

The Scoop

Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County, Inc.



Summer/Fall 2014



Dear Friends,

I am often astounded by the generosity we experience every day at Meals On Wheels – like when it's 30 below zero and folks who have much cozier things to do still show up smiling for their delivery route, or when a client with extremely low income sends a gift of a single dollar bill

along with a note saying she wishes it could be more, or when we receive bags full of lovingly knitted and crocheted blankets for our clients.

I have often asked people why they help so cheerfully, and I've received a number of responses, that seem to run the gamut: someone helped my family when they needed it; that's the way we were raised; to pay it forward; MY family may need help some day; it's the right thing to do; or because giving is a reflection of the giver's faith and beliefs.

For whatever reason each person chooses to help, we are **extremely**

grateful. Our staff has been particularly humbled by the community's recent response to news of the theft of produce from our gardens. From the volunteers and strangers who stopped in with checks to purchase fencing and lighting, to the farmers and gardeners who took time out of their busy days to bring fresh produce for those served by Meals On Wheels, to those who mentioned they were praying for a peaceful resolution, we were struck by the kindness and decency of our neighbors.

On behalf of all the people who receive meals in our county, we would like our volunteers, donors and friends to know that they are immensely appreciated.

Thank You,

Kelly Heyn, Chief Executive Officer

Rhubarb Garden at Meals On Wheels Thanks to Eagle Scout

Located on the south side of the Meals On Wheels building is a freshly planted rhubarb garden. The construction was orchestrated by Sheboygan South High School freshman, active Meals On Wheels volunteer, and Boy Scout Serjey Molitor in remembrance of his grandmother, a former Meals On Wheels recipient.



Serjey and a volunteer plot the garden.

For those who may not know, rhubarb is a springtime vegetable that looks like red tinted celery and is cooked like fruit. It's a great source of Vitamin C and potassium. While the leaves are toxic, our chef and baker use the tart stalks to make delectable treats like strawberry-rhubarb bars, rhubarb muffins and a variety of savory sauces that compliment pork and turkey.

Serjey worked together with Troop 86I, his parents, brother and friends to prepare the garden and plant the

garden. They left space for a walkway between the rows and added a few decorative grasses. The project will help Serjey earn his Eagle Scout ranking.

By being involved in community service projects Serjey hopes to remind others that youth can and do take active roles in society and aren't just "troublemakers." In addition to the garden, the 15-year-old built four beautiful wooden benches for visitors to rest and enjoy the garden and they are already getting lots of use!

"I like making other people happy, setting goals and achieving new things," said Serjey, adding that he hopes the rhubarb can provide additional nutrition and flavor to the meals served to the homebound.

Scouts, friends and family planted the Rhubarb garden.



Adult Merriment at June-A-Palooza

Adult-only respite from everyday life with drinks and gourmet food – soaring garden vistas atop a Ferris Wheel overlooking the amazing Christopher Farm and Gardens – it's the best!

June-A-Palooza 2014 was an incredible affair with delightful goodies including Bent Spoon's Sake sorbeto, Miesfeld's Irish potato sasuges, Tiki chicken from the Highland House, Duke of Devon's fish 'n chips, or own summer kale salad, Sargento's gourmet mac 'n cheese and reserve cheeses from Sartori. Each food item was perfectly paired with wines

selected by Jaelyn Stewart and beer chosen by Larry's Distributing.

Co-chaired by Jay Christopher and Acuity President Ben Salzman, guests enjoyed massages in the Japanese Garden by Nellie Schmitt, tours of the pristinely divine gardens on pedicabs and trains, in addition to the diverse musical entertainment.

The amazing fork and spoon art creations were the highlight of the event. This year's talent was above and beyond – the fork and spoon pieces were inspiring, breathtaking and show-stopping.

This benefit for Meals On Wheels is expected to return in 2015, so be sure to like June-A-Palooza on Facebook for up-to-the-minute details.



This multi-dimensional, colorful giraffe created by Christina

Polasky was one of the original pieces of fork art up for auction.



Guests enjoyed the view from the Ferris Wheel.



June-A-Palooza guests had the opportunity to pose in an American Gothic photo booth arranged by Double Vision.

Backyard Beds Extend Growing Season



When our new Meals On Wheels facility was designed in 2011, it was the landscaping vision of designer Kelly Bahrs that a sensory garden and raised garden beds be installed in the backyard. Thanks to an overflow of wood donations from Oostburg Lumber, and the time and talents of some local specialists, 11 raised beds were constructed this summer and have already yielded their first crop!

The 2 ½-foot high, 18-foot long, garden beds were built in just a few weeks by area teens. The project was managed and directed by Bill Warner, Ron Ostermann and Jeff Cainz. Their dedication to mentoring the youth, and to the Meals On Wheels program is very much appreciated.

The opportunity gave the teenagers the chance to be mentored by these talented men learning carpentry, teamwork, organizational and time management skills that they can take with them into the "real" world.

To extend the growing season for these raised beds another

team of youth, headed by Chris Kuehnel, earned community service hours for National Honor Society by building and installing "hoops" over the beds.

As the weather begins to cool these hoops will be covered with greenhouse plastic. This will create a warm house, of sorts, for the growing plants. This method is expected to extend our growing season up to six weeks in the fall, and to provide a four to six week earlier start in the spring. Some cold-hardy plants may even grow through the entire winter season. Perhaps we'll see a springtime harvest of carrots?

Thanks to the outpouring of support from the community we will be able to construct a fence around the garden to protect the produce and the volunteers working there before winter.



Jane displays greens from our backyard.

"The organization is just incredible, it's way more than providing some meals to people in need it's actually, I almost look at it as if it's treating clients like family."

- Ted Vallis, Customer Service Manager,
Wisconsin Public Service (WPS)

Meals On Wheels graciously thanks the following for their generous support.

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Wildwood Garden Grows

We have grown nearly one ton of herbs and vegetables for our meals, so it's hard to believe that nine months ago Wildwood Garden was just an unused piece of green grass. It was the tenacity and vision of Ted Vallis, customer service manager at Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) that helped bring the gardens to life.

Vallis partnered with Dayna Watson, a WPS community relations leader, along with several other WPS employees to champion the creation of a garden which would be installed on green space owned by WPS.

The result of his due diligence was the approval to proceed, along with a generous \$25,000 grant awarded by WPS Foundation to Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County.

The garden with 18 raised beds is located just two blocks from Meals On Wheels off of New Jersey Avenue on South Wildwood Avenue.

Planning of the beds was spearheaded



Adam Schmeiser (left) & Al Lutterman

by Adam Schmeiser, a North High School student working toward his Eagle Scout

rank; in tandem with Jane Nauschultz, our produce director; and Mike Scharl, Greenscape manager at Christopher Farm and Gardens. Other contributors to the project include Steve Theilman of Drexel Building Supply and Steve VanderPloeg, who donated nearly 400 pieces of wood from Oostburg Lumber. Reed Schmitt of Joseph Schmitt and Sons Construction assembled a team from the Carpenters Union to help cut and build the beds.

The entire project was constructed in just one Saturday last April. Volunteers from WPS, the Boy Scouts, Carpenters Union, Rotary and the public came together for a "Bed Raising." These amazing volunteers spent the day building the 40-foot raised beds, creating 3,600 square feet of garden.

"To see all these different people from throughout the community working so hard for the wellness of our clients was breathtaking," said Kelly Heyn, Meals On Wheels CEO. "It still gives me goose bumps thinking of that day."

WPS continues to work with Meals On Wheels, and in combination with donations from throughout the community, a fence will be installed to protect the



produce and volunteers in the Wildwood Garden.

"The fact that we can provide land for nutrition that feeds the same community we serve has a lot of goodness to it. I hope to continue getting our employees and other area businesses involved in caring for and serving the clientele of Meals On Wheels," said Ted.

He continued, "If people can't eat nutritional food that has all kinds of implications that aren't good. If you can get them nutritious food there is so much good, better health, better attitude, so much more because you feel good; as a company we want that for our customers."



Produce Production Begins with the Seed

Growing produce requires seeds, sun, water and lots of TLC. Thanks to a program through Seedsavers.org, Herman's Garden Seed donated a wide variety of seeds which were nurtured by botany students from North and South High Schools.

The squash, kohlrabi, broccoli, tomato, tomatillo, cabbage, pepper, melon, onion and herbs were planted by volunteers from the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Institute and the North and South High School botany students.

Collaboration from so many groups, organizations and volunteers of all ages (from grade school up to 100 years old!) continues to be an awe-inspiring vision.

All of the locally grown herbs and vegetables allow us to provide the most nutritious meals possible for the homebound, elderly, and disabled in Sheboygan County. It reduces costs and decreases our carbon footprint, enhancing the quality of life in Sheboygan, and beyond.



Why Do Gardens Matter?



Seeds and Soil



Sun and Rain



Volunteers



Better Nutrition



Happy Clients



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Fresh Faces of Meals On Wheels

Artfully Amazing Volunteer

Art seems to come naturally for David Peterman, owner of Greatlakes Airbrush in Plymouth.

Dave, and his brother John Deltgan, shared their time and talents with Meals On Wheels this summer creating one-of-a-kind works of art on 5-foot and 3-foot metal forks that were auctioned off during June-A-Palooza, a benefit for Meals On Wheels.

Their hard work resulted in earning the "Royal June-A-Palooza Artist" for 2014. The winning piece was a cow named "Sadie," which combined a large fork, with a smaller one. Ears and grass were added and a tine was shortened to make a tongue.



Dave Peterman poses with "Sadie."

"It just came to us when we started to look at the forks and layered the smaller one on the larger one. Visually, it was there," Dave said. The automotive paint on the fork should keep it preserved for many years of garden enjoyment.

Dave has been painting all around Sheboygan County and even down to Chicago painting murals at Cosmic Bounce, brick walls for City Bakery and creating a dolphin coral reef painting for Blue Harbor. His latest endeavor has him collaborating with other artists creating museum, theme park, Micro Golf and zoo exhibits. His creativity is so ever-lasting that he even painted the air compressor he uses changing the red machine into a minion, like those from the movie "Despicable Me."

His creativity will next be shared with Meals On Wheels when takes on the challenge of renovating the look of the meal delivery truck. Stay tuned for updates! 📌

Super Client

It was hard to believe, but World War II veteran Tony Petruski, had never been in a parade.

We were honored to give him the opportunity in July when Tony served as our guest of honor and rode in the Meals On Wheels delivery truck while the rest of our staff and volunteers walked alongside.

This proud father of 12 enjoyed the extra attention he gleaned from a few of his daughters, and his wife, Ruth. They were so proud and excited for Tony that they had to run up to the truck to give him hugs and take pictures.



WWII Veteran Tony Petruski

Tony has received meals for the past few years and is well taken care of at home by his children, while his wife Ruth resides at Countryside Manor.

For 34 years Tony worked at a type setter for "The Sheboygan Press." He loves to spend time in the garden and still enjoys playing golf.

We were delighted to recognize Tony for his years of service. 📌



Tony's girls were proud to watch their father in the 4th of July parade.

In Memorium: Nancy Kohler

We were sad to say good-bye earlier this year to Nancy Kohler, the one and only Board President to cartwheel through our offices.



For those who have been long-time followers of Sheboygan's Meals On Wheels program, you know that Nancy was an amazing lady who not only paved the way for success of the meal program, but also for women in this community.

Nancy served as an active member of our Board of Directors for many years. She was passionate and caring and tenacious. It is Nancy, whose tenacity and forthright allowed her to co-found the Love Bowls fundraiser, which we still have to this day. This event not only raises awareness for the need of helping the homebound, disabled and elderly in our community, but also generates funds to provide them meals.

As stated so eloquently in her obituary, Nancy believed that giving back was a part of life. While raising her four daughters, Nancy was an extraordinarily active member of the community and held many positions of leadership in civic, non-profit and charitable organizations.

In addition to Meals On Wheels Nancy was the first female Rotarian and the first female President of the Rotary Club of Sheboygan County. She was also a Kohler Village Board Trustee, and on many other local committees.

We are forever inspired by Nancy's life and works. 📌

The Scoop

Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County, Inc.
1004 S. Taylor Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081
P 920.451.7011
www.SheboyganMealsOnWheels.org

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United Way of
Sheboygan County



Johnsonville Interns Sponsor THE SCOOP

The Johnsonville Summer Interns are the proud sponsors of this addition of THE SCOOP. They held a brat fry for Meals On Wheels at the end of July, as a part of their summer internship at Johnsonville, raising over \$3,000 to support our elderly, disabled and homebound neighbors. Thank you to the Johnsonville employees who participated! If your organization or company would like to sponsor the next addition of the scoop contact Kelly or Noelle at 451-7011 or email Noelle@shebmow.org for details.



Johnsonville interns raised \$3,224 at a specially hosted brat fry this summer.

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Kettle Karver Creations



The Kettle Karver Christmas tree, well known from the former "Festival of Trees" annual event, is making a return this fall.

Members of the Kettle Karvers have graciously offered to carve food-related wooden ornaments that will be placed on an evergreen tree from Caan Floral & Greenhouses.

This one-of-a-kind tree will be available by auction through November 15th. On the 15th Caan Floral & Greenhouses will donate a percent of their sales to Meals On Wheels, who will provide shoppers with tasty samples from the Christopher Family Kitchen. More information will be available on Facebook, our website and by contacting our office after October 6 at 451-7011.

We are thrilled to partner with these talented artisans and Caan Floral & Greenhouses to offer this opportunity. 🍂