



# The End of an era

The first time Kelly Anderson delivered meals more than 30 years ago, she had her daughter, Alex, in tow. Alex tagged along again December 17 when Kelly delivered one last route before her retirement became official.

In 1990, my just one-year-old daughter Alexandra and I delivered our first meal. I will always remember her as she toddled her way up walks and charmed the heck out of our people. What joy! Alex and I delivered again December 17. I enjoyed spending car time with my kiddo, reminiscing about the past years. It was my final delivery as a Meals On Wheels employee – in fact, it was my last day on the job at Meals On Wheels. I am off to the land of Retirement, which I expect to be a very busy place indeed, filled with family and friends, art, travel, water and critters.

I happily leave in my place the extremely talented, smart, and experienced newly-appointed CEO Allison Thompson. Allison has proven her ability to keep the doors open at Meals On Wheels and I know her steadiness will serve the organization well. Her superpower is KINDNESS – she has the ability to show true kindness even under duress – a real blessing, especially during the pandemic.

A lot has changed at MOW – the location, and most importantly the food (FOOD-food as our clients call it); but the quality of the people remains the same. The folks involved here are outstanding. I recall one client informing me that our volunteers must be “church people.” I asked why he thought that and he let me know that there was no other reason that he could think of for people to be so good to him. Ah. Whatever the case, the distilled goodness of our volunteer corps continues to be the vehicle that keeps the meals rolling around here.

The growth of this organization was made possible by extremely generous and trusting investors – also known as donors. Over the years, I have marveled at how closely our trajectory has followed that of the kids’ book, *Stone Soup*: one person decides to throw something in the pot, and a bunch of others follow suit, creating the most marvelous soup imaginable! Many times I have felt as though my arms were

overflowing as a result of the community’s generosity.

The complexity of running an innovative program may be underestimated. It requires the help of many people, which I have been blessed to receive. For me, it also required a lot of help from above, because MAN, I frequently didn’t know what I was doing. So I prayed:

- For clients to know that they are loved.
- For volunteers to feel that they are making a difference with their goodness.
- For coworkers to understand that their hard work enables goodness to flow to those in need.
- For our board to always side with goodness and mercy, rather than short-term gains.
- For me, that my actions never cause pain to those we are charged with serving.

And when at an utter loss at what to do, which happened quite often, I have specifically prayed for the wisdom of Solomon, though this sometimes sounded more like ‘Please don’t let me screw up.’

For these answered prayers and more, I am grateful beyond words. There has been beauty and friendship, the honor of comforting those going through terribly tough times, and the pleasure of brainstorming through ridiculous problems. There has been the unmitigated joy of being able to help build a thing that needed to exist. And there has been FUN – I really hope that I always remember the giggles – there have been so many!

For all of the good folks involved in this program, from day one till now, I give thanks. On behalf of the people we have served, I say a super big thank you, and I gently remind you to not forget that there will continue to be elderly and disabled people tomorrow, and on the days that follow. Please help them.

Thank you for allowing me to serve – it has been my pleasure.

*Kelly Anderson*

## The Scoop

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## The Scoop

From Fresh Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County

Winter 2021-22



# After 23 Years, Fresh Meals On Wheels has a new CEO

Fresh Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County, Inc., (FMOW) and its Board of Directors are pleased to announce Allison Thompson as CEO of FMOW beginning Friday, December 17, 2021. She is taking the helm from Kelly Anderson, who has been with the organization for 23 years.

Anderson has led the organization to new heights by never accepting anything as status quo, and instead, pushing to make the program innovative and vibrant. In 2012, Anderson, and the then Board of Directors, introduced a brand new model to meal programs: making food from scratch with locally grown and sourced fruits and vegetables. Under the direction of a top culinary team, the state-of-the-art Christopher Family Kitchen has produced more than half a million freshly made meals that have been enjoyed in Sheboygan County – and beyond.

Thompson, who joined FMOW in 2013, has worked closely alongside Anderson while also expanding the program’s reach through collaborations and wellness initiatives to improve the lives of those who receive meals. This has included developing partnerships with area health organizations to reduce hospital readmissions; decreasing malnutrition through home-



Allison Thompson (right) was announced as the Fresh Meals On Wheels CEO beginning December 17, the day outgoing CEO Kelly Anderson (left) retired after 23 years with the organization.

delivered, medically-tailored meals; and improving at-home care through involvement with regional colleges and universities.

“We are elated to have Allison lead Meals On Wheels,” said Anderson “She is very capable and really looks for creative and impactful opportunities to help meal recipients be well at home.”

For the last three years, Thompson has served as the

executive director at Fresh Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County. She has lived in New York, Atlanta and Columbus, Ohio; has a background in journalism and public relations; is mom to three children, three cats and a dog; and involved in the community via Altrusa and Professional Women’s Connection; and volunteers for various animal rescue groups, her church and other organizations.

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Staff Photos

**The FMOW elves were busy delivering Christmas goody bags!**  
A big "THANK YOU!" to the dozens of individuals and organizations that donated gifts and treats for our meal recipients' goody bags, and to the wonderful elves who delivered them! We have received many, many calls from clients so happy with their gifts and thanking everyone who helped make their holidays brighter.

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**Gracias, Joseph!**

Joseph Corona-Hernandez, age 9, decided that FMOW needed a donation box at La Conquistadora, a grocery store on Indiana Avenue that he frequents with his family. Using his mother's translation, we created Spanish signage for the collection box. Joseph went along to drop it off and was thrilled to see it full less than a week later!

Photo by Selene Corona-Hernandez  
**Joseph Corona-Hernandez put a Spanish-language FMOW coin box at La Conquistadora market and restaurant.**

[www.FreshMealsOnWheels.org](http://www.FreshMealsOnWheels.org)

Watch our website and Facebook page for details about **Soup On Wheels 2022**, a curbside meal pick-up event happening in early March. Enjoy delicious homemade soup, desserts and more while supporting Fresh Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County!

**Donations Received**  
June 1–November 30, 2021