.org/madness](https://muchmorethanameal.org/madness) for more details.