



Meals on Wheels Foundation of Northern Illinois

Doing Good Together Throughout
Northern Illinois

Special Report: Your Impact

Two years into the pandemic, your support has kept our community's seniors wrapped in care! Here's a look at the difference you made for more than 8,000 seniors in Northern Illinois ...

Nourishing Body and Soul

The realities of the pandemic were all too familiar for many of our older neighbors. For years, they've known the challenges of getting to the grocery store, paying for food and medicine, and being isolated from loved ones. With your help, we've made sure our seniors have kind companionship and hot, nutritious meals to keep them nourished during a difficult time.



from March 2020 through February 2022

1,748,730

Home-delivered meals

from March through December 2020

158,781

Frozen or shelf-stable
meals provided

24,649

To-go meals provided
at senior centers



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A Two-Way Street of Gratitude

The meaningful experiences I have had each and every week are significant to me! Delivering Meals on Wheels in Will County/New Lenox has given me so much — a sense of purpose, worthiness and so much happiness.

The people who receive the meals (which are unbelievably delicious and healthy) are just so lovely and grateful! Since my retirement and COVID, I was losing self-esteem and self-confidence. The clients have given me so much more than their "Thank you."

When I came home the first day after delivering meals, my husband said I had a huge smile on my face! There's always a story to tell: the lonely person who looks forward to each delivery ... the sweet lady who greets me with, "Hello, beautiful!" ... the veteran who gives me a box of candy at each holiday ... the lady who gives me flowers from her garden ... the one who is at the door waiting for me to arrive ... I could go on!

The bottom line is that Meals on Wheels gives me a ton more than I could ever give to them!

— Laurie, New Lenox

A Proactive Approach

Our wellness call program enables seniors to live safely at home and allows our caring volunteers to spot — and solve — potential problems before they start.



Wellness call hours from
April 2020 to November 2021:

5,369

Total calls made during that period: **9,847**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A Lifesaving Delivery

It is a truly amazing group of folks who bring food and social interaction to seniors and other homebound neighbors. I've also learned that some clients simply want daily fresh food delivered by a smiling face.

One particular story that reminds me of how important our service is involved a client who had fallen down the stairs in his house. When I arrived with the food, there was no answer to my knocks, to the doorbell or to my phone call. After a few minutes, I prepared to leave, but on a whim, I opened the door a crack and shouted inside. At that point, I heard a very faint call for help — too faint to be heard through the closed front door. I pushed in and found the client at the bottom of his stairs, where he had fallen out of his wheelchair. After making sure he was in no further danger, I called 911. They arrived within minutes.

I heard later that my senior was hospitalized for a while, but he was in no long-term danger. I'm not sure what would have happened if I had not opened that door a crack. One of his children later contacted me to say thanks.

— Wayne, Brookfield

Fast Facts



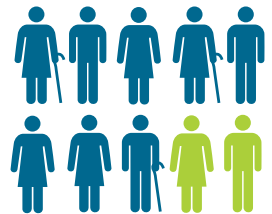
1 YEAR

1 DAY

10 DAYS

Meals on Wheels can serve a senior for an entire year for about the same cost as just one day in a hospital or 10 days in a nursing home.

Daily home-delivered meals help keep **8 out of 10** recipients who have previously fallen from falling again.



58% of home-delivered meal recipients live alone. For many of them, the person delivering the meal is often the only person they will see that day.

Keeping Seniors Safer

This past year, we worked with the Cook County Sheriff's Department and Mobile Care to provide COVID-19 vaccines to seniors. Between March 31 and December 31, 2021, we coordinated:

1 walk-in vaccine clinic (Phoenix, Ill.):
150 vaccinations

6 in-home vaccine events:
66 vaccinations



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