DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS OF MEALS ON WHEELS OF RHODE ISLAND,

Traditionally, Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island’s annual newsletter has been an opportunity to share what you, our supporters, have helped us accomplish in the prior year. This is the space where we celebrate all the ways your generosity has allowed us to continue our work in enabling our state’s seniors to live healthier, safer and happier lives.

While we still do that within these pages, we want to also acknowledge that 2020 has brought many unanticipated changes to all our lives—including those of the seniors we serve. And so, our newsletter looks a little different this year, too.

Just as we kicked-off our annual fundraising campaign, March for Meals, COVID-19 required all of us to shift gears and prepare for a vastly unknown future. Within days, our volunteers were far fewer, our Capital City Café Program was put on pause, and senior centers across the state were closed, leaving thousands unsure of how they would get enough food.

Thus, we put out a call to you, our partners in bettering the lives of Rhode Island seniors, for your help. You have humbled us with your unwavering dedication to and support of our mission. It is only because of your generosity that not only have we been able to continue serving our clients, but we have been able to meet an increased need for our services as more seniors are home, self-isolating to stay healthy and safe.

Thanks to you, Meals on Wheels of RI has been able to continue its everyday work throughout this crisis.

When we needed new volunteers, you raised your hand to deliver daily meals to our clients. When we asked for support to keep enacting our mission, you answered our call.

Since March 30, we’ve also been able to deliver 2,500 frozen meals per day to municipalities statewide through funding from the Family First Corona Response and CARES Act.

As we write this, some of life before COVID-19 has started to return to normal.

But, we do not know what the rest of the year will bring, and we’ll need your continued support to ensure that nearly 2,600 homebound seniors across the state are able to get the healthy meals, wellbeing checks and friendly visits they need to remain living independently this year.

We hope you’ll consider making an additional gift this year so that, together, we can continue to be our seniors’ delivery heroes.

In gratitude,

Meghan Grady
Executive Director

Kevin Millonzi
Board Chair
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Joseph Brown  
Founder of MOWRI  
(1924-2014)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

63% of our clients live alone

90% are at least 65 years old

54% are at least 80 years old

In 51 years, we’ve served 19 million meals and counting across the Ocean State

“I want to especially thank my volunteer for waiting for me to come to my door. It takes me a long time because I’m not feeling well and I’m very grateful for her.”  
—MOWRI client, Cranston, RI

**SO FAR IN 2020**

110,000+ meals delivered to Rhode Islanders in need

1,774 senior citizens served

86,343 COVID-19 response meals delivered

$125k+ raised during our 2020 March for Meals campaign
Volunteer Spotlight

As Edesia founder and CEO Navyn Salem thought about how she would spend her suddenly free time during COVID-19, volunteering with Meals on Wheels of RI seemed like a natural fit. “Of course, I’ve been involved with feeding people for the last 12 years or so, so it’s something that always comes to mind,” Salem said. “And I guess you can say I’m built for a crisis.” Since its founding in 2009, Edesia has provided millions of specialized ready-to-use foods to malnourished children across the globe each year. In April, Salem also donated dozens of the company’s MeWe peanut butter snacks to Meals on Wheels clients. Joining Salem as Meals on Wheels of RI volunteers were her husband Paul and twin daughters, Halle and Zara, whose academic years were cut short due the virus. “(We started) at the beginning of all this, so socialization with clients was reduced unfortunately,” she said. “But, it’s nice to just meet people and to explore different areas of your own neighborhood. I like to feed people. It makes me happy.”

In Just 30 Days

Meals on Wheels RI Could Provide Its Clients:

- 39% Reduction in Hospitalizations
- 28% Reduction in Emergency Department Visits
- 28% Reduction in Nursing Home Usage
- $600 Reduction in Medicare Costs

Source: MOWA Medical Claims Analysis. For complete report, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org

Navyn Salem and family
“I just started receiving meals and I love how they are packaged and delivered and I love my wonderful delivery driver.”

—MOWRI client, Newport, RI