



More Than Meals!

JULY 2011

From the President...

As Meals on Wheels Chicago approaches its 25th year of service to the senior community, it is my pleasure to update our supporters on the achievements and internal milestones the organization has reached in that time period. When I began my presidency in 2008, I'd been a part of Meals on Wheels Chicago as an active board member for five years. In that time, the organization hired a Development Director and Development Associate to oversee the three annual events, which were the primary sources of organizational revenue at the time. The organization created sell-out events that were well attended and supported by the MOWC community. As a board, we were especially proud of how successful these events were becoming, with wide name recognition and a following of dedicated patrons.

In 2008, the board promoted the Director of Development to Executive Director, giving Kimberly Porritt the ability to fundraise outside the event lens and focus on community relations, board development, and traditional fundraising models. Recognizing the fundraising potential of the organization under Kim's leadership, the board made the decision to hire an additional staff person, Andrew Seibert, in 2010 to focus on event execution, giving Kim and the Director of Fundraising, Margo Willard, the ability to grow the individual giving program which includes corporate and foundation giving, as well as expanding the existing individual donor program. This remarkable staff of three is off and running in 2011, having completed two successful events and grown both corporate and foundation relationships.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to introduce this team to our supporters and the MOWC community. Their potential for growing this organization and increasing our ability to feed more homebound seniors is great and we have high hopes for their success in 2011 and beyond.

The Work We Do: Updates on Our Programs

Meals on Wheels Chicago is committed to the belief that all individuals have the right to live independently with dignity in their own homes. Through monetary grants to our two City of Chicago agencies, it is our hope to reduce the number of home-bound seniors and individuals with disabilities in need. The two programs we support are the Home Delivered Meals Program and the HomeMod program, both of which have experienced tremendous success recently.

The Home Delivered Meals program provides thousands of isolated, homebound seniors the opportunity for food security in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes. Our city partner estimates that anywhere from 8,000-11,000 seniors receive two meals every day on a weekly basis. Our office recently conducted a direct mail campaign in conjunction with the Mother's Day holiday on May 8th, sending out information about our program with the goal of raising funds for this program. To date, this campaign has raised \$10,000 which has provided 3,000 meals to our program recipients. We are proud of the success of this newer campaign and appreciate the community support of our women meal recipients, of which nearly 66% enrolled in the program happen to be.

Additionally, our HomeMod program recently completed a milestone that greatly impacts the disabilities community in the city of Chicago. This program, which effectively allows individuals with disabilities to achieve a higher level of independence through accessibility modifications made to their homes or apartments, recently completed its 600th home modification. Since 1999, the HomeMod program has been a critical component in the City's goal to make Chicago one of the most accessible cities in the country to the nearly 600,000 individuals with disabilities living here.

SAVE THE DATE

NOURISH

Family • Community • Chicago

2011 Meals on Wheels Chicago Celebrity Chef Ball

Friday • October 14 • 2011



MOWC Honored as Firestone Celebrates Grand Opening



On April 1st, Firestone returned to downtown Chicago with the Grand Opening of their new facility on South Wabash Avenue. MOWC was the recipient of a gift in honor of the occasion.



Stay Connected with Meals on Wheels



We've recently launched a NEW page on Facebook for Meals on Wheels Chicago. Be sure to visit and check out all our photos from the 2011 Texas Hold 'Em and the 2010 Celebrity Chef Ball.

Want to get all the latest updates on the 2011 Celebrity Chef Ball?
Follow us @MOWChicago



Add Meals on Wheels Chicago
to your Linked IN network!

2011 King of the River Texas Hold 'Em & Casino Night

Left: 2011 King of the River Champion Jon Larson celebrates his victory. *Center:* Guests play in hopes of advancing on in the tournament.



Thanks to all our sponsors and participants, the 2011 tournament raised over \$67,000 in support of our mission!

Special thanks to our presenting sponsor, Senior Lifestyle Corporation.



Right: Associate Board member Larissa Johnson is recognized as the 2011 recipient of the Founders Award.

We Just Called to Say “Thank You!”

Earlier this spring, you may have received a phone call from one of our many wonderful volunteers. It wasn't to ask for a donation, or request that you purchase a ticket. All of those are important. However, we had a greater goal in mind: to thank our donors who support Meals on Wheels Chicago. We recognize that without your support, we couldn't help those most in need. Your generosity allows us to continue to bring vital services to Chicago's homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities. And, we had a lovely time speaking with each of you. Our volunteers said that many of you were quite surprised too! Maybe even a little dumbfounded that we would pick up the phone and simply say, Thank You! We will continue to reach out and thank you and let you know how much we appreciate you, our fantastic donors and volunteers!

Matching Gifts – Double or Triple Your Gift



Does your employer have a matching gifts program? Hundreds of Chicago-area companies support the philanthropic efforts of their employees by offering matching gifts. We've gathered a list of these companies and posted them on our web site.



Check for your company by visiting www.mealsonwheelschicago.org...
Click “Donate Now”... then click “Matching Gifts”.

If you don't see your company on our list, be sure to check with your HR department!

Corporate Partner Spotlight: The Grainger Foundation & Grainger, Inc.

The Grainger Foundation recently made a \$5,000 contribution to Meals on Wheels Chicago, a supportive measure that speaks to the commitment Grainger has to our goals and mission to serve thousands of homebound seniors every year. Since 2009, both the Grainger Foundation and Grainger Inc. have contributed a combined total of over \$25,000 to both the meal delivery program and our annual golf outing. The contributions of The Grainger Foundation have been instrumental in delivering over 7,000 meals to our clients and Kimberly Porritt, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels Chicago, commented, “As an organization striving to meet the basic needs of Chicago's most vulnerable population, Meals on Wheels Chicago is grateful to have the continued support of both The Grainger Foundation and Grainger, Inc. Our partnership over the years has been very beneficial and we greatly appreciate their continued investment in our work.” Grainger, Inc., is North America's leading broad line supplier of maintenance, repair and operating products and supports charitable initiatives in the communities where their employees live and work. As Chicago's senior population continues to grow, community leaders like Grainger lead the way in supporting us and our ability to serve Chicago's seniors and disabled populations.

Meals on Wheels Chicago
One N. LaSalle St, Ste. 2065
Chicago, IL 60602
www.mealsonwheelschicago.org

Kimberly Porritt, Executive Director
312.744.2120

Margo Willard, Dir. of Fundraising
312.744.0985

Andrew Seibert, Development Assoc.
312.744.0684