



September 2020

To our dedicated Faith Community **Coordinators**
and to each and every loyal **Route 1 Volunteer Driver**

Dear Friends,

This year has certainly been very different for everyone. At Meals on Wheels, we have had to make numerous adjustments to our processes and procedures to ensure that both volunteers and recipients remain safe in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the safety measures, unfortunately, has been cancelling the scheduling of volunteer drivers on Route 1. This has affected over 25 different churches and organizations, and hundreds of volunteer drivers.

But **we still need you!** During this same time, the need for our services has grown tremendously. In just the last 6 months we have added over 200 new recipients, bringing our daily total to almost 500. Instead of driving our technician (Ronnie!) on Route 1, we are in need of delivery teams for many other routes around town.

Consider the possibilities:

- Your church could commit to deliver a route- perhaps in your neighborhood - once a week, once a month, twice a month, whatever schedule will work for you.
- ‘Socially-safe’ family members can form delivery teams and schedule on their own.

New delivery procedures include:

- no contact delivery
- car-side pickup
- MOW-provided thermal transport bags, sanitized prior to each delivery, with supplemental hot and cold packs.

Routes take 45-90 minutes to deliver from start to finish; each delivery comes with a custom Route Sheet and turn-by-turn directions. We have worked hard to make this process easy, efficient, and safe during this unprecedented time.

If you would be interested in talking about how we can adapt your organization’s role, please call Andrea at 434-847-0796 (or direct at 434-333-0818). Coordinators, we ask that you forward this information to your volunteers to see if they have a separate interest. Together we can continue to meet the need and make a difference in the greater Lynchburg area.

With thanks for all your help over the years,

Kris Shabestar
Executive Director

Andrea Plunkett
Volunteer Coordinator