Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville | Albemarle

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

Press Release

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## Meals On Wheels Receives Bama Works Grant to Fund Additional Meals For Needy Area Residents

Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle has received a grant of $10,000 from the Bama Works Fund in the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation to cover the cost of food for additional meals served in our area. Meals on Wheels delivers hot, noontime meals to needy area residents, 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year. The non-profit organization is has experienced increases in need for its service each of the past four years, and now delivers between 180–200 meals per day, in 2006 totaling over 45,000 meals delivered.

In addition to the increase in the number of clients, Meals on Wheels reports an increase in the number of clients who cannot contribute even a small portion of the cost of their meals. The two factors combine to create an ongoing budget challenge for the organization. "We've been running faster to stay in place," says Mandy Hoy, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels, "but demand just keeps climbing; this Bama Works grant gives us a tremendous boost as we work to deliver meals to all of our neighbors who need them."

Meals on Wheels currently has 200 volunteers, delivering meals along 25 routes, in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, including Crozet and Scottsville. Importantly, in addition to the meal, the social contact volunteers provide to our homebound neighbors is a critical part of our community's safety net — and makes volunteering for Meals on Wheels especially rewarding.

Meals on Wheels is celebrating 30 years of service to our community this year, and is planning a special calendar of events to recognize this important milestone. A vital community resource, Meals on Wheels is an entirely independent local organization, relying solely on area businesses, organizations, and individuals to support its operating budget. It costs $1400 to supply meals for one individual for one year, just $5.50 per day. Anyone interested in more information about the program should call (434)293-4364 or visit www.cvillemeals.org.