



MEALS on WHEELS
ORANGE COUNTY

Quarterly Newsletter

SERVING IT UP

NOURISHING LIVES

FALL 2019

We're Now Meals on Wheels Orange County!

It was Saturday, October 19th and I was standing backstage at the 9th Annual Senior Care Hero Awards like a proud parent. All the awards had been announced, and it was time to share breaking news that would impact the future of our organization and enhance thousands of lives for older adults. Finally, it was official: **SeniorServ had become Meals on Wheels Orange County!** We were wowed as the audience erupted into cheers and applause!

Changing our name to Meals on Wheels Orange County opens doors because the name is universally recognized: who we are and what we do is now obvious to anyone who hears it. This increased visibility broadens the overall awareness of our cause and inspires more supporters to dramatically erase hunger and loneliness for at-risk older adults in Orange County. While we're proud of what we've accomplished together as SeniorServ, we recognize that **we need to do more.**



Look for our new trucks!

Although Orange County is one of the wealthiest counties in the US, **one in four** of our low-income older adults battles hunger, with **25%** of Orange County older adults living in isolation, regardless of income. Future projections are even more mind-boggling: in 20 years, the number of older adults over the age of 65 in Orange County will equal one-third of our county's population. A solution is needed *now* to provide for these expanding needs.



President and CEO, Holy Hagler, on stage announcing our new name.

Becoming Meals on Wheels Orange County is a great step forward and aligns us with the national movement and branding of Meals on Wheels America, our national association. My recent election to the association's national Board of Directors also ensures our local and state perspectives are represented.

While we have a new name, we still provide all the same great services. Thanks to the generous help of our supporters, our Meals on Wheels, Lunch Café, Adult Day Services, Care Coordination and Friendly Visitor programs collectively have served nearly 1 million meals to more than 10,000 older adults annually throughout 20 Orange County cities.

And it's no coincidence we're becoming Meals on Wheels Orange County just in time for the holiday season. Since many of our isolated program participants are particularly lonely during the holidays, feeling connected to our expanding Meals on Wheels family will be

(continued on page 3)

Celebrating the Greatest “Me” Inside Us All



People’s Choice - WWII Veteran Hero, 104-yr-old Lt. Col Sam Sachs with presenters Aly Duzich, Alignment Healthcare & Ruth Velez, Fairhaven Memorial Park Mortuary.

The Grove of Anaheim buzzed with excitement on Saturday, October 19th, as over 600 guests and finalists gathered for the **9th Annual Senior Care Hero Awards** (SCHA). The black-tie gala celebrated heroes in the senior industry while raising funds for Meals on Wheels Orange County (formerly SeniorServ). Generous guests and sponsors of the much-anticipated awards ceremony helped raise over \$278,000 to support at-risk older adults participating in our programs.

The event included a Champagne reception, Fund-A-Need, Live and Silent auctions, entertainment by the Dave Stephens Band and a special performance inspired by this year’s theme, “This Is Me!” The evening concluded with a surprise announcement informing all present that SeniorServ had rebranded to Meals on Wheels Orange County.

The theme “This Is Me” (inspired by a song from The Greatest Showman) highlighted the importance of looking past the challenging and physical aspects of aging and saluting the valuable “Me” that exists inside everyone, regardless of age. Guests were moved to tears when meal recipients shared their amazing life stories and accomplishments on video.

Meals on Wheels Orange County is grateful to all SCHA sponsors for their vital support. Special thanks to four-time supporter and **Platinum Sponsor, Alignment Healthcare.**

Awards were announced in 11 separate categories. Among the honorees recognized were **Humanitarian Honoree, Ed Schrum**, Co-Founder and Senior Management Executive of CareCHOICES and **Inspiring Hero, Norma Morein**, former Ms. Senior California. Additionally, professional and non-professional finalists were nominated by community members online last summer and collectively represented nine different categories. **Awards were presented to: Outstanding Caregiver, Jose Chavez; Outstanding Social Worker, John Alexander; Outstanding Nurse, Cheryl Villasenor; Outstanding Physician, Dr. Michael Tehrani; Outstanding Executive Director, Sadie Harness and Outstanding Senior Care Professional, Michael Bender.** People’s Choice Awards are decided by the public through online voting and were presented to **Family Member Hero, Rosa Garza; Veteran Hero, Lt. Col. Sam Sachs** and **Volunteer Hero, Mary Chun Lum.**

Meals on Wheels OC extends its deepest “thanks” to all the finalists, nominees, sponsors and all others for their compassion and commitment to supporting programs that nourish at-risk older adults.



Meals on Wheels OC Board Chair, Stuart Moss and President & CEO, Holly Hagler, flank Humanitarian honoree, Ed Schrum.

Leadership Profile: DeVon Wiens



Meals on Wheels Orange County is thrilled DeVon Wiens recently joined our Board of Directors. DeVon is experienced in public accounting and has been in the health care finance industry since 1979. Prior to joining Moss Adams, DeVon was the CFO of a \$100-million health care organization and a health care audit partner at Ernst & Young. He said, “I view board service as an honor, privilege and responsibility. Hopefully with my 40+ years of experiences, I am able to provide help and insight into helping Meals on Wheels Orange County fulfil its mission to nourish the lives of OC older adults in need.”

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(continued from page 1)

especially meaningful this time of year. Whether it's a meal delivery, a smile, a listening ear, or a tender touch; they feel loved and comforted knowing that you care.

Below, you'll meet Adeline, the new “face” of Meals on Wheels Orange County. Adeline is excited about sharing the program benefits with other older adults. Look for her on our Meals on Wheels trucks, vans, and online communications.

With your help, we are changing thousands of lives. Please join us in rallying more support, so together, we may increase the impact of Meals on Wheels Orange County as we address the growing needs of our older adult population now and in the future.

With gratitude for all you do,
Holly Hagler
President and CEO
Meals on Wheels Orange County

Adeline

Adeline is thrilled to be a client of Meals on Wheels Orange County. Prior to receiving Meals on Wheels, Adeline's diet was limited because her poor eyesight prevented her from cooking. Now, with Meals on Wheels, Adeline looks forward to eating different entrees each day of the week. She said, “The meals taste great and I'm getting great nutrition!” Adeline finds the microwaveable meal packaging another benefit of the program. “With Meals on Wheels there aren't any dirty dishes in the sink...and I hate dirty dishes!” she said with a chuckle.

Adeline enjoys sharing her insights and positive outlook with other older adults. “I know there are other people out there who are alone, and I want to help them,” said Adeline. “I want older adults my age to know what's accessible to them, so I have conversations wherever I go to tell about all the resources (like Meals on Wheels OC) that are available.” Adeline's ride time on ACCESS and her visits to



Adeline and her dog, Princess.

the Braille Institute are both prime opportunities to share her knowledge and she inspires others with her positive attitude. “If you give up on yourself, you're on your way out. You have to be positive to be healthy,” she said.



Ingram Micro: Over a Decade of Joyful Giving

Meals on Wheels Orange County is grateful to the many individuals and organizations who support our annual Holiday Gift Program. Nearly 1,000 gift bags and gift cards are donated and distributed each year to our

homebound clients and Adult Day Services participants. **Ingram Micro** has been especially generous by providing 100 gifts annually for over a decade. Colby Dyer-Tait, Ingram Micro's VP of Philanthropy and Chairperson for Ingram's Holiday Programs said, "Ingram Micro prides itself on our contributions to local communities and we are proud to support the efforts of Meals on Wheels Orange County. Senior citizens are one of the most important groups of people in our society. The least we can do to express our gratitude is to bring some joy and laughter into their lives during the holiday season."

Meals on Wheels OC extends our heartfelt "thank you" to the generous employees of Ingram Micro and to all who have participated in our Holiday Gift Program. For many of our clients, your gifts are the only ones they will receive this holiday season.

Gift Cards Needed for Holiday Gift Program

Meals on Wheels Volunteer Department is busy organizing Meals on Wheels' annual Holiday Gift Program, one of our favorite projects. We are grateful that volunteers have already pledged to provide all the holiday gift bags filled with small necessities for our 850 homebound seniors, **but we are still seeking gift card donations.** \$25 Walmart, Target, or VISA gift cards will bring joy to seniors who are not able to receive a gift bag or who may have a need another time during the year.



To donate, contact Linda at lmolthen@mealsonwheelsoc.org or 714 229-3377.

Fall Volunteer Opportunities



Lunch Café: Volunteers are needed in Huntington Beach to assist with serving meals and cleaning up after lunch. Opportunities are available Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM.

Meals on Wheels: Volunteer Drivers are needed at various locations in North and Central Orange County. There are currently openings in the cities of Anaheim and Orange. Opportunities are available M-F, 9:00 AM-11:30 AM.

Friendly Visitor: Volunteers are needed to provide companionship to lonely seniors living in North & Central Orange County. Play a card game, go for a walk, share a meal, or simply sit and chat with a senior in your area. Scheduling of one-hour visits is flexible (evenings and weekends available).

For more information contact Tracy Hall, Director of Volunteer Services at thall@mealsonwheelsoc.org, or call 714-229-3349.



Love Keeps Families Together

For many, it is important both financially and emotionally to keep their aging loved ones living with them where they can interact daily as a family in their own home. But for people like Sonia, the stress of caring for a loved one while meeting workplace demands can be overwhelming. Thankfully, Meals on Wheels OC offers Adult Day Services, a safe

and loving solution for Sonia and many other family caregivers.

Sonia's mother, Carmen, is 81 and has memory loss. In the early phases, Sonia took Carmen to a neighborhood senior center to socialize with her peers while she worked. As time went on, Carmen became less self-sufficient and Sonia knew she couldn't leave her unsupervised any longer. She said, "I didn't want to feel guilty, but since I have a job, I couldn't stay with her. There was a dark cloud over my head... I thought...if only there were a place I could feel good about leaving her." When her social worker told Sonia about our Adult Day Health Care Center in Anaheim, she knew it was the perfect solution. At first Carmen wasn't sure about the new arrangement, but in time she adjusted beautifully. Sonia told us, "The staff is phenomenal and made Mom feel welcome and comfortable. She may not remember names, but she knows the place is welcoming and sees how they behave...loving and kind. She hugs and kisses everyone. She's always been loving, kind and motherly. Her true self shines through here. This is an awesome place!"

The Year is Almost Over

Year-End Gifts

Have You Met Your Goals for This Year?



If you are like many people, you began this year with a number of resolutions. And like the rest of us, you found some of these resolutions difficult to keep. Why not consider a gift to our organization this year? If this was one of your goals, you still have time to achieve it.

To learn more about fulfilling your year-end goals through charitable giving, please call today!



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714-220-0224

**Meals on Wheels &
Lunch Café:**
714-823-3294

Adult Day Services:
Anaheim 714-220-2114
Santa Ana 714-558-1216

SeniorServ is now
Meals on Wheels Orange County!

