Re-Imagined Plate Expectations is Most Successful Ever!

On a beautiful, sunny evening in early September, the Meals on Wheels Foundation of WNY held its Plate Expectations event at Silo City with the theme of **BBQ, Brews and You!**

With approximately 800 attendees, the event was the best attended and most successful MOW has ever had, netting more than $102,000.

“The new location and reduced ticket price did exactly what we were hoping it would – it brought out more people, including those who were new to the organization, in support of the critical work that we do,” Lisa Woodring, Chief Development Officer, said. “Those people, in turn, had a great time and learned more about our mission.”

The casual indoor-outdoor event included food from Dinosaur BBQ, Consumer Beverages beer, Barefoot wine, two live bands, free tours courtesy of Explore Buffalo, water taxi rides, a silent and live auction and much more.

Community awards were also presented to key partners:

- **Partnership Award:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church
- **Friend of the Community:** Niagara Frontier Automobile Dealers Association / Buffalo Auto Show
- **Corporate Volunteer Award:** West Herr Automotive Group

“We heard from everyone how much they loved the site and how exciting the new format was. We can’t wait to start planning Plate Expectations 2016 and see what surprises we can cook up for next year,” Tara A. Ellis, President and CEO, said.

Thank you to our event chair Stephen Mayo (VP, Walsh Duffield; MOW board member) and honorary chair Ted Walsh Jr. (President and COO, Walsh Duffield), as well as all of our staff and volunteers for making this event possible.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, especially our gold sponsors: Business First, Cumulus, Danforth, David Collins Productions, Grover Cleveland Press, M&T Bank, Perry’s Ice Cream, Tops Markets, Walsh Duffield Insurance Companies, and WGRZ-TV.
Walmart Foundation Grant Provides Delivery Equipment

The Walmart Foundation recently donated $50,000 to Meals on Wheels for WNY in support of its cooler replacement program. The grant allowed Meals on Wheels to purchase commercial grade coolers, as well as new ice packs and racks for storing and loading the coolers before meal delivery each day.

“Food safety is of the utmost importance to us and it’s a real challenge in WNY. Our service area covers a staggering 954 miles and over the course of the year our temperatures can fluctuate from -10 degrees below to 90 degrees, so we really need to plan carefully and have the right tools in place to get every meal delivered within two hours of the time it is plated and at the appropriate temperature,” Tara A. Ellis, President and CEO, Meals on Wheels for WNY, said. “We’re really grateful to the Walmart Foundation for this donation, which allowed us to purchase these much needed coolers and supplies.”

Meals on Wheels for WNY delivers two meals a day to each homebound client – a hot lunch, which must be at or above 140 degrees, and a cold supper, which must be at or below 45 degrees.

Each pair of volunteers uses a personal vehicle to take one hot-box oven and two coolers out into the community, delivering to up to 12 clients per route each day. Ultimately, between 5,000 and 6,000 meals are produced each day (across programs), and the coolers and ovens experience a lot of wear and tear from such frequent use.

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation provided $10,000 toward the cooler program.

MOW in the Local, National Spotlight

Meals on Wheels for WNY (MOW), the second largest home-delivered meals program in the nation out of more than 5,000, is generally regarded as a leader in the field. The organization’s team members and volunteers continue to share – and be recognized for – their passion and expertise both locally and nationally.

• **Justin Baumgardner**, Foundation Coordinator, MOW, was recently named one of Business First’s “30 Under 30.” Baumgardner is an engaged and hard working professional, who cares deeply about the mission of Meals on Wheels and also helps other organizations, such as a camp for sick children and a science discovery organization.

• **Tara A. Ellis**, President and CEO, MOW, was honored with the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Buffalo Niagara Chapter’s Outstanding Executive Award. This award “honors a WNY business executive who recognizes and supports the role of public relations in his/her organization and throughout the community.” Ellis also was recently appointed to National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)’s Future Task Force, a national committee that will help shape the strategic direction and priorities of NANASP.

• **Rose Marie “Ro” Hall**, a 10-year Meals on Wheels volunteer, was named Erie County’s Senior of the Year. Ro volunteers with a wide variety of community organizations and has been both a delivery volunteer and office volunteer at MOW.

• **Rachel Leidenfrost**, Chief Communications Officer, MOW, was named a fellow for the Health Foundation of Western and Central NY’s “Health Leadership Fellow Program,” an 18 month leadership development program that begins this fall.

• **Meals on Wheels for WNY** is the 2015 winner of the Living the Spirit Award, which is given each year by the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart to an individual or organization that has “chosen to use their God-given talents in outstanding service to others, following the tradition of St. Francis and St. Clare.”

• **Carol and Frank Pytel**, 12-year Meals on Wheels volunteers, received a proclamation from Senator Timothy M. Kennedy on National Senior Citizens Day for their support of the community. The Pytels have delivered meals, smiles and laughter to many clients over the years and have even introduced the joys of volunteering to their granddaughter, a regular helper on their route.

• **Alan Winistorfer**, a five-year Meals on Wheels volunteer, was named Erie County’s Senior of the Month for April 2015 after saving the life of Richard S., who had fallen in a snow bank and was experiencing the onset of hypothermia.
**Volunteer Spotlight**

**Delivering Meals, Developing Friendships**

Those who volunteer with Meals on Wheels often say that they receive as much – if not more – than they give. For the volunteers from **Transit Road Day Habilitation Center**, interacting with clients is an opportunity for both mutual growth and friendship.

Employees and clients from the Transit Road Day Hab have been volunteering for MOW for approximately 15 years and do two routes each week. Three personnel – Teri Chapman, Kay Chmielecki and Mike Gilbert – take turns doing the routes and always bring a couple clients from their center to assist them in delivery.

The Day Hab, which is affiliated with the Western New York Developmental Disability Services Organization, provides rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities. While it hosts people with varying degrees of physical and mental capability, staff works to improve social skills and self-esteem amongst all of its clients.

“We use a lot of olfactory stimulation,” Teri, a Day Hab employee and MOW volunteer, said. That includes doing arts and crafts, playing music and gardening outdoors – all of which can be seen at the center.

While the center is mainly recreational for its clients, they also work toward helping clients feel independent. They do this by giving them jobs through which they can earn a little money, such as recycle cans from local businesses.

The Day Hab also stresses community involvement, which is one of the reasons that they undertake numerous community service activities. Besides MOW, the Day Hab also works with local SPCAs, food pantries, and nursing homes.

The center first got involved with MOW when Sharon, a retired employee, heard that the organization needed volunteers. Ever since, they have been an indispensible asset to the Cheektowaga, Elma, Depew (CED) site. Site Manager Nancy Samer said that “They have been very reliable and incredibly caring to all of our clients.”

Kay – another Day Hab employee and MOW volunteer – loves the chance for her and the clients they serve to try something new. “Now, I love meeting new people and listening to their stories,” Kay said.

Both Kay and Teri agree that their clients / volunteer helpers also enjoy the positive interaction and are gaining friendships from their experience with MOW. They said that their clients look forward to doing their routes and that the MOW clients look forward to seeing them. “I definitely see them forming bonds,” Teri said.

Teri said that she also has gotten close to MOW clients on a more personal level and loves seeing them grow, too. She said that one client, Theresa, stood out to her in particular because she had been extremely shy when she and her team first started delivering meals to her. Now, she is very talkative and tells Teri and her helpers all about her life.

**When asked if others should consider volunteering, Teri said, “Don’t hesitate. You’ll find the experience more rewarding than I can ever begin to tell you.”**

---

**Ways to Give**

**Leave a Legacy**

Your gifts can help improve the lives of the homebound long after your lifetime. Leaving a bequest through your will to Meals on Wheels is a wonderful way to continue your generosity after you are gone. The following includes sample language as you are considering leaving a financial contribution to Meals on Wheels in your will:

If your bequest is to be cash or securities:

I give [the residue of my estate], or [____% of my residue of my estate], or [the sum of $____] to the Meals on Wheels Foundation of Western New York, Inc.

For the purpose of a named endowment:

I give [the residue of my estate], or [____% of my residue of my estate], or [the sum of $____] to the Meals on Wheels Foundation of Western New York, Inc. If the amount is sufficient to establish a named endowment fund, I direct that an endowment fund be created and named the [Mr. and Mrs. John Doe Fund].

The Meals on Wheels Foundation of Western New York, Inc. (tax ID number 16-1475486) is a proud partner of Leave a Legacy. Call 716-822-2002, ext. 27 to speak to Lisa Woodring for a confidential consultation. Meals on Wheels recommends contacting a financial advisor before making a contribution.
The essential work done by Meals on Wheels for Western New York is made possible by generous financial support from community members, local foundations and corporations, as well as through grants from the New York State Office for the Aging and Erie County’s Departments of Senior Services and Social Services.

Recent Sponsors & Supporters

Meals on Wheels for Western New York would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their recent donations and generous support of Meals on Wheels.

AAA of Western and Central New York
Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.
Apple Rubber Products Inc.
Barefoot Wine
Bateman Community Living
Bellreng’s Towing Inc.
Buffalo Hotel Supply Co., Inc.
Business First of Buffalo
Consumer Beverages
Costanzo’s Bakery
Cumulus Radio
David Collins Productions
Timothy G. DeZastro, MD
Distrikt Hotel
First Niagara Foundation
Freed Maxick CPA’s P.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Ned J. Gian
Grover Cleveland Press
John W. Danforth Co.
Kavinoky Cook, LLP
Kreher’s Farm Fresh Eggs, LLC
The M&T Charitable Foundation
Magavern, Magavern & Grimm, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Mastroleo
National Grid
North American Brewery
North Presbyterian Church
The PCA Group
Perry’s Ice Cream Company, Inc.
SEFCU – State Employee Federal Credit Union
Subaru of America, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Manson C. Surdam
Try-It Distributing Company Inc.
Walsh Duffield Companies Inc.
West Herr Auto Group
WGRZ-TV

Do you buy a fresh holiday wreath each year? Did you know that you can buy your wreaths from the Meals on Wheels Foundation of WNY and a portion of the proceeds will help the organization care for your homebound neighbors?

Meals on Wheels Foundation of WNY, in partnership with Lavocat’s Nursery, will once again be offering an array of beautiful, high-quality holiday wreaths – ranging from 14 inches to 34 inches, both plain and decorated – for sale.

Wreath orders are due Nov. 20 and pick-up will be Dec. 4 and 5. Find more details, including specific dates and the order form, at www.mealsonwheelswny.org or call 822-2002, ext. 27 for more details.

Thank you for your support!