



Pickens County Meals on Wheels

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Easley, SC 29641

www.pcmow.org

Mission: Pickens County Meals on Wheels exists to combat the effects of hunger, loneliness and isolation on those living in Pickens County, and to provide a lifeline through the use of caring volunteers.

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 24, 2011

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

Beginning in July, Pickens County Meals on Wheels will expand its service by building a second route in the greater Dacusville Community. The initial cost of this expansion will be funded through the Community Impact Grant from the Pickens County United Way. "This part of the county has been in need of coverage for several years. It is our longest route in Pickens County and has more applicants and fewer discharges than other routes," says Meta Bowers Executive Director of Meals on Wheels.

This route expansion will have a positive and immediate impact on the greater Dacusville Community. It will assist the elderly and disabled in maintaining their nutritional health, independence, and quality of life. "As an organization, and sole provider of home-delivered meals in this area, Meals on Wheels has a special responsibility to these seniors," says Bowers. "The Board of Directors and I feel compelled to address the growing need in this part of the county."

Bowers acknowledges that expanding service during an economic downturn can be challenging. The United Way funding will provide service for 6 individuals for an entire year. Afterward, Meals on Wheels must secure a minimum of \$7,500 annually to sustain this level of growth. "As a whole, I have always known members of the Dacusville Community to be very giving. However, funding and volunteers will dictate the success of this expansion. Donations can be earmarked toward this route."

Pickens County Meals on Wheels is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization that has been serving hot, noontime meals to the homebound citizens of Pickens County since 1980. Meals on Wheels relies entirely on the generosity of businesses, organizations, and individuals to support and sustain its home-delivered meal program. It does not seek any state or federal funding. It costs approximately \$1200 to provide weekday meals and companionship for one person for an entire year.

Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver hot meals to homebound individuals throughout Pickens County, five days a week, 52 weeks a year. They donate approximately 1-1.5 hours once a week, once a month or somewhere in between. Volunteers drive their own cars, and 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 extremely rewarding," says Bowers. "It's a great volunteer job for people who enjoy making an important and personal difference in people's lives."

Due to a steady increase in request for services, Pickens County Meals on Wheels is seeking volunteer drivers for both regular, weekly commitments and substitute drivers. Anyone specifically interested in volunteering for the Dacusville Route Expansion is welcome to attend a volunteer meeting and training session on Thursday June 30, 2011 at 1:30pm. The meeting will take place at Pickens County Meals on Wheels office located at 704 S. Pendleton St. Easley, SC 29640. Please RSVP to Rose at 855-3770 ext. 101. For more information about Pickens County Meals on Wheels, please visit www.pcmow.org.

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