DEAR FRIENDS,

As you’re reading this, we have just about reached the halfway mark of 2021. And, though it hasn’t been quite as tumultuous as last year, we’re still very much living with the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our lives and work.

Since we last wrote to you in Meals on Wheels of RI’s annual newsletter, our services have continued without disruption—but with protocols to ensure everyone’s health and safety—during the pandemic.

Our clients have continued to trust in us to help keep them healthy and safe at home. Our volunteers have continued to provide the vital socialization that our homebound seniors need to remain living independently.

And you, our friends, have continued to be generous in your financial support of work that continues to benefit nearly 1,200 seniors each weekday across the state, from Woonsocket to Westerly.

We were very grateful to our clients who opened their hearts this year to help us celebrate our annual March for Meals public awareness campaign with socially-distanced deliveries. In fact, we had more March for Meals deliveries this year than ever before, bringing together our clients, elected officials and supporters despite limitations we continue to face due to the pandemic.

Still, what will happen during the rest of this year is unpredictable. While we can hope that our public health environment will allow us to fundraise the way we want and need to in order to continue our important work, we can’t be certain that will be possible.

And so we are turning to you, as our friends and partners in serving homebound Rhode Island seniors, and asking you to make a generous gift this year to Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island.

With your support, we will continue to be delivery heroes to thousands of homebound seniors whose health and happiness remains our top priority.

On behalf of those seniors, we thank you.

In gratitude,

Meghan Grady
Executive Director

Kevin Millonzi
Board Chair

I love the meals; I could not ask for better!
—William N., Cranston

CONNECT WITH US
#DELIVERYHEROES

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OUR SENIORS NEED YOUR SUPPORT
Contact the Development Department
401-351-6700, ext. 122
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Interested in making a legacy gift? Call us to inquire about the Joseph Brown Society for planned giving.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

When Emely moved to Providence, she sought a way to become more connected to her new home while also giving back to her community. The caveat? She needed to be able to volunteer with her 2-year-old daughter Ryan in tow. The duo have been delivering for Meals on Wheels of RI since February 2021 and are enjoying every minute of their experience—but probably not as much as our clients love having a visit from a smiling toddler!

SO FAR IN 2021

As of 5/31/21

135,285 meals delivered to Rhode Islanders in need

1,892 senior citizens served

644 new clients added to our programs

$108+ raised during our 2021 March for Meals campaign

Edward, 77, is a lifelong Rhode Islander who has been a client of our Home-Delivered Meal Program since March 2020 and this year participated in our March for Meals campaign with a special delivery with Congressman David Cicilline. Edward has lived with vascular problems in his legs for several years and enrolled in our program when worsening symptoms made him wheelchair dependent and no longer able to safely leave the home on his own. Edward is a U.S. Army veteran, was an electrician by trade, and was married to his beloved wife, Janice, for 48 years before she passed away seven years ago. Unable to socialize as much as he would because of the pandemic, Edward reports greatly enjoying his home-delivered meals and visits with his “very friendly” delivery driver.

Meals on Wheels is such a wonderful service; I am extremely thankful for all you do for me.

– Grace A., Charlestown