

The Scoop

Volume 49 Issue 1

February 2024

SPECIAL DELIVERY



Upcoming Special Events

- ♦ **32nd Annual Charity
Golf Tournament**
Monday, May 6, 2024
Sponsorships Available



- ♦ **Abilene Gives**
Tuesday, May 7, 2024

I thought you would like to know.....

As we look back over the past year we see milestones that reflect the growth of the program. Which means that more at-risk individuals have been helped in meaningful ways.

- February saw the installation of a new, larger walk-in freezer and cooler in the Mesquite Street building. We are most grateful to a donor whose gift made the additional freezer space available. Now we have space to accommodate more frozen meals to be delivered to some of the neediest clients who live alone so they will have a balanced meal on Saturday.
- July 5 - Meal delivery into Lawn began. It's a pleasure to provide meals for a small community that had been without a Meals on Wheels program.
- November 20 - Meal delivery began into Aspermont. The Aspermont Small Business Development Center was providing meals on Tuesday and Thursday. We partner with them to provide meals Monday, Wednesday and Friday with a frozen meal for Saturday.



Betty Bradley
Executive Director

One of the challenges we didn't anticipate was the very large number of people requesting meals. In our almost 49 year history we have never had so many people being referred to the program on a daily basis. The 1,209 meals served per day last January grew to 1,363 by the end of the year. The waiting list, that normally has 25 to 30 people on it, is now at 150.

Is it because of the economy? The elderly are often living on a fixed income. We know that many can no longer meet their living and medical expenses and still have money left to buy food. The results of the January 2024 Client Satisfaction Survey showed that 51% of those responding said that the lunch they receive from Meals on Wheels is more than 1/2 of the food they usually eat each day. That is sobering.

In an attempt to provide lunch for an additional day we are freezing meal trays that were prepared, but not actually sent out each day. They are then delivered with juice, salad & dessert with the regular hot meal on either Thursday or on Friday. These Saturday meals served 187 at-risk individuals in January and by December there were 345 needy people receiving them. It's a good way to use leftovers while providing more food for our clients.

We really don't know why we are being flooded with requests for meals. There is such a great need and each person we serve has their own unique challenges. We would like to be able to serve everyone who meets our need requirements and it is putting a real strain on the budget. Financial donations are simply not keeping up with the growth of the program. We work hard to be good stewards of all gifts and at the same time we don't want to turn away individuals with multiple health problems who simply cannot provide nutritious meals for themselves.

Thank you for helping us drive away hunger with your financial gifts & volunteer service.

Inside this Issue

**Urgent Appeal -Volunteer Drivers for
Abilene & Rural Areas**
Save the Date 2024 Golf Tournament

2

LOVE LETTERS

"Pets to the Vet" Volunteers Needed

3

Memorials

4-5



Honors & Birthday Honors
Care Plus Awards

6

Pet Support Program
Knight Family Endowment

7

Meals on Wheels Service Area

8

Urgent Appeal for Volunteers - Meals on Wheels Needs Your Support

Abilene and the Rural Communities we serve need your helping hands more than ever. We are facing a critical need for dedicated volunteers to assist in delivering meals especially in some of the rural communities.

Volunteer Opportunity: Meals on Wheels Drivers Needed for Specific Rural Routes:

- **Rural Routes Most In Need:**
 - Aspermont • Ballinger/Rowena
 - Eula • Hamlin • Hawley • Potosi
- **Abilene Area**
 - Ft. Phantom Lake & Hamby Route
 - Southside of Abilene
 - Areas around Dyess AFB, Mall of Abilene, Southside Wal-Mart
 - Northside of Abilene
 - We have several routes that are needing filled Monday thur Friday



Why Your Help is Crucial:

- For many, your visit would be the high point of their day. Delivering not just a meal but also a smile and friendship.
- You can be a part of something significant that is dedicated to driving away hunger in the greater Abilene area

Be a Hero:

- Dedicate your weekdays (Monday to Friday) to helping another
- Choose a route that resonates with your heart
- Become a friendly face our recipients eagerly anticipate



Your mission is to deliver not just a meal but smiles to those eagerly awaiting your arrival.

Ready to Make a Difference?

If you can spare a couple of hours one day a week, or even two or three days, to support Meals on Wheels you will be filling a great need. Your willingness to drive through the scenic routes can brighten the days of those who depend on Meals on Wheels.

How to Sign Up:

- Visit our website: www.mealsonwheelsplus.com
- Click on the "Volunteer" tab - Volunteer Registration
- Fill out the on-line volunteer application form

For immediate inquiries or to express your interest, please contact Volunteer Coordinators Nancy Ruelas or Maria Jimenez at (325) 672-5050 or e-mail volunteer@mealsonwheelsplus.com.

Together, as a community, we can ensure that no one in our area is left hungry or unseen.

SAVE THE DATE: 32nd Annual Meals on Wheels Charity Golf Tournament

DATE: May 6, 2024

PLACE: Diamondback Golf Club

Sponsorships available

for more information

Call Betty or JoAnne at (325) 672-5050



Signature Sponsor:

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Jud Powell



Thank you for all that you do to provide meals for those that are in need of it. My Dad receives Meals on Wheels and it is a bright spot in his life.

Please accept our donation to help further your wonderful work.

Paul & Julie



Thank you for Meals on Wheels. You refresh my soul



Thank you for all the good, hot meals and extras for bad weather days. It has been a help on our finances and cooking for ourselves.

Especially a big thanks to all the volunteers that deliver the food with smiles, well wishes, and sometimes prayers. They are a real treat!

Thank you so very much. It has been a blessing for me

Thank you Meals on Wheels & the Caring Volunteers for all that you do. I'm enjoying my meals.

-Letha

We are thankful for each Meal we get.

Rose



It really does not matter if it is a A or B Lunch. They are all good!

Thank you - Hazel



love letters

meals on wheels

To All the People who work preparing and delivering "Meals on Wheels":
All of the labor involved in providing meals for the elderly and others is such a wonderful service to the community.

My dad lives in Rowena and has been receiving Meals on Wheels for several months. It has become the highlight of his weekday-sitting in a chair at his kitchen table and watching out the window for the vehicle to drive up that will be delivering his meal. He really likes to meet the volunteer at the door who is delivering his meal for the day.

I call him everyday at 11:45 am because I know he is already sitting in his chair watching out the window for the volunteer. He always tells me when he sees a vehicle on the highway and whether or not it turns into his driveway.

I just want to commend everyone who participates in the Meals on Wheels program and tell you all how much we appreciate all of you for your service. Thank you all so very much.

Sincerely,

Joanna

We want to say Thank you! so very much And God Bless you for delivering his meals.

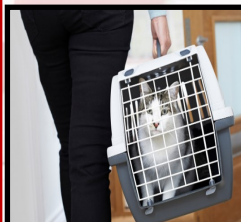
I am a volunteer and delivered to a client who lives alone and she shared with me something that touched my heart deeply and I know I had to share this short story. I delivered a hot and frozen meal for her Saturday meal. She was so overwhelmed and started crying because her prayers were being answered. She said all she ate over the weekend was peanut butter.

I am so glad that I was able to deliver both meals to her and see how much each meal is important.

Thank you Meals on Wheels

A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE "PETSTO THE VET" PROGRAM

We are currently in need of reliable volunteers to assist in transporting pets to veterinary appointments. The responsibilities include picking up pets from clients' homes, ensuring their safe transportation to Big Country Veterinary Clinic, and returning them home.



- Most appointments are scheduled after 3 pm, offering flexibility for volunteers with daytime commitments.
- Carriers will be provided for the convenience of both volunteers and pets.
- Clients will have all necessary documents prepared.

In Loving Memory

Memorials for October 23, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Rosa Albarado
Paul & Monica Minzenmayer

Donna Axline
Mary Jean Wills

Glenda Baker
Curtis Daley

Billy Beaird
Sterling & Linda Robertson

Camilla Becton
Highland Church of Christ

Leon Beimer
Vernell Kleypas
Clifton & Maxine Michalewicz
Paul & Monica Minzenmayer
James & Ollema Rose

David Bell
Rochelle Johnson

Imogene & Bill Bleiker
Betty Casteel

Lonnie & Martha Boggs
Paula & Jeff Boggs

Reggie Bowman
Betty Casteel

Brian Bradley
Debra & Brett McCracken
Sterling & Linda Robertson

Jim Bradley
Barbara Swagerty

Tenia Brashear
Patsy Crawford

Ron Bredemeyer
Brenda K. Bredemeyer

Kathleen Brooks
Patrick Brooks

Doug Browning
Richard & Judy Cooley

Joe Ed Burnam
Betty Casteel

Edleen Buxkemper
Paul & Monica Minzenmayer
James & Lema Rose

Mary Lynn Cantrell
Chris & Vance Goddard
Phyllis Stine
Betty Weissinger

Rosalynn Carter
Ron & Pat Dulude

Frank Casteel
Betty Casteel

Mackenzie Christopher
Chastang
Christy Ivy

Johnnie Chism
Margaret Peters

James H. Colwell
Jim Raffel

Billy Ray Combs
Art Tull

James Richard Combs
Samuel & Minnie Combs

Barbara Core
Leck & Tip Matthews

Lane Cyd
Debi Smith

Alissa D'Amore
Janice D'Amore

Barbara Daugherty
A Friend

Jean Davis
Debra & Brett McCracken

Gerri Denny
Blanche Jerige

Cleta Dix
Barbara Swagerty

Bill Donaldson
Aunt Vi

Charles & Shirley Dortch
Phillip Dortch

Patty Dressen-Dunn
Russell & Linda Dressen

Harvey Droll
Paul & Monica Minzenmayer

Frank & Cynthia Duran
Maria Duran

Beth Eddington
Robert & Virginia Wright

James Edwards
Debra & Brett McCracken

Jean Kay Erwin
Charles E. Erwin

Joyce & Durwood Finley
Betty Casteel

Margie Finley
Elaine Collier

Charles Fish
Jan & David Klassen

Doris Fomby
Lori Lau

Doris & Don Fomby
Elaine & Bill Dockery

Alice Marie Fournier
Betty L. Bradley
Connie Huffman
Daniel Hutson-
Dyess Chief's Group
Rik & Karolyn Kosanke



Doris Freeman
Lorie Copeland
Joy Sunday School Class-
First Baptist Church
Donnelle & Bennie Sayger

Doris & Cy Freeman
Greg & Chris Miller Families

Bennie Frenzel
Clifton & Maxine Michalewicz
James & Ollema Rose

Jeannie Fulton
Marty & Lesli Frey

Jennie Fulton
Paul & Monica Minzenmayer
Robert & Virginia Wright

Harry Galvan
Janice Amarine

Ann Jefferies Glover
Richard & Judy Cooley

Mark Grant
Jim & Barbara Grant

John Griggs
Sterling & Linda Robertson

Cecil Halfmann
Tina Bednar
Paul & Monica Minzenmayer

Clifford Halfmann
Greg & Cindy Hughes
David & Sharon Rohmfeld
Marty & Lesli Frey
James & Lema Rose

Harry Hamilton
Jim Raffel

Margaret Hamilton
Betty Casteel

Alton William Hammer
Uta Taylor

Robert Leo Harris
Connie Harris

Grady Hausenfluke
Jim Raffel

Chona Hernandez
Patricia Hernandez

E.L. Hernandez, Sr.
Patricia Hernandez

Janie Hernandez
Ace Air Conditioning
Patti Miller

Julie Eversdyk Hicks
Eunice Eversdyk

Eddie Hodges, Jr.
Suzette Hodges
Michelle Hodges Brookshire
Charisse Hodges Pruett

Valeria Hoelscher
Paul & Monica Minzenmayer

Avenell Holloway
Margie Wheeler

Geneva Houghton
Charlie & Terry Shira

Ina Howell
Juddi Gilmore

Patricia Ann Crow Huber
Patti Tessen

Casey Huff
Martha Kiel

Robert Hughes, Jr.
Sherry & Ray Kachel

John Hulse
Betty Casteel

Martha Hutson
Jim & Virginia Vick

Keven Irvin
Guy & Holly Irvin

Ruth Lambert Jackson
Robert & Brenda Grant
Carolyn Presswood
Katy Presswood

Mary Jaramillo
Natalia Pallarez

Charles Johnston
Trent Brown

David Justice
Tim Burns & Family

Trisha Williams Kane
Betty Casteel

KDJ
Patricia Hernandez

Howard Kean
Dr. Juanell Isaac-Brown

Sharon Kennedy
Don & Marti McKee

Danny Kirk
Tammie & Danny Blankenship

Rex Klepper
Connie Klepper Hays

Steve Knight
Richard & Judy Cooley

Sheryl Koltermann
Robin Burrow
Virginia Fincher
Jaime Pena
Merlin & June Peters
Sterling & Linda Robertson
Charlie & Terry Shira
Hubert Smith

Diane "Dee" Laird
R.J. Laird



In Loving Memory Cont.

William Lamar

Larry & Suzanne McMillon

Cyd Lane

Gary & Kimi McGee

Larr Law

Janice Mantooth

Nancy A. LeMay

Jim Raffel

Rachel Leonard

John Sylvanus

Tiny Lochner

Martha Lochner

Ronnie Lorenz

Joe & Karen Sharp

Lala Loza

Henry & Nina Loza

Melissa Lund

Jennifer Keith

Patsy Lanelle LuperRobyn Sloan
Sherri Thetford**Bill Manriquez**

Lou & Darlene Dorich

Maria Mares

Sterling & Linda Robertson

Glenn Markham

Carlene Markham

Harvey Martin

Ace Air Conditioning

William "Bill" Richard

Matatall

Marla Schaefer & Family

Selina McGuire-

On Her Birthday

Tammy & Paige Watts

Wilma & Jesse McIntosh

Martha Lochner

Regina McKay

Lou, Darlene & Scottie

Gwen McLartyRodney & Carolyn Flanagan
James & Lema Rose**Al & Betty McLoughlin**

Mark Szemcsak

Kent McMillan

Dennis & Ellen Seidenberger

Steve McVey

Larry & Suzanne McMillon

Kay Meredith

Linda Taylor

Janice Middlebrook's

Daughter

Barbara Swagerty

Dennis & Janet

Minzenmayer

Paul & Monica Minzenmayer

Margaret's Mom

Joan Diehl

Wanda Moore

Clifton & Maxine Michalewicz

Daniel C. MorganRichard Catington
Randy & Kay Spiva**Loreta & Pete Morgan**

Barbara Patton

Chris MosesCurtis & Sarah Davis
Madie Newman
Don & Sonja Smith**Don & Juanda Murphy**

Suzanne Murphy

Terry Myers

Tammy & Paige Watts

Adel G. Nafrawi, M.D.

Lorna Nafrawi

Judy NewmanRichard & Judy Cooley
Billy & Yodit Jones
Jan & Steve Ripley**Larry "Nick" Nichols**

Joe & Karen Sharp

Frank NorwoodBootsy Norwood
Kenneth Norwood**Betty V. Novak**

Frederick V. Novak

Antha Overbury

Rob Sledge

Hope Pallarez

Natalia Pallarez

Charlie Parham

Jim Raffel

Kade Parmelly

Betty Casteel

Mary Pena

Celia Guerrero

Meredez G. & Yaloro

Perez

Lupe & Celestino Castillo, Sr.

John Polk

Betty Casteel

Lloyd Presswood

Jim Raffel

Grace Proctor

Melissa Woodard

Jim Rankin

Betty Casteel

Taylor Rankin

Roy Flournoy

Lynn Reed

Joyful Sisters

Jack & Becky Rentz

Doug & Frances Williamson

Marilynn Reeves

Scott & Heather Ake

Jane Rhodes

Cindy Rhodes

Beverly Ridgway

James & Laura Reinbolt

Jack Riddlehoover

Betty Casteel

Demetric Ritche

Michele Green

John Ritzel

Sterling & Linda Robertson

Cary Lee Roberts

Joe & Karen Sharp

David Rogers

Phyllis Stine

Lucille Rohmfeld

Paul & Monica Minzenmayer

Melvin Sakamoto

Betty Casteel

Mickey & Autumn Sansom

Fredell Sansom

Greg Saucier

Colette Saucier

Linda Scarborough

Barbara Swagerty

Herbert & Bell Seidel

Barbara Swagerty

Jo Ella Shelton

Betty Casteel

Richard & Judy Cooley

Eual & Darrell Shults

Wanda Shults

Laveda Simmons

Earl Burns

Jerry L. Smith

Robert & Brenda Grant

Randy Smith

Jerry & Joyce Smith

Tom South

Jan South

Wilfred Spears

Greg Spears

Jerry Speers

Mr. & Mrs. Leddy Lewis

Julia Stabler

Patsy Crawford

Tom Standard

Judy Elliott

Pam & Kirk Stubblefield

Rebecca D. Stanley

Art & Jerri Gazaille

Mary Jo Stephenson

Billy & Yodit Jones

Paul & Tommi Stephson

Edward Heck

Glenda Stringfellow

Benjamin Alexander

Margaret Strube

Jamie Lynn McWright

Jimmie Sturrock

Perry Hunter Hall

Alan Swagerty

Barbara Swagerty

Mary "Corky" Swanson

Mike Swanson

Bettie Sylvanus

John Sylvanus

Johnny Teaff

Janice D'Amore

Doyle Tennison

Sterling & Linda Robertson

Laura Thornton

Margie Wheeler

Bob Tornai

Lou & Darlene Dorich

George Tucker

Woody & Linda Gordon

John & Roberta Tucker

Betty Casteel

Danny Vines

Donnelle & Bennie Sayger

Randy Vinson

Joy Beard

Richard & Judy Cooley

Rosemary Walford

Betty Casteel

Margaret June Walker

Michelle Beaty-Eide Bailly LLP

Bobby Melson-Eide Bailly LLP

Ginny Walls

Maci Shannon

Larry Walrath

Marcia Walrath

Clara Elizabeth Warner

Bob & Bobbie Warner

Clinton & Edith Watson

Rodney & Jana Watson

Nicholas Whitaker

Martha Kiel

In Loving Memory Cont.

Charlie Williams

Lee & Nancy Evans
Alice Frerich
Charles & Linda Frerich
Ken & Viki Halfmann
Clifton & Maxine Michalewicz
Richard & Maria Gaye Pelzel
David & Sharon Rohmfeld
Barbara Willis
Gaylon Neatherlin
Debi Smith

James A. Wills

Jim Raffel
Margaret & Jim Wilson
Betty Casteel
Mattie Wilson
Betty Casteel
Rosa Wilson
Betty Casteel
Marie Winsett
Debra & Brett McCracken

**Kathleen, Joseph, & David Wolaver**

Blanch Jerige
Jim Womack
Richard & Judy Cooley
Mary Kathryn Wyler
Sterling & Linda Robertson
Karren Zimmerlee
Malcolm Wenetschlaeger
Alice, Carl, Johnny, & Lulu
Polly Caperton

Carolyn, Charlie & Eloise
Eloise "Jeannie" Norland
Edelmira & Gloria
Ernesto & Guadalupe Olivar



In Honor of

Linda Chapman

Bernie & Gene Whaley

Allison Condry

Chris Baber

Rudith Drennan

Elizabeth Garrett

Rodney & Carolyn Flanagan

Delpha Caudle

The Dr. John & Mary Ann**Green Family**

Dr. Susan Kohutek Crain

Kelli Crain

Grace Proctor

Melissa Woodard

The Kohutek Family

Dr. Susan Kohutek Crain

Kelli Crain

Traci England

Al'an & Michael Kesler

Frances Baker

Steve & Sandy Johnson

Ann Hawkins

Steve & Sandy Johnson

**Ron Perkins**

Barbara Swagerty

Susan Walker

Rocky & Bobbie Jay



It's wonderful to hear about Volunteers who go above and beyond to help others in crisis situations. Honoring such individuals is a great way to acknowledge their dedication and compassion.

We not only appreciate the individuals but also inspire a sense of community and compassion in others.

It's heartwarming to see people come together to make a positive difference.

"Care Plus" Awards Compassion to Action

Honoring Volunteers who found a Meal Recipient in a crisis situation



ALLAN FARMER



ANNA BRIDGE



INTRODUCING THE NEW “PET SUPPORT” PROGRAM



Special Services for Meals on Wheels Client's Pets

The past year has made us even more aware of the special bond between Meals on Wheels clients and their pets. Numerous studies have shown that there are many benefits of having a pet, especially for those living alone. We would like to see if some of our supporters would like to help make our dream of expanding the services available to the pets of low-income Meals on Wheels Clients come true. Your donations of cash and pet related items would be a great help.

Services Now Available:

We are grateful to the Texas Veterinarian Foundation and the Big Country Veterinarian Clinic for making annual wellness checks, inoculations, heart worm medication plus flea & tick prevention available for many client's pets. But the number they can accept is limited as are the services available under that program. The idea of a Pet Support Program is designed to expand the services as well as make services available to more client's pets.



How Your Donations Make a Difference:

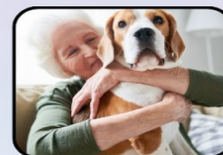
- **Aid for Sick or Injured Pets:** Provide veterinarian care for some pets with certain injuries or illnesses.
- **Annual Wellness Checks:** Provide annual exams, etc. for more pets that cannot be seen at the Big Country Vet Clinic.
- **Grooming and Nail Trimming:** Grooming for pets that have severe problems with their fur. Nail trimming on a scheduled basis for a limited number of pets.
- **Extras for Comfort & Joy:** Your contributions will also help us provide extra comforts, such as pet sweaters, toys, and treats.



Be a Part of Something Extraordinary:

Imagine the collective impact we can make when more pets receive the care they need. Meals on Wheels clients consider their pets to be “family” and experience immense joy in the companionship of their furry friends.

Your involvement can turn this dream into a reality



Ways to Contribute

- On-Line donations: www.mealsonwheelsplus.com
- Pet Support Program
- Mail Contributions to: Meals on Wheels Plus
P.O. Box 903 Abilene, TX 79604
- Contact us at: (325) 672-5050



The George and Joan Knight Family Endowment A Generous Gift for “Groceries on Wheels” Marks a New Chapter

The George and Joan Knight Family Endowment to benefit “Groceries on Wheels” became official on December 5, 2023.

This very first Family Endowment was created with a generous gift by daughter's Karen Barlow, Luellen Lawler and Kathy Welch. Jonathan Sharp, Board Chair, joins the girls at the ceremony.



meals on wheels

PLUS, INC.
49 Years of Serving Abilene

717 North 10th St.
P.O. Box 903
Abilene, Texas 79604

Phone: 325-672-5050
Fax: 325-672-6870

E-mail:
bbradley@mealsonwheelsplus.com
www.mealsonwheelsplus.com

Driving away hunger one meal at a time.

Look inside
for more

Love Letters

From
Meals on Wheels
Recipients &
their Families

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Dear Betty Bradley,

Thank you for both you and
your charitable, Meals on
Wheels! They are a blessing for
this 70 year old Vet.

Please be in good health and
keep up your good works!

God Bless You & Your Staff,



Don

Psalm 126

meals on wheels

PLUS, INC.
49 Years of Serving Abilene

Driving away hunger one meal at a time!
"The Mission of Meals on Wheels is to enhance
the quality of life for seniors and
other eligible adults by providing nutritionally
balanced meals and supportive services."

Providing more than just a meal

- Groceries on Wheels
- Books on Wheels
- Pet Food on Wheels Plus
- Pet Support Program
- Incontinence Program

717 N. 10th St.
Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 672-5050



Stonewall
County

← ASPERMONT

Jones
County

← HAMBY
← HAMLIN
← HAWLEY
← HODGES

Taylor
County

ABILENE →
LAWN →
OVALO →
POTOSI →

Callahan
County

← EULA

Runnels
County

← BALLINGER
← ROWENA
← WINTERS

We deliver
within Abilene
and these
surrounding
areas