



Pickens County Meals on Wheels

P.O. Box 184
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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: September 13, 2011

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4th Annual Pickens County Meals on Wheels-Sam Wyche Food Fight Bowl

It was standing room only last Friday night as the Pickens and Easley football teams took to the field, facing off for the 4th Annual Sam Wyche Food Fight Bowl. Fans of all ages came out to support their team and Meals on Wheels for the last rival game to be played at Easley's Brice Stadium.

Kicking off the event was GMow, the Grasshopper Mower mascot, as he handed the keys of two state of the art Zero Turn commercial lawnmowers to Dr. Henry Hunt, Superintendent of Pickens County Schools. Grasshopper Mower has generously provided two of these mowers for the new facilities at each high school in Pickens County: Easley, Pickens, Daniel, and Liberty. In addition, the family employees of Grasshopper Mower presented a check totaling \$4500 to Meta Bowers, Executive Director of Pickens County Meals on Wheels, to be split between each school.

This year's fundraising efforts between the Easley and Pickens students' was fierce. All of the monies raised will benefit Pickens County Meals on Wheels, a 501 (c)(3), non-profit, charitable organization that serves nutritious meals each week day to 230 homebound in Pickens County.

The students from each school were inspired by their faculty leaders to think beyond themselves and give back to their community. Eager to defend their 3-0 fundraising record, both Ryan Scully and Craig Thompson, PHS student advisors, set a goal to double the amount they had raised last year.

New on the scene, but no less energetic, was Coach Andrew Appenheimer of Easley. Competitive by nature and eager to beat Pickens both on and off the field, he stepped up to the fundraising challenge by holding a benefit concert on Thursday before the game which was a huge success.

At half-time, Easley held a commanding lead of 26-0. Anticipation filled the air as the two Grasshopper Mowers revved up their motors in the end zone and started down the field. The mowers represented Easley and Pickens fundraising efforts, and every 5 yards traveled equated to \$1000 raised by that school.

GMow and the team's cheerleaders pumped up the crowd and everyone watched to see which school would be revealed as this year's winner of the "Ultimate Food Fight" trophy. As the mowers approached the 50 yard line Pickens was in the lead, Easley took the lead at the 20, and then both mowers were neck and neck at the 10, at the 5, Touchdown!

"Everyone is a winner this year, especially Meals on Wheels," says Meta Bowers, Executive Director, "Both Easley and Pickens raised a combined total of \$60,000! With each school raising over \$30,000 each and coming within \$100 a tie was declared! The Ultimate Food Fight trophy will be engraved with both school's names and will alternate between the two. Bragging rights belong to everyone this year!"

The students tripled this year's original goal of \$22,150 for 5000 meals! Combining Friday night's totals, with what has been raised over the last three years, \$34,000, the students have now raised a combined total of \$94,000 which will be used to purchase nutritious meals for the homebound across Pickens County.

GMow presented the trophy to the cheerleaders of both Easley and Pickens High School for their school's hard fought efforts. "I am blown away by what these two schools have each accomplished. I am very proud of them, and thankful for their efforts," states Bowers, "Their hard work will fully fund either 4 routes for an entire year, 53 people for an entire year, or over 13,000 meals. No matter how you look at it, it is astounding!"

Although, there could only be one winner on the field, Easley held onto its lead throughout the game. Now holding a 1-3 record, they defeated Pickens in the Food Fight Challenge 54-20. The "Food Fight Trophy" was presented to Coach Chad Smith and the rest of the victorious Easley Green Wave Team.

"Meals on Wheels couldn't do this without the dedication and hard work of the students, the support of the community, and the unlimited energy and creativity of legendary Coach Sam Wyche," states Bowers, "This event was named in his honor because of his commitment to serving the Pickens County Community. The students at both schools are served well by his example and leadership."

The combination of donations, both large and small, is what made this event a huge success. On behalf our board of directors, volunteers and those we serve, thank you. When we needed you the most, you were there!

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Easley and Pickens High School students, faculty, staff, alumni
and supporters!

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