Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville | Albemarle

*Neighbors helping neighbors … one meal at a time.*

Article

## Teens GIVE and Meals on Wheels — Helping Together

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Meals on Wheels has come to depend greatly on the Teens GIVE students. "They are unsung heroes," says Mandy Hoy, Meals on Wheels Executive Director. Because the blizzard bags contain so much canned food, they are heavy and hard to manage for many of the regular volunteer drivers. According to Hoy, "the Teens GIVE students have delivered 90% of our blizzard bags for the past couple of winters. They make a tremendous contribution."

In addition, during the summer, if you look at the delivery route board in the Meals on Wheels office, you see Teens GIVE written all over the place. All summer long, Teens Give students deliver two or three routes every weekday. The students with Teens GIVE are steady, reliable helpers throughout the summer, when Meals on Wheels regular volunteer drivers are away on vacations. "The Teens GIVE students just save us in the summer," says Hoy. For the past four years, Teens GIVE students from Charlottesville High School, The Enterprise Center and Walker Upper Elementary School have also been involved in delivering 25 routes throughout the school year.

The genesis of this unique partnership was a phone call from Teens GIVE asking if Meals on Wheels could use some help. The two non-profit organizations came together in a tremendously successful matching of missions. "Everyone benefits," says Heather Kellams, Teens GIVE's coordinator, adding, "providing a much-needed service like delivering meals is great experience for the students, who learn responsibility and the reward that comes from being reliable and helpful."

Teens GIVE is designed to teach life skills, social values, team work and work place readiness through well-organized service-learning opportunities. The program is open to youths ages 9-18 and is offered as part of the curriculum at Walker Upper Elementary School, Charlottesville High School and The Enterprise Center. Teens GIVE also operates a half day school program, an after school program and a summer program.

For more information about Meals on Wheels, please go to www.cvillemeals.org, or call (434) 293-4364.
For more information about the Teens GIVE Program, please contact Heather Kellams, at (434) 970-3334 or Kellams@Charlottesville.org.