

Update on Meals on Wheels Waco Leadership

The Meals on Wheels Waco team organized a retirement party for former CEO, Debbie King, at the end of October. Debbie joined the agency in 2015 as our Director of Nutrition. She became CEO in November 2018 and led the agency through the ups and downs of the pandemic years.

The search for a new CEO is still ongoing. In the meantime, the Board of Directors have appointed Kelly Conditt and Rachel Salazar as Co-Interim CEOs at the start of November until a new CEO is hired and begins work. Kelly is our Director of Client Services, while Rachel is the Director of Volunteers & Senior Centers. The Board is confident that Meals on Wheels Waco is in good hands with Kelly and Rachel at the helm.



Client Spotlight: Meet Arnold

Meals on Wheels Waco is guided by our single goal of supporting our senior neighbors to extend their independence and health as they age, including those over 100 years old. We currently provide home-delivered meal services for seven centenarians, one of which celebrated a birthday recently. When asked what he did for his 100th birthday, Arnold Kroll responded, "I partied!" A military veteran (he served in the Army and Air Force), Arnold has been a Meals on Wheels client for six years. We can't wait to celebrate with him again next year!

We Just Turned 57!

October 2024 marked our 57 years of serving older adults in the Heart of Texas. The agency was initially created as *Inner City Ministry* to meet social service needs in Waco. With an initial \$300 donation from American Income Life, the meals on wheels program was started with 12 volunteers and 14 homebound clients.

In 1988, the agency name was changed to *Central Texas Senior Ministry* to reflect the

expansion in service area and the program emphasis on the elderly.

Remember the logo with a figure on skates? That's when we became *Meals & Wheels* in 2009. We officially became *Meals on Wheels Waco* with our new logo not too long ago. One thing remains the same through the years: our mission to nourish the bodies, minds and spirits of older adults in our community.



Let's Fall Into Action!

In 2018, we had a waitlist of about 70 individuals. Today, we have over 400 older adults from Falls, Hill, and McLennan Counties waiting to receive meals.

During the recent pandemic years, from 2020-2022, nonprofits like us received COVID-relief funding that enabled us to serve more people. Eligibility requirements to receive services were loosened. This allowed us to serve 174,248 meals in 2022, up from 169,841 in 2019. Fast forward to 2024 -- our state funding is down to 94,392 meals per year. Eligibility requirements have been tightened. Prices of food and other supplies continue to go up. Our donor giving has slowed down. Everyone is feeling the pinch. But surely no more than the hundreds of seniors who are on our waitlist.

In the same way it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a whole community to take care of its elders. YOU have the power to help.

Please consider making a monthly gift of *at least* \$10 to help us feed more seniors. Just imagine: *if at least 300 new donors give \$10 a month for one year*, that would mean a total of \$3,000 extra funds every month for a total of \$36,000 a year or 363 more meals each month. But we know there are many more people who believe in our mission, and many still who can give more.

If you would like to start your monthly giving today, please visit our donation page on www.mowwaco.org. We urge you to spread the word about this need with your family and friends. Together, let's fall into action.



GOLF EVENT RECAP

Our Charity Golf Tournament held at the Ridgewood Country Club this past September was a huge success -- thanks to all our sponsors, players, volunteers and staff! Everyone had a blast and we were able to raise over \$50,000, allowing us to take some seniors off our waitlist.

Join us again next year, on Friday, May 16, 2025 for another fun day of golf and philanthropy. Mark it in your calendars! We will post more information by early January. Stay tuned!

Holiday Gift Drive

This holiday season, help bring warmth, comfort and cheer to homebound seniors by donating blankets, gloves, scarves, socks, hygiene products, and large-print puzzle books.

We will collect donations through Friday, December 6th.

501 West Waco Drive
Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4 pm



Have no time to go to the store to shop for our Holiday Gift Drive? Check out **OUR AMAZON WISH LIST** and shop online: <https://a.co/hdTtorP>

And if you need more inspiration and/or reminder to help out this season, don't forget **Giving Tuesday** (December 3rd). Giving Tuesday is a global movement where anyone, anywhere can make a difference!