MEALS on WHEELS
SOUTHWEST OH & NORTHERN KY

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Friends at the Door

October 2026

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An Essential Digital Resource for Seniors

"You cannot live a full life in this world without technology," states Mona, echoing a sentiment many of us feel no matter our age. Mona recently completed digital literacy classes through Meals on Wheels' Digital Connect Program. For adults like her, the classes deliver essential tools for modern living and independence.

"We [seniors] have years and years to live, and without technology, it's going to make life difficult for us. **Society must recognize that there is a whole generation of people right now where technology is just getting more challenging to understand**," Mona says. "Meals on Wheels recognizes that we want to live full lives too."

The Digital Connect Program offers an opportunity for seniors to remain connected to their family, their community and their medical needs. The three-course series teaches participants how to use tablet devices to connect to the internet, browse safely and even make doctor's appointments on MyChart. Upon completion of the classes, participants earn their own tablet to keep and have access to tech support and continuous learning.

Mona learned about Digital Connect through the Madisonville Recreation Center where she goes for weekly classes, games and social outings. She expresses how impactful it is for seniors to have knowledge of the same tools everyone else has access to on a daily basis.

"Every person in the class was so appreciative. It was a blessing. Some people have never used the internet before," Mona says. "There are a lot of people who are unable to use technology. It's important for seniors to be included."



MONA, DIGITAL CONNECT GRADUATE

Now, Mona is able to better navigate programs like Zoom, where text is larger and more accessible, to incorporate into her life for her board meetings and weekly church notes.

Digital Connect offers more than just a new tech skill to show off, too. Classes double as a chance to feel more socially connected and engaged with the community, which helps combat feelings of social isolation. Mona ended up befriending another woman in class, which led to lunch dates and car-pooling. She says, "Her and I became very close in those three days. We've maintained a good relationship, even after the classes."

Through Digital Connect, seniors like Mona can adapt to our advancing technology landscape and learn how to leverage it to enhance their own life.

Mona says, "This is such an important program for seniors. Please don't leave us behind, technology is going to be too important for us."

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe we have already reached the last quarter of the year, but here we are.

2026 has been a really positive year for Meals on Wheels thus far. Our $30-million *Driving Into The Future Campaign* is 90-percent complete. Our future headquarters in Columbia Township is on schedule to open by the first of January. We have made good progress on first-year goals of our new five-year strategic plan, *Paving The Way Forward*.

And most importantly, we continue to deliver essential services that promote the independence and well-being of seniors five days a week.

One thing we can use your help on is sharing Meals on Wheels' good news. We need to continue to expand our reach and generate as many resources as possible to meet the increasing needs of a growing senior population. Most people know we deliver meals to seniors in need but do not know how much more we actually provide.

We need ambassadors in the community inviting their friends and families to help support Meals on Wheels in any way they can.

This is where you can help. We have our annual online, one-day giving campaign, Much More Than A Gift Day, coming up on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Please participate even if that means just forwarding information about the day to friends and family. We also have our annual Bust-a-Crust pie fundraiser presented by Sara Lee Frozen Bakery coming up in November. Likewise, please get involved in this fun event in any way you can. Details about both of these events can be found on this page.

It takes a village to advance the causes of seniors, so please help us grow our community of supporters. Thank you!



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

Ways You Can Support Meals on Wheels

Wednesday, Oct. 28: Much More Than a Gift Day

Double your impact for our third annual day of giving! Gifts made on this day will be matched up to $30,000 thanks to a generous group of donors. On Oct. 28, keep an eye on your email, check out our social channels or visit our website at muchmorethanameal.org.

Bust-a-Crust Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Order by FRIDAY, NOV. 6, for pick-up in time for Thanksgiving!

This annual fall fundraiser is presented by Sara Lee Frozen Bakery. Choose from apple, pecan and pumpkin frozen-pie flavors. No baking needed! Proceeds from every order benefit the services we provide all year long.

Sara Lee Frozen Bakery

Follow and Share Content

BLOG

Give us a follow! You will find videos, blogs, photos and more. Every digital engagement from our community amplifies our message and broadens our reach to serve more seniors.

Congratulations to our Friend, Mike Hirschfeld

The Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Cincinnati announced its 2026 National Philanthropy Day honorees, and we are proud to share that **Mike Hirschfeld, Senior Counselor at Bricker Graydon LLP, has been selected as the 2026 Volunteer of the Year.** Mike was nominated for this honor by Meals on Wheels in recognition of his extraordinary volunteer leadership and philanthropy.

Mike's commitment to Meals on Wheels spans more than 40 years. He first became involved with Wesley Hall, the organization that would become Meals on Wheels, in 1980 when the organization faced a critical decision: replace its deteriorating facilities or close its doors. Mike stepped forward with volunteer and fundraising leadership, helping to launch the campaign for a new facility, which opened in 1983.

As the organization evolved from a housing provider into a comprehensive senior services organization, Mike's commitment never wavered. **Today, he serves as Co-Chair of our $30-million *Driving Into the Future Campaign*, helping lead the effort to build a new headquarters and expand our capacity to serve seniors across the region for generations to come**.

Mike's impact extends far beyond Meals on Wheels. His decades of volunteer leadership include service with United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Big Brothers Big Sisters, ArtsWave, Cincinnati Nature Center, WCET, Maple Knoll Village and numerous other community initiatives. At Cincinnati Children's, he served more than 21 years in leadership roles on its Board of Trustees.

Mike leads with humility, generosity, integrity and a genuine commitment to strengthening our community. We are incredibly grateful for his decades of service and are very proud to celebrate this well-deserved recognition!



AFP Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Cincinnati Chapter

2026 National Philanthropy Day Volunteer of the Year

> **We all want to see these essential services provided. Providing meals to a senior, allowing them to stay in their home, while benefitting from wellness checks is really important for *all* of us.**
>
> **MIKE HIRSCHFELD**



MEALS ON WHEELS SOUTHWEST OH & NORTHERN KY

1937 Society

We commemorate our history with the 1937 Society, our planned giving community named in honor of the year we were founded as Wesley House. This special group honors those who include Meals on Wheels in their estate plans, ensuring our mission continues for generations to come.

Consult your financial or legal advisor about the many giving options available. With proper planning and as little as one sentence in your will or living trust, you can support your family and still make a meaningful charitable gift that aligns with your values.

For more information, please contact Meals on Wheels Chief Advancement Officer Justin Beale at 513-244-5480 or jbeale@muchmorethanameal.org.

From 1937 and Into the Future

Before we became Meals on Wheels of Southwest Ohio and Northern Kentucky, we were Wesley Community Services. Our history reaches back to 1937 when the Reverend Richard E. Scully founded Wesley House in Cincinnati's West End. He was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church. He envisioned a service that would meet the needs of his community: a low-cost, dignified residence where seniors could receive daily living support, could experience the blessings of family living and raise their standard of living.

Eighty-nine years later, our organization has evolved tremendously to meet the needs of our aging community and their families. We have diversified our services, merged with local agencies, moved homes, rebranded and built a community presence rooted in care and dignity.

These last few months of 2026 mark the end of one chapter and the start of a new one as we prepare to open our new headquarters and meals production center in Columbia Township. We remain deeply dedicated to the well-being of the seniors we serve and we envision a future where aging with independence and health is not just possible—it is an expectation.

Here, we honor our organization's legacy and the community who lay the foundation for our growth.

1937-1940

Rev. Scully was born and raised in Cincinnati's West End. He felt personally and spiritually called to create a space that served his own community. He opened a Goodwill Industries chapter to offer clothes and furnishings to neighbors and church congregants in need.

To bring his vision of caring for seniors to life, Rev. Scully drew support from The Deaconess Association who secured property at **1027 Wesley Avenue**—the former Elizabeth Gamble Deaconess Home and Training School. **Wesley House was formally founded on Sept. 10, 1937**.

> **History is in the making when persons, purposes and possibilities come into intimate relationship with one another. Such a trinity presaged the start of what was known as Wesley House in 1937.**
>
> REVEREND DR. JOHN WESLEY SEAY, THEN DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE AT WESLEY HALL, IN 1981



While presenting at the Ohio Methodist Conference in 1938, Rev. Scully described his belief in employing modern scientific social work practices to treat people as "persons made in the image and likeness of God." This was a guiding principle of his.

Wesley House fast became a welcoming and supportive home for seniors who needed support with daily living. Just one year after opening, as many as 100 seniors called Wesley House home. Many residents were introduced to Wesley House by social agencies, churches, hospitals and shelters.

In 1940, Wesley House became **Wesley Hall**.



1949-1967

In 1949, Wesley Hall incorporated as a nonprofit organization and secured a new location: the Charles Fleischmann House at **315 Lilienthal Street.** Within a few short years, the organization had secured a second location adjacent to Fleischmann House and had also secured additional nearby property. By 1967, Wesley Hall operated on more than six acres of land with multiple buildings offering residential care for seniors.

1981-1983

A new Wesley Hall was constructed at 315 Lilienthal Street to expand its residential care and include a skilled nursing unit and dementia care unit. Services expanded as well to include a home-delivered meals program for seniors who were on the Wesley Hall waiting list.



1992-1998

In this period of growth, **Wesley Services Organization** was established to support seniors who were aging in place at home *and* seniors who were receiving residential nursing care. **Wesley Community Services** began offering home-delivered meals, medical transportation and homemaker services. **Lincoln Crawford**, a longtime-serving residence, came under Wesley Services Organization's ownership alongside Wesley Hall.

2005

By this time, our region had grown a diversified landscape of aging care. Nursing and rehabilitation centers Wesley Hall and Lincoln Crawford transferred to new ownership, and Wesley Community Services centered its work on seniors who were aging at home.



2009

Wesley Community Services moved into **2091 Radcliff Drive.** The building was equipped to provide up to 300,000 meals per year for seniors in Cincinnati.

2020-2023

Wesley Community Services rebranded as **Meals on Wheels of Southwest OH & Northern KY** in 2020. Shortly after, Meals on Wheels merged with **Cincinnati Area Senior Services** and **55 North**. We have since grown to reach nearly 11,000 seniors every year with a diverse offering of essential services and programs.

2025-2027

In 2025, Meals on Wheels launched the *Driving Into The Future Campaign,* a transformative, $30-million campaign to build a new headquarters and meals production center at **3251 Highland Avenue.** Twice the size of the facility on Radcliff Drive, it enables Meals on Wheels to triple the number of seniors we serve today and produce up to 3 million meals every year.



BUST -a- CRUST! THANKSGIVING PIE SALE

PRESENTED BY

Sara Lee Frozen Bakery

BENEFITTING

Meals on Wheels Southwest OH & Northern KY

Extra Sweet Support

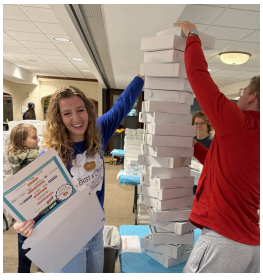
We often say, "It takes a village to make Bust-a-Crust happen every year." And it certainly does. Our annual Thanksgiving pie sale kicks off a season of giving by bringing together Meals on Wheels supporters, volunteers, partners and team members for the benefit of our aging neighbors. The fundraiser culminates in a volunteer event the weekend before Thanksgiving with our longtime partners Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church.

Every pie purchase supports Meals on Wheels' essential services, and every pie we give to a senior represents a way for all of us to share a beloved Thanksgiving tradition.

We are only able to serve thousands of pies because of the support of our generous sponsors. This year, as well as last, Sara Lee Frozen Bakery has provided significant support in making Bust-a-Crust so successful. Their donation of seasonal frozen pies makes this heartwarming fundraiser possible.

Thank you, Sara Lee Frozen Bakery!

> **"Our desserts have long been part of moments that bring people together, and this collaboration gives us an opportunity to share that joy while supporting the important work Meals on Wheels does in our community.**
>
> KAMRAN LODI, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, SARA LEE FROZEN BAKERY




LAST CALL!

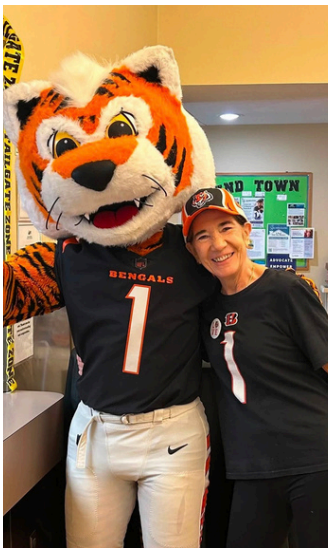
Place your order by Friday, Nov. 6, for pick-up in time for Thanksgiving. Scan to purchase pie or make a gift.

SNAPSHOTS





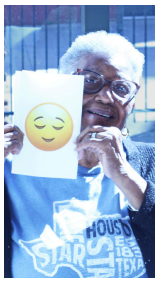
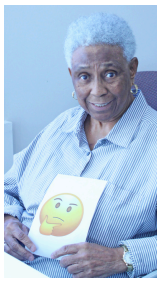
Members of Meals on Wheels' advancement, nutrition, distribution and social and protective services teams hosted and served lunch for the Green Township Senior Center last month. As a congregate partner of ours, Green receives group meals prepared by Meals on Wheels every week.

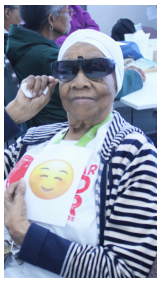





Another congregate partner of ours, Anderson Township Senior Center, has been enjoying a celebratory season. They held weeklong activities in September to recognize 10 years of serving older adults. They also welcomed Whodey to a tailgating party as the Bengals kicked off their season!






The OTR Senior Center enjoyed round two of Emoji Day! Our advancement team visited to share trivia and insights about these expressive digital icons. Then we asked each senior to select the emoji that best represents their personality.





Volunteers fuel our mission, like the groups who donate their time to our operations. Pictured: General Electric Credit Union (top left), Northern Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce (top right) and Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio (bottom center).

MEALS on WHEELS
SOUTHWEST OH & NORTHERN KY

2091 Radcliff Dr., Cincinnati OH 45212

SAVE THE DATE

March 4, 2027

Cintas Center
at Xavier University

MEALS THAT MATTER GALA

MEALS on WHEELS
SOUTHWEST OH & NORTHERN KY