Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville | Albemarle

Neighbors helping neighbors … one meal at a time.

Press Release
Charlottesville, VA

Meals on Wheels Seeks Volunteers as it Delivers Record Number of Meals

Due to a steady increase in demand for its service, Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle is seeking volunteer drivers for both regular, weekly commitments and substitute driving. 2006 is on course to become the fourth year in a row with a significant increase in demand for meals. During August, Meals on Wheels volunteers delivered more meals in a single month than ever before in the organization's history, delivering 4219 in that one month alone. Largely because of this increase in demand, Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers ready to join the effort to reach out to those in need with a hot, noontime meal.

Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers donate approximately 1.5 hours of time once a week, on a regularly scheduled weekday, from approximately 10:30am to 12:00pm. They drive their own cars. Often two volunteers share a route, delivering on alternating weeks. "It's a very consistent commitment and we are happy to report that our volunteers find delivering meals extremely rewarding. In many cases they're the only people the meal recipients see each day," says Mandy Hoy, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels. "It's a great volunteer job for people who enjoy making an important and personal difference in people's lives."

Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle has been breaking records on a regular basis, as it continues to face a steadily rising demand for meals. With the aging population, population growth, and the interest in aging at home rather than moving into an institutional setting, the non-profit Meals on Wheels is not only looking for volunteers, but donations as well. To help raise much-needed funds, Meals on Wheels recently joined the "CVC" — Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign, the payroll deduction program now under way at the University of Virginia and all other state agencies. Meals on Wheels has been assigned CVC #3466.

Nonetheless, the challenge of meeting the demand for fundraising and volunteer recruitment is increasingly daunting. "We raise all our money locally – from individuals, businesses and community groups, so we stay very busy trying to raise funds as well as recruit and train volunteers," says Hoy. "I don't know how we'd do it if this wasn't such an incredibly giving community!"

Meals on Wheels delivers hot meals to needy area residents, five days a week, 52 weeks a year. An independent, local organization, serving the community since 1977, Meals on Wheels relies entirely on area businesses, organizations, and individuals to support and sustain its home-delivered meals program. The cost to supply a meal for one individual for one year is approximately $1400, or $5.50 per day. For more information on Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle, please visit www.cvillemeals.org.

Anyone interested in driving a delivery route, packing meals, or helping on a committee such as fundraising, is invited to contact the Meals on Wheels office at (434) 293-4364.