

Volume 50 Issue I

February 2025

Upcoming **Special Events**

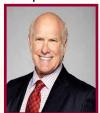


- 33rd Annual Charity
 Golf Tournament
 Monday, April 28, 2025

 Sponsorships Available
- Abilene Gives
 Tuesday, May 6, 2025

50th Anniversay Celebration

- ♦ Thursday, May 22nd
- Guest Speaker



TERRY BRADSHAW

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I think you need to know.....

Congressman Jodey Arrington is Chair of the House Budget Committee and is proposing budget cuts that include the option for elimination of Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funding. While I certainly understand the need to reduce spending and realize that significant changes may be necessary, I would like to bring to your attention the vital Meals on Wheels services provided by SSBG funds for the frail elderly and adults with disabilities.



Betty Bradley Executive Director

Many states include Home Delivered Meals in the range of services provided by SSBG funding. In the Abilene area our program receives almost \$1.9 million annually

which is used to provide a nutritious hot noon meal five days a week to SSBG eligible clients. Meals are delivered in Abilene and 14 small rural communities in five counties.

SSBG is the only federal funding this program receives. The remainder of our \$3.7 million budget comes from small fund raisers and contributions. The need has outpaced available funding and the program is experiencing large shortfalls. Current facts:

- 1,738 seniors and adults with disabilities are being served.
- \$6.46 per meal is received from SSBG for approximately 1,000 clients.
- \$9.80 is our budgeted cost per meal.
- SSBG funds must be matched by cash.
- 738 clients are on a waiting list for SSBG funding.
- Some 300 potential clients are on a waiting list to even receive services.
- Trained volunteers deliver meals and also do a wellness check on each person on their route.
- Nutrition and the safety check help people remain at home and reduce hospital stays.
- 61.3% of the clients responding to a recent Client Satisfaction Survey said that the meal they receive from Meals on Wheels Plus is more than half of the food they eat each day.
- Malnutrition due to multiple health problems, mobility issues and lack of financial resources are serious problems for our clients.
- The cost of meals for one person for an entire year is roughly the cost for one day in a hospital, or ten in a nursing home.

Loss of SSBG funding would have a devastating impact on the services Meals on Wheels Plus provides. Home delivered meals are low cost and an investment that helps to reduce medical expenses for at-risk elderly & younger adults with disabilities.

Your letters to Representative Arrington, as well as to members of the House Budget Committee, sent both to the Abilene and Washington D.C. offices would be a great help.

The Honorable Jodey Arrington—1107 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 **Jonathan.Kupperman@mail.house.gov**

The Honorable Jodey Arrington—500 Chestnut Street, Suite #819 Abilene, Texas 79602 (325) 675-9779

To: Meals on Wheels
Thanks so much for all the meals and groceries you all have blessed me with. I look forward each day for the smiles and good wishes of everyone.

God Bless you all - Joann

<u> 405-605 65 65 605-605</u>

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

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Thank you Meals on Wheels & the caring Volunteers for all you do. Enjoying my meals! Letha Thank you for the wonderful meals-they all are very good. I love the people that volunteer & work for you-thank you

Hazel



Thank you for all you do! I appreciate you so much!

Mary

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Thank you for the good meals. I am enjoying them very much. Judy Mrs. Bradley,

Just wanted to let you know how much it means to have meals prepared for you.

The volunteers are pleasant, cheerful, and let their light shine every day I see them.

I am most grateful for this service in Abilene.

Sincerely, Gretchen

Greetings! Thank you to "Meals on Wheels" for all the selfless and dedicated service of all the Volunteers.

Your organization successfully reaches out to help the elderly. My father is a recepient of your hard work and kindness. I thank you for delivering meals to him.

For many of the elderly, this is their only "Social" connection with other people-that one visit from a kind and thoughtful Volunteer around noontime each week day. I know my dad looks forward to those "visits"!

Thank you so much for all all that the effort and dedication the volunteers put forth.

Keep up the amazing work! God bless you all.

Sincerely, Joanna

Thank you so much for my meals. I am stronger now because of them.

Your volunteer drivers are so kind and I admire them so much.

Thanks again for all you do!

myra

Thank you so much for all you do.

I want to especially thank the Volunteer who called the ambulance that day because they notice something was not right. My mother had a stroke and I was a work at the time, If the Volunteer did not come that day she would have been alone.

My mother passed away on October 9th and she is at home with our Lord now.

Thank you again for all you do. God Bless! Janice

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Thank you for delivering the amazing Christmas basket to my elderly parents. I was and was totally blessed by the a true Godsend to so many

Celert



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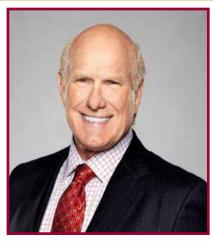
50 Meals on Wheels Plus, Inc. Anniversary Celebration

years 1975-2025

Topic: "Why Not Your Best?"

With amazing humor and down-home common sense, Terry looks at attitude, adversity & relentless competition as to what makes us successful.

Co-host and Analyst, FOX NFL Sunday and NFL Legend



Guest Speaker Terry Bradshaw

Terry Bradshaw, the first NFL player with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, continues to defy easy pigenonhole. A four-time Super Bowl champion quarterback (Pittsburgh Steelers), two-time Super Bowl MVP, and Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee, Bradshaw retired in 1984 as one of the most prolific quarterbacks in NFL history.

Bradshaw's broadcasting career includes CBS Sports and Fox NFL Sunday, where he has earned multiple Emmy Awards. He is also an accomplished actor, appearing in films like *Failure to Launch* and *Father Figures*, as well as TV shows like *Everybody Loves Raymond* and *Better Late Than Never*. Additionally, Bradshaw is a gospel/country singer with Dove Award nominations and a Top 10 country hit, an author of five books, and a sought-after motivational speaker.

Sponsorship Levels

Hall of Fame Sponsors

\$50,000

- Recognition in All Event Publicity and Printed materials
- Ten Autographed Footballs
- 20 Tickets to a Private Reception and Photo Opportunity
- Two Tables of Ten

AFC Champs Sponsors

\$15,000

- Recognition in All Printed Material
- Four Autographed Footballs
- Eight Tickets to a Private Reception and Photo Opportunity
- One Table of Ten

MVP Sponsors

\$5,000

- Recognition in Printed Program
- Four Tickets to a Private Reception and Photo Opportunity
- One Table of Ten

All Pro Team Sponsors

\$25,000

- Recognition in All Event Publicity and Printed Materials
- Eight Autographed Footballs
- 16 Tickets to a Private Reception and Photo Opportunity

Steel Curtain Sponsors

\$10,000

- Recognition in Printed Program
- Three Autographed Footballs
- Six Tickets to a Private Reception and Photo Opportunity
- One Table of Ten

First Pick Sponsors

\$2,500

- Recognition in Printed Program
- Two Tickets to a Private Reception and Photo Opportunity
- One Table of Ten

May 22, 2025

6:30 p.m.

DoubleTree by Hilton Downtown Abilene



For more information please contact
Betty L. Bradley at
(325) 672-5050 or email

bbradley@mealsonwheelsplus.com

Individual Tickets \$150

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In Loving Memory Memorials for October 17, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Catherine Abouzar Billy & Yodit Jones Col. James Alexander Gayle Gray

Kenneth Dike Alford Betty L. Bradley

Carol Morris Gretchen Shoultz

Harriet Allgood Cindy & James Parker

Betty Jones Amy Joyce Jones

Joseph Baird Marty & Lesli Frey Amanda "Bobbie" &

Robert Ball

Amber Ball **David Bashford**

Rickey & Pug Parris Lelyn Batt Debbie Riddle

Glenn Beard Joy Beard

Jane Geurin Bell **Betty Casteel** James Bennington

Ace Air Conditioning

Billy Berny Robin & Ava Walker

Imogene & Bill Bleiker **Betty Casteel**

Lonnie & Martha Boggs Gene Bering

Joe Eddie Bogle Charlie & Terry Shira

Nikki Boone Mark & Donna Haynes Melba Boozer

Larry & Suzanne McMillon

Jay Bourland Darla Pfeifer

Reggie Bowman **Betty Casteel**

Uncle Jim Boykin Kathryn Boykin

Linda Bratton Dru & Franklynn Hall

Frank & Nelda Sims

Ron Bredemeyer Brenda K. Bredemeyer

Glenn Austin Brown Bob & Betty Hale

Marilyn Buchanan Marsha Rutland

Don Bunnell **Betty Casteel** Joe Ed Burnam

Betty Casteel

Ray Butler

The Chester Ray Butler Family Trust

Ruth Caldwell

Ace Air Conditioning

Judge Sam Carroll Grace Carroll

Frank Casteel **Betty Casteel**

Pat Cheek Louis Parker

Betsy Clark

Bob & Connie Harrod

I.L. Cole

Charlie & Terry Shira Carolyn & Richard Young

Mava Cooper

Tom & Dianne Hawkins

Ronny Crumpler

Heather & S.D. Ake

Frankie Darnell Sterling & Linda Robertson

Bobye Eagleston

Margie Beach Juanita Ellinger

Paul & Brenda White

Bobbie Elliott

Gene Davis

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Gallant

Bill & Lou England

Dave & Audrey Gillespie

John & Durwood Finley **Betty Casteel**

Sam & Glen Fisher Alan M. Fisher

Rodney Flanagan

Delpha Caudle, Decon & Family, Dusty & Family Barry & Iodie Cheshier Rodney & Debbie Gordon Clifton & Maxine Michalewicz

Jared Paul Fletcher

Sterling & Linda Robertson

Neeca Flippo Leroy King

Doris Fomby

William & Elaine Dockery

Norma G. Garza

David Garza, Sr.

David Girdner

Sterling & Linda Robertson

Scott Girdner

Ray Maddox Sterling & Linda Robertson

Olivia Gonzales

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Gallant

Tom & Gloria Gonzales Rose Branch

Debra Love Goodheer **Eide Bailly**

Doris Graham

Chris & Vance Goddard K.O. & Marilyn Long Jeri & Roland Orr Darla Pfeifer Joe & Karen Sharp Gloria & Jim Skinner Bobbie Lee Wolfe

Cris Grounds

Mary Jo Crowder Billy & Yodit Jones

Gary Hacker

Vance & Chris Goddard Sterling & Linda Robertson

Jack Hancock

lackie Sue Henry

Judy Hancock Shirlee Hamilton

Kirk & Pam Stubblefield

Helen Harris

Joe & Karen Sharp

Floyd Hatcher

Sterling & Linda Robertson

Mr. & Mrs. Joe E. Hays Lou & Darlene Dorich

Beat Heri

Lou & Darlene Dorich

Mr. & Mrs. Don Hertten-

berger

Phyllis Herttenberger

Ken Hilliard

Tommie & Lee Ann Harendt

Eddie Hodges, Jr.

Hodges Family Foundation Carrell Dean Hopkins

Ann Hopkins

Tina Marie Hopper Sterling & Linda Robertson

John Hulse Betty Casteel

Quebra James

Gene Davis Ethel Jansa

Iris & Steve Matthiesen Eddie & Carolyn McNelly Elaine Jenkins

Charlie & Terry Shira

Kathy Johnson Jackie Johnson

Charlene Joiner

Charlie & Terry Shira Lawrence Jost Vernell Kleypas

Robert "Bob" Joy

Joe & Karen Sharp Al & Lea Watkins

Trisha Williams Kane **Betty Casteel**

Al Keesee

The Keesee Family

Linda Richard Keller Wayne Keller

Wayland Kesler Jean M. Wirkus

Martha Kiel

Nolan & Sharon Kelley

Bob Kolquist A Friend

Fleda Lambert

Betty L. Bradley

Connie Lee

Leonard & Leeta Harris

Morgan Lee

Michele Lee

Andie Lemley Sterling & Linda Robertson

Gerald & Peggy Lewis

Christine Bradshaw

Ronnie Lorenz

Joe & Karen Sharp

Brett Mankin

Mark & Donna Haynes

Dr. Jerry Marshall

Tom & Dianne Hawkins Peggy McAnally

Phil & Karen Colburn

Elaine Prothro Della McBride

Donald & Lisa McBride

Winnie McCullough

Kirk & Pam Stubblefield

Cliff & Wilda McDonald

Leonard & Leeta Harris Selina McGuire

Tamra Watts

T.C. Melton

Betty Casteel

Robert Milstead Ace Air Conditioning

Barbara Moffett

Joe & Karen Sharp

In Loving Memory Cont.

Helen Moore Al & Lea Watkins Hugh Moore Vickie & John Barth Adel G. Nafrawi, M.D. Lorna Nafrawi

Major Tommy Neatherlin, Ret.

Lamplighter SSC- Aldersgate Methodist Church Judy Luther Lori Collier-Slipper Club

Larry "Nick" Nicholas

Joe & Karen Sharp Frank Norwood

Bootsy Norwood Kenneth Norwood

Betty V. Novak Frederick V. Novak

Nell Nutt Rex L. Nutt **Bob Olson**

Steve Henderson **Butch Parker**

Carolyn & Richard Young Kade Parmelly

Betty Casteel Bobby F. Patton Barbara Patton

Ellen L. Peloza John & Diane Colewell, Jr.

John Polk **Betty Casteel**

Karen Adair Price, RN

lames L. Price Jim Rankin **Betty Casteel**

Jesse Reece Sterling & Linda Robertson **Jerry Don Reese**

Jill Holland Gerald & J.V. Johnson Jerry Don Reese cont.

Kristyn Iones Mitzi & Ken Merchant Scott & Michelle Senter & The Senter Family

Jerry Reid Judith Reed

Jane Rhodes

Cindy Rhodes

Jack & Betty Ridlehoover **Betty Casteel**

Bill & Suann Roberts

Donna Bullock **leanne Robinson**

Eunice Eversdyk

Beverly Robson Barbara Morrow

Melvin Sakamoto Betty Castee

Pilar Sanchez Carlos Fuentes

Mickey & Autumn Sansom Fredell Sansom

Fred & Mary Santibanez Brian Ehrie

Margarito Sauceda, Sr. Connie Sauceda

Theresa S. Valles

David Franklin Scott K.O. & Marilyn Long **Ernest & Nancy Proctor** Troylene & John Stewart Charles & Diann Wetsel

Martha Sherman

Your Lawrence Hall Family &

Leck & Tip Matthews

Dr. & Mrs. W.R. Sibley, Jr. Sharron Sibley

Joyce Smith

Jerry Smith

David Songster

Tommie & Lee Ann Harendt

Rebecca D. Stanley

Art & Jerri Gazaille

Kenneth Stewart

Tommie & Lee Ann Harendt

Bea Stilson

Vickie & John Barth

Steve Strain

Chris & Steve Faehnle Nolan & Sharon Kelley

Glenda Stringfellow Benjamin Alexander

Margaret Strube Jamie McWright

Iill Suleski

Pamela Weiler

Don Sutton Cindy Arrick Cheryl Brenner

Betty Casteel Beverly Tucker

Viane Talbott Delpha Caudle

Cassandra LeeAnn Terrell

Miles Bailey LaTonya Daniel Lou & Darlene Dorich

Catherine Thomas Robin Burrow

George Tucker Woody & Linda Gordon

John & Roberta Tucker **Betty Casteel**

John Tweedie

Sterling & Linda Robertson



Rosemary Walford

Betty Casteel

Dr. John Walke A Friend

Virginia Walls

Maci Shannon

Larry Walrath

Marcia R. Walrath

Franklin Ward

Sterling & Linda Robertson

Clinton & Edith Watson Rodney & Jana Watson

Betty Weeth

Sterling & Linda Robertson

Melissa West

Betty & Bob Hale

Emogene R. Whaley

Bernard L. Whaley

Charles Adry Wheeler Wanda D. Wheeler

Jim & Margaret Wilson

Betty Casteel

Mattie Wilson

Betty Casteel

leff Wolf

Gene Bering

Margie Zentner Jennifer Bollier

Vernell Kleypas

Eddie & Carolyn McNelly



Tim Burns Dorothy Ake & Susie

Tom & Dianne Hawkins Rhonda Baggett & Eric Flasher

> **Allison Condry** Chris Barber

☐ Mark your calendar! ☐ May 6, 2025 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Abilene Gives is a 12-hour online giving event designed to empower our community to support local nonprofit organizations and causes that matter—all on one easy-to-use platform.

Giving to Meals on Wheels Plus has never been easier!

☐ Go online to www.abilenegives.org or scan QR code

☐ Donate to Meals on Wheels Plus

Your generosity helps provide meals and care to those in need—one donation at a time.

For questions, contact JoAnne at jglantz@mealsonwheelsplus.com.





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IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

For people age $70\frac{1}{2}$ or older, the Charitable IRA Rollover is a tax-wise way to give to Meals on Wheels Plus, Inc.

What is a Charitable IRA Rollover?

Beginning at age 70½, people with an Individual Retirement Account or IRA are required to withdraw a minimum amount from their account every year. This is known as the required minimum distribution. Making a rollover gift from your IRA is an easy way for anyone 70.5 or older to have an immediate impact on Meals on Wheels Plus. The required minimum distribution is taxed as income. People who do not need the income or who wish to reduce their tax liability can meet the required minimum distribution by transferring funds from their IRA directly to Meals on Wheels Plus, Inc.



The process is simple:

You contact your IRA administrator to make a gift of up to \$100,000 from your IRA each year. You satisfy your annual required minimum distribution, but you can also avoid taxes on the amount given to Meals on Wheels Plus. This way of giving is called a Charitable IRA Rollover. IRA Rollover gifts are easy to make, but there are a few requirements.

- Donors must be age 70½ or older.
- Funds must come from a traditional IRA account.
- Your gift must go directly to Meals on Wheels Plus.
- Your IRA administrator can process the transfer for you.
- · Your gift, your choice

When you make a Charitable IRA Rollover gift to Meals on Wheels Plus, you choose where you want your gift to make an impact. Your gift can be used for the Operating Fund, Groceries on Wheels or to the Meals on Wheels Plus Endowment Fund.

Next Steps to Make Your Gift:

Please contact Betty Bradley at bbradley@mealsonwheelsplus.com or call 325-672-5050, if you have questions about using your IRA to support Meals on Wheels Plus, Inc.

To include Meals on Wheels Plus in your plans, please use our legal name and federal tax ID number. Please let us know if you have a special request about the use of your gift.

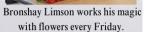


Legal name: Meals on Wheels Plus, Inc. Legal address: P.O. Box 903, Abilene, TX 79604 Federal tax ID number: 51-0148188



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Arriving early, he carefully cuts and arranges each bloom,



nsuring his clients receive stunning handcrafted floral designs.





After a year away, Sue Ann Beggs made a wonderful return as a greeter, bringing her warm smile and welcoming spirit back to our team.

We were thrilled to have her with us again!

33RD ANNUAL MEALS ON WHEELS CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025

Live Oak Golf Club

(former Diamondback Golf Club)

3721 National Dr. Abilene, TX





Signature Sponsor

Edward Jones®

JUD POWELL

Sponsorships available
for more information
Call Betty or JoAnne at
(325) 672-5050
or visit our website
www.mealsonwheelsplus.com
Click on the "Event" tab

If SSBG is cut, meal deliveries for more than half of those who rely on them could come to a halt, leaving many without food. You can take action by reaching out to Representative Jodey Arrington (R-TX-19), Chairman of the House Budget Committee. How you can help is write a letter, call his office, send an email or all three. His website also offers a section where you can submit your comments directly.



The Honorable Jodey Arrington 1107 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Jonathan.Kupperman@mail.house.gov

The Honorable Jodey Arrington 500 Chestnut Street, Suite #819 Abilene, Texas 79602 (325) 675-9779



arrington.house.gov

meals on wheels

50 Years • 1975-2025

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

Look inside for



From
Meals on Wheels
Recipients &
their Families

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.

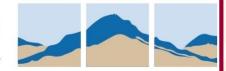
NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 356 ABILENE, TX 79604

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT WITH OUR CHALLENGE GRANT

CARL C. ANDERSON SR. & MARIE JO ANDERSON

Charitable Foundation



We are pleased to announce that the Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation in Austin has approved a generous Challenge Grant to support our mission.

This opportunity allows you to maximize your contribution, as the foundation will match every dollar donated, up to \$15,000.

To qualify for the match, donors must indicate that their gift is designated for the Challenge Grant. All funds raised through this initiative will support our Operating Fund, helping us address the growing demand for meals in Abilene, Anson, Aspermont, Ballinger, Eula, Hamby, Hamlin, Hawley, Hodges, Lawn, Ovalo, Potosi, Rowena, Tuscola, and Winters.

Your participation in this Challenge Grant will ensure that we can continue to provide essential nourishment to those in need. Every dollar you contribute will have twice the impact, allowing us to serve even more individuals who rely on our services.

We deeply appreciate your support and invite you to join us in rising to this challenge. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of many.