



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRANT FROM WALMART HELPS FEED SENIORS IN DELAWARE

Meals On Wheels will have a new, more fuel-efficient van on the roads to serve Delaware County senior citizens, thanks to a generous grant from Walmart.

"Not only can we better serve local seniors, we are saving the taxpayers of Delaware County over \$19,000 towards the cost of a much-needed new delivery vehicle," said Toni Dodge, nutrition supervisor at the Council for Older Adults. COA runs the Meals On Wheels program, which serves about 365 clients per day, totaling over 700 meals per day.

Paul Crawford, manager of Walmart in Delaware, said, "We know this financial support is desperately needed as many Meals On Wheels programs across the country struggle with skyrocketing gas costs and rising food prices." Walmart recently made a \$5 million donation to the Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA).

The \$19,701 for the van came from the Walmart Foundation-MOWAA "Building the Future" Impact Grants, used to buy stoves, trucks and other equipment needed in the fight to end hunger among seniors, said Crawford.

The new van, a 2011 Ford Transit Connect, will replace a vehicle purchased in 2005. Without the grant, COA would have had to use money from its budget, which is largely funded by a taxpayer levy. "We expect to save about 5 miles per gallon in gasoline expenses, and we'll have much lower maintenance costs," said Dodge.

The new van will travel more than 60 miles a day to deliver meals to the Sunbury area. The older van will be used as a back-up vehicle and to deliver food through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides shelf-stable items to 330 low-income older adults in Delaware County.

The Walmart Foundation first became a partner of Meals On Wheels in 2008. A donation of \$750,000 to MOWAA helped 80 struggling programs restore meal services. In late 2009, the Foundation donated an additional \$2.2 million to MOWAA that allowed 147 programs to expand meal services with new equipment.

The Council for Older Adults is a local nonprofit organization responsible for planning, developing, coordinating and providing services for older adults and their families in Delaware County. COA oversees Senior Choices, a program that provides comprehensive care management and in-home services. Services are made possible in part by funding through the local senior services levy.

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