Home Plate

February 2009
The newsletter of Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville–Albemarle

It's getting to be time again … for a spring dinner!

The Silver Thatch Inn

Meals on Wheels'

4th Annual Wine Dinner

is almost upon us!
Thursday, March 19
6:30 – 9:30 pm

Cheers! This special event — a jewel in our fundraising crown, thanks to Inn owners **Jim & Terri Petrovits** — is coming up soon! Won't you join us to enjoy six elegant courses served in a lovely and intimate and historic setting, accompanied by carefully selected Virginia wines — all to benefit our home-delivered meals program. Call ***now*** to reserve your table ($100/person).

1ST ANNUAL ANTIQUES AUCTION

Dateline: Saturday, March 14, 2009 —10:00am —The Elks Lodge

Donate an antique — or come put in a bid for someone else's treasure and make it your own! We'd love your contribution of items at least 50 years old — and we're sure that special piece, with its wonderful patina, will find a new owner! Please call Ellen Beard at 434/245-7045 to get on the donor list. She'll get a brief description of your item(s) and your contact information. Then you'll get a call closer to the auction date regarding drop-off/pick-up. All proceeds from the auction will go directly to benefit Meals on Wheels' program.

Home Plate

is published four times a year by Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville-Albemarle.

Call 434/293-4364 or address inquiries to:

Meals on Wheels
KCRC
2270 Ivy Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Email: *mandy@cvillemeals.org*

Visit us at *www. cvillemeals.org*

Meals on Wheels is an independent, non-profit local organization that provides hot, nutritious lunchtime meals to homebound Charlottesville and Albemarle residents who are unable to cook their own meals and who have no one to help them. Meals are delivered by volunteers every Monday through Friday, including all holidays that fall on weekdays.

All contributions to Meals on Wheels are tax-deductible. Donations from the community are what make this program possible.

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PROUD SPONSOR OF THE MEALS ON WHEELS NEWSLETTER

From the Director's Chair

We head into this year with great hope — and with some trepidation regarding the economy. As you can see from the charts below, our program continues to grow, and we continue to work to maintain our 30+ year long record of no waiting list — a record that only holds because of the Charlottesville-Albemarle community's recognition of the importance of taking care of our neighbors, and its generosity in making that possible; we know that these tough economic times make meeting the needs of our neighbors more challenging for all of us — but we're hopeful that with a lot of hard work and belt-tightening on our part, and with your continued generosity — including your wonderful donations of time and energy, we'll keep our wonderful record of feeding our neediest neighbors going.

We're trying to keep ourselves lean and efficient — but we don't want to lose sight of the quality of our service — and we don't want to miss any opportunities to recognize our volunteers, whose spirit of giving and whose tireless dedication to our program and our clients are what keep us going — both literally and figuratively. In addition, I can't help but pounce on this chance to give the loudest of kudos to our staff: **Dawn Grzegorczyk**, whose close and careful work with our clients and referring agencies and whose thoughtful and thorough orientation of our volunteers keeps us on track and responsive to a variety of stakeholders' needs, and **Irene Xenos**, who is able, as Mr. Kipling says, "to keep [her] head when all about are losing theirs" — that is, in the midst of the wonderful busy-ness of our kitchen! With thanks to and thanksgiving for all —

— Mandy Hoy

Volunteer Spotlight: Helen Landel

Helen Landel has been delivery meals for us since 1991 — and your math is right, there — that's 18 YEARS! There are lots of reasons to thank and love Helen — not the least of which is that she theme-dresses for each holiday — and brings not only her cheerful smile, but also holiday treats and favors for each of her clients — and even for the Meals on Wheels staff! Thank you, Helen!

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is grateful to all these individuals and organizations who made contributions in 2008. Your support keeps our wheels rolling. Thank you.

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by Michael Weeks

Meals on Wheels *has made every effort to make this list complete and accurate. If you notice a mistake or omission, please accept our apologies and call us at 293-4364.*

Have you got a fairy godmother? Here at Meals on Wheels, we feel fortunate to have a veritable fleet of them! This past holiday season, Meals on Wheels was positively ***showered*** with gifts to distribute to our meal recipients, not only from some of our wonderful volunteer drivers, but also the Sunday School classes of St. Paul's Memorial Church (coordinated by our good friend **Iris Potter**) who filled 200 gift bags with hand-made favors, as well as from **Jeanne McCusker**, owner of Home Instead Senior Care, who coordinated all the many people who donated and gift-wrapped blankets for each of our clients. We also give thanks to board member **David Ferrall**, who helped transport all those blankets down to the kitchen for our drivers to deliver, and to our Volunteer Coordinator **Irene Xenos** who, together with a group of friends, baked cookies enough to add to each of our client's gift bags. Finally, we give thanks to **George Cason** and **Lou Reck**, whose donation of proceeds from their Christmas tree sales will feed a needy neighbor for over a year!

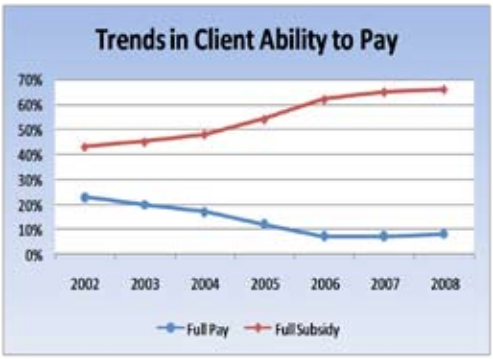
2008 Data — or: "Your Dollars at Work!"

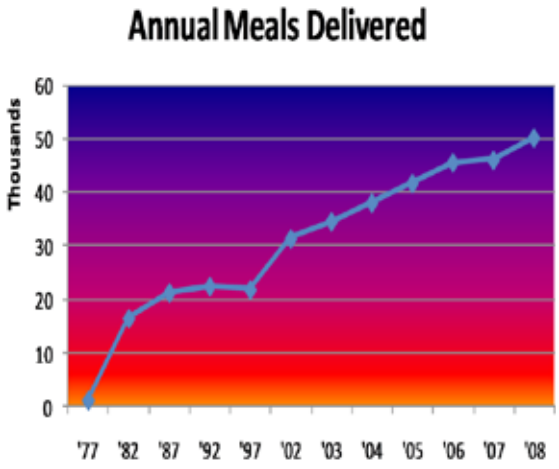
We delivered over 50,000 meals in 2008 — and that brings our grand total of meals delivered since our founding in 1977 — to … (drum roll, please!) … over 822,000 meals served!!!

Only a few short years ago we reached a milestone of 4000 meals delivered in a month, and now, as we head into 2009, our monthly average is almost 4200 meals delivered.

At the same time that we're seeing a steep upward trend in the need for our home-delivered meals service, you can see as well that the number of people who are able to pay the full cost of their meals is going down and the number of people who are unable to pay even a nominal fee for their meals has risen to the point where it is the majority of our clients.

As always, these people are our aunts and uncles, our neighbors and friends, people our parents worked with or who gave us change from behind the counter or flipped the burger we enjoyed. Thanks for helping make sure that these nice people get a hot meal and a helping hand as surely as they gave a helping hand when they were able!





Meals on Wheels
of Charlottesville|Albemarle

KCRC
2270 Ivy Road
Charlottesville, VA 22901

www.cvillemeals.org

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We're still looking for "volunteer greeters." Do you love meeting new people? Are you good at thinking on your feet? Give us a call — we'd love to put you to work!

All FRIED up and ready to go!

Mark your calendar for Scottsville's annual fish fry to benefit Meals on Wheels. This year's event will take place Friday, March 27, from 6 – 8pm, in the fellowship hall of the Scottsville United Methodist Church; tickets are available at the door. Want to shake off March and break bread with your friends? Got a hankering for a plate of fried fish, corn bread, and cole slaw? This is the event for you!
See you there!

rack'em up!

Brian Kennedy, a regular Meals on Wheels driver and long-standing supporter of our program, is selling the above pictured pool table (purchaser responsible for moving) for a BARGAIN $500 — with ALL PROCEEDS to be donated to Meals on Wheels!

Interested? Please contact Brian at 434/293-8151 with questions.