

Meals on Wheels of Shawnee and Jefferson Counties, Inc.
CEO's Annual Report
2010

2010, the 38th year of operation for Meals on Wheels of Shawnee and Jefferson Counties, was a year of celebrating the past and looking to the future.

In January, the board approved a major overhaul of the agency by-laws. Students from the Washburn Institute of Technology Graphics class began helping with design of new agency brochures.

In February, the state nutrition providers held a "Hunger Strike". The event which included: a radio personality traveling around the state advocating for senior nutrition programs and culminating with a legislative luncheon in Topeka focused on funding issues for nutrition programs. The Board held its annual strategic planning retreat at Metzger's Barn. The agency mission statement was changed to "To nourish and enrich the lives of the elderly and homebound residents of our community." The vision was approved. "The elimination of senior hunger by 2020"(through cooperation and partnering).

In March we participated in Mayors for Meals with four local mayors delivering meals and we held an event called "High Heels Deliver Meals" with Pam Alexander, Marlou Wegner and Kathy Clark serving as Honorary Chairs. Women from different walks of life from across the community came together to deliver meals.

In April the board grappled with the request from our caterer, Chartwells, for an increase in the per meal reimbursement. In the end, half of their requested increase was agreed to.

In May, we celebrated another successful Sumptuous Setting fundraiser. Under the capable leadership of Cathy Mosimann and with Honorary Chairs, Wayne and Lou Probasco the event grossed (including in-kind) \$137,352.

In June, in an effort to be more responsive to client needs the agency began a series of client surveys. Results showed a need for improvement in meal quality and consistency.

In July, advocacy efforts were increased as the city council grappled with funding of social service agencies. In the end, funding was awarded.

In August, Senator Pat Roberts and Undersecretary Concanon from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) visited our program and travelled to Auburn to deliver meals. The agency came into the social networking age by opening facebook and twitter pages.

September was the month chosen to recognize our volunteers. The Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held at the Big Gage Shelter House. TV personalities Kelly Stegeman and Mitch Weber were the keynote speakers. Fred Rinner received the Reuter Award for exceptional service and Westar Energy was recognized with the Corporate

Citizen award. The announcement of the naming of Jonathan Kaspar and Krista Wagner routes was made. Additionally, CEO Jane Metzger, Dietitian Arleen Anderson, and Volunteer Coordinator Renae Steuart attended the Meals On Wheels Association of America annual conference in Atlanta. CEO, Jane Metzger, was appointed by Governor Parkinson to the Food Security Task Force.

In October, Bateman Food Service, a senior nutrition company and subsidiary of Compass, sent a representative to the agency to work with the kitchen staff on the preparation, quality, and service of the meals.

November saw the Meals On Wheels Association of America Accreditation Team come to Topeka to begin the process of national accreditation. It is expected to be completed in early 2011.

In December, we gave out over 700 gift bags to our home delivered clients and poinsettias were given to congregated clients courtesy of Jackson Greenhouse. Figgs Subaru promoted Meals on Wheels of Shawnee and Jefferson Counties through the Share the Love national program.

In 2010, we served 148,519 home delivered meals to 1,141 individuals, and 122,648 congregated meals to 1,439 individuals. 413 individuals were certified for the home delivered program and 575 were re-certified.

Sixty-two new volunteers were recruited and following organizations began delivering meals: KNI, Hospice Care of Kansas, Community Assisted Living, Kansas Children's Service League, St. Matthews Catholic School, Kansas Gas Service, Bank of America, and HMS. Current corporate volunteer organizations added additional days or routes to their schedules: SBG and US Bank.

Direct mail campaigns grossed \$51,169.

We received contributions for 27 memorials and 11 individuals were honored with monetary gifts to the agency.

Adopt-a-Route/Sustain-a-Route/Grants were received contributions from: Aviva USA, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, Brookwood Covenant Church, Capitol Federal Foundation, Conklin Hussey Charitable Trust, Hallmark Cards, Inc., Hill's Pet Nutrition, Lewis Humphrey Charitable Trust, Evelyn Meade, Meals On Wheels Association of America, Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, Walter and Lucy Roush Charitable Trust, Southern Hills Mennonite Church, Stormont-Vail HealthCare, Tantillo Family Foundation, Topeka Community Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Don Williams and Wilmington Trust.

2011 will be another year of challenges as we attempt to assure that "no senior goes hungry". Funding will be foremost on the agenda with development and advocacy taking center stage for the Board and the Staff.