



MEALS on WHEELS
SOUTHWEST OH & NORTHERN KY

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Friends at the Door

February 2026

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2025 BY THE NUMBERS

1.1 MILLION

MEALS DELIVERED TO SENIORS AT HOME

75,340

MEALS SERVED IN CONGREGATE SETTINGS

43,848

INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP TRANSPORTATION
RIDES PROVIDED FOR SENIORS

38,000

POUNDS OF PET FOOD DELIVERED TO
SENIORS' DOGS AND CATS

293

SENIOR CLIENTS SUPPORTED THROUGH
SOCIAL & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

439

SENIORS TRAINED IN DIGITAL LITERACY
AND MOBILE TABLET DEVICES

2,776

TOTAL ATTENDANCE FOR HEALTH &
WELLNESS PROGRAMMING





2026: Poised for Growth

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope your 2026 is off to a great start. We have been very busy at Meals on Wheels so far this year, exasperated by the challenges caused by the weather. Please know our dedicated, loyal staff has really risen to the weather challenges to ensure seniors are receiving the essential services they need.

January 1 marked the beginning of Meals on Wheels' new five-year strategic plan, **Paving The Way Forward**. The plan's objective is to support a growing senior population's increasing needs in three fundamental ways:

- We will **expand our organizational capacity** largely by completing our new 51,500-square-foot headquarters and meals production center at 3251 Highland Avenue. We are on-schedule to be completed with construction by the end of this year.
- We will **strengthen our financial outlook** by completing our \$30-million *Driving Into The Future Campaign* and by leveraging the success of our campaign to grow a culture of philanthropy in support of Meals on Wheels' ability to sustain our mission for years to come. We will also diversify our funding by growing our private-pay offerings for services and develop wholesale offerings for other nonprofits.
- We will **advance our core service offerings of meals, transportation and social and protective services** to all 13 counties in our service area as funding allows. We will work with with the counties we serve, the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio and the Northern Kentucky Area Development District to do so.

The Strategic Plan also has goals of deepening our community partnerships; growing our team through strategic recruitment, training, leadership development and succession planning; and creating an IT master plan to support today's business operations and help us plan for the future.

So, yes, times are busy here at Meals on Wheels, but I would not have it any other way. Hopefully you can find a way to get involved with us to help us deliver on our mission to provide essential services that promote the independence and well-being of seniors. **Thanks for all your support!**

**Mike Dunn, CEO of Meals on Wheels
of Southwest OH & Northern KY**



Construction is underway at our new headquarters in Columbia Twp.



Meals on Wheels provided over 8,000 individual transportation trips in 2025.



Drivers for our home-delivered meals and transportation services averaged 56,000 miles driven per month in 2025.

Promoting Well-Being with Independent Living Assistance



Independence plays a critical role in seniors' overall health. Whether it's physical, social or financial, personal autonomy has measurable, meaningful impact—it is central to our mission at Meals on Wheels. **February is Senior Independence Month.** We take this opportunity to spotlight a pivotal social and protective services program: Independent Living Assistance (ILA).

At its core, ILA is designed to alleviate challenges associated with daily tasks. Think: sorting through mail, navigating insurance paperwork, scheduling appointments and arranging transportation. These may seem tedious or menial to many of us, but for seniors whose safety and well-being hinge on paying their utility bill or securing a medical appointment for a chronic health condition, essential tasks like these carry tremendous significance.

"The social services team provides care to some of the most vulnerable seniors in our community," says Connie Baker, Chief Operations Officer at Meals on Wheels of Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky. "No one likes to ask for help, so sometimes seniors will wait until the very last minute to ask, and that's where we step in. Our program props these seniors up safely in their homes, where they want to be."

In 2025, Meals on Wheels served 113 clients through ILA in Hamilton and Warren counties, Ohio. Expanding our reach to serve more clients is integral to our *Driving Into The Future Campaign*, especially as the senior population in our region grows rapidly. The Campaign will culminate in a new headquarters and meals production center, and it also represents a deep investment in resources to support more families and caregivers.

"The senior population is going to continue to grow. The needs are going to continue to be there and be more," says Baker. "We need to be ready and prepared to support seniors in our region."

Partners in Serving our Community

Our organization traces its history to 1937, originating as Wesley House and offering housing for local seniors. We expanded in the 1980s as Wesley Community Services, adding home-delivered meals services. Without yet a kitchen to produce those meals, Wesley cultivated a partnership with Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, who opened their doors to us for use of their commercial kitchen.

Our shared history has since evolved as a partnership anchored in serving others in our community. Pastor Kate Smith of Hyde Park Community UMC says, "We align on the fundamental belief that a meal is more than just food; it is a vehicle for dignity, social connection and an essential wellness check to combat the isolation and hunger seniors face."

Hyde Park Community UMC congregants have helped us drive the Meals on Wheels mission as volunteers by assembling snack boxes, preparing meals for distribution, packaging pet food, creating birthday cards for seniors and more. They have sponsored Meals on Wheels initiatives and have donated space, time and people power for our annual Bust-a-Crust Fundraiser—an event that draws hundreds of community volunteers, many of whom are Hyde Park Community UMC congregants.

Says Pastor Kate, "We approach every partnership with a spirit of curiosity and humility, always seeking to learn from those we serve. Rather than working *for* groups, we aim to work with and alongside them."

With gratitude for our shared history and commitment to service, Meals on Wheels will honor Hyde Park Community UMC with our 2026 "Community Partner" Award at the third annual Meals Madness Gala. See back cover for event details!



“ This is one of the most essential programs I receive. ”

MEALS ON WHEELS CLIENT,
INDEPENDENT LIVING ASSISTANCE



Pastor Kate Smith (far left) with Hyde Park Community UMC staff and leadership at the 2025 Bust-a-Crust Fundraiser volunteer event.

YOU ARE INVITED!



MARCH 18 / 6 TO 9 P.M. / CINTAS CENTER

We're tipping off the 2026 March Madness season with an evening of celebration and philanthropy at the third annual Meals Madness Gala!

Enjoy drinks on the concourse overlooking the Cintas Center arena, a silent auction with one-of-a-kind gifts and experiences, basketball-themed engagement and plated dinner service. All proceeds from the event support our mission to promote the independence and well-being of seniors in Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky.

Hosted by WLWT News 5 anchor Sheree Paoello, the program will honor partners of Meals on Wheels who have made significant impact on our mission.

2026 "Much More" Award Recipient

Carol Ann and
Ralph V. Haile, Jr.
FOUNDATION

2026 "Community Partner" Award Recipient



Reserve your tickets before they sell out!



Scan QR code, or visit
muchmorethanameal.org/madness

