

2ND QUARTER
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NEWSLETTER

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News and views from the Board & Staff

Welcome Our New CEO



After several months of statewide search, Meals on Wheels Waco's Board of Directors approved **Estrellita J. Doolin** as our new Chief Executive Officer in late April 2025. Estrellita is no stranger to Meals on Wheels. She volunteered and helped deliver meals for over 10 years with Meals on Wheels Central Texas in Austin. "Delivering meals on Fridays was the highlight of my week!" she recalls. Aside from her law degree and MBA from the University of Texas at Austin, Estrellita is armed with a wealth of experience in nonprofit work, leadership, and management. She has served as legal counsel for several companies including Ascension Health and Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). She also serves various community organizations, including Foundation Communities (Board Vice Chair).

Estrellita is joining MOW Waco during a time of significant challenges and uncertainties -- including federal and state budget cuts, rising costs, and a long waitlist of seniors needing services. MOW Waco's Board of Directors acknowledge these challenges and are confident in our new CEO's ability to navigate them. "Estrellita has the skills necessary to run the organization," says Mosie Holley, immediate Past President of the Board and Chair of the Executive Search Committee. "She also has the compassion to care for our clients and has the passion to grow Meals on Wheels Waco to the next level."

"I am honored to serve with and lead a competent and energized team," says Estrellita. "Meals on Wheels Waco has a proven track record for serving the community. The Board, employees, and volunteers are passionate about our mission."

Unexpected But Timely Legacy Gifts

Amidst the backdrop of ongoing federal fund uncertainties, we received two amazing and unexpected gifts recently. **Dr. George Jurek, a retired dentist and local philanthropist**, passed away in September 2024 and left his estate to Waco Foundation. Last May, Waco Foundation staff shared with us the wonderful news: as part of his gift, Dr. Jurek created an endowment fund worth \$2,197,720 that will produce income in perpetuity and will equally benefit Meals on Wheels Waco and another local nonprofit. This creates a new endowment for MOW Waco with a current balance of \$1,098,860 that will create roughly \$55,000 per year in income for our organization once the endowment is fully matured in seven years.



In June, we received a check for \$130,431.41 from the estate of the late **Eddie Pribyl, former owner of Kwik Tire Automotive**. Mr. Pribyl passed away in April 2024 and left generous gifts to four organizations. His good friend and estate executor Jason Smith, along with his wife Shannon Smith (pictured at the center of the photo above), presented Meals on Wheels Waco Board and staff with the generous gift.

We are beyond grateful for individuals like Dr. Jurek and Mr. Pribyl who believed in our mission and entrusted us with these legacy gifts that will surely have a profound impact on many seniors' lives for years to come.

Successful Scramble Fore Seniors

Eighty players participated in our golf tournament in May and helped to raise \$24,758. We are grateful for everyone who made the successful event possible, especially our sponsors:

American Guaranty Title, BackSwing Golf Events, Baylor Basketball, Bowen Electric, Community Bank & Trust, Elevated Perspective Co., ExtraCo Bank, Frontier Waste Management, Gentle Transitions Hospice, JRBT, Lonestar Truck Co., Pearson Paint Shop Inc., and Shooter FM/ESPN.

A special thank you to Mike Williams of Bear Ridge Golf Club for hosting the event and Community Bank & Trust's sponsored team, *Kenny Evans and the Misfits*, for the largest donation given at the Beat the Pro hole.

Proceeds from this event have allowed us to continue serving the seniors we took off our waitlist after last year's golf tournament. We look forward to next year's game!



Snapshots of Spring Blessings



In early Spring, parishioners and members of the **St. Jerome Catholic Church** and **St. Vincent De Paul** gifted us with a check for \$5,877 while the **Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative** donated \$2,500 to help feed seniors in McGregor.

For our participation in the annual **Subaru Share the Love Event** in November-December 2024, we received a check for \$7,700 from **Douglass Subaru** plus an additional check of \$3,437.51 from **Meals on Wheels America** and **Subaru America**.



In May, we received a grant for over \$26,000 from the **Rapoport Foundation** to assist us in our technology upgrade and cloud migration.

Our dine-to-donate events from January to June this year raised \$2,467.49. These events were hosted by **Freddy's, On the Border, Hawaiian Bros, BJ's, Blackbear Diner, and Fish City Grill**.

We are so grateful for all these Spring blessings!

RMD and QCD 101



Every now and then, a donor would hand us a check and explain that it is part of their RMD from their IRA and that they are making a QCD. If you don't already know it yet, **required minimum distributions (RMDs)** are a requirement for retirees with qualified retirement accounts (e.g., IRA, 401K). Beginning at age 73, individuals must take RMDs from their accounts every year regardless of whether they need the funds and

doing so can significantly increase one's taxable income. This is where **qualified charitable distributions (QCDs)** can help – you can voluntarily donate up to \$108,000 to a charity of your choice, reduce your taxable income and possibly lower your adjusted gross income. It's a win-win scenario benefitting both the donor and the charity. If you'd like to learn more about RMDs and QCDs, talk to a financial advisor.

Volunteer Spirit: From Mother to Daughter

Penny Gifford started delivering meals when she was in high school and her mom, **Minnie Maloy**, was the coordinator at our Tri Cities meal site in Bellmead. She helped deliver meals during the summer and holidays. After she left for college and worked outside Waco for about five years, Penny returned and opened her own business and scheduled Monday mornings off so she could help deliver meals. Today, several decades later, Penny still reserves Mondays as her MOW day – she is now one of two coordinators for our Tri Cities site every Monday. She also delivers a weekly meal route, a bi-weekly frozen meal route, as well as a monthly pet food route.

"I feel pretty honored to walk the same ground Mom did, but know that she did so much more each and every day," Penny recalls with pride. Back in 1969, Minnie Maloy, along with Margaret Young, were the first Meals on Wheels program coordinators—they organized a network of volunteers and friends who cooked and delivered meals. Minnie retired from her MOW involvement in 1993 at the age of 79. A few years later, her daughter Penny became a site coordinator.

"Delivering gives you an opportunity to see the need for the lunches and the company.



Occasionally, you become close enough to an individual that your friendship becomes important to both of you. I am not much of a conversationalist," Penny says, "but I am happy to help in other ways. I have found a niche in helping [clients] with their animals, thanks to my connection with the Animal Birth Control Clinic. I have also done gardening for some. I really can't say why but I know that I would feel lost without MOW to start my week. It goes without saying you come away with a good feeling after volunteering to help someone else. In my case, it is also a reminder of the good that has come my way in life. I come from a large, close family and many of the people I deliver to are completely alone." We know the clients Penny delivers to look forward to seeing her each time. We are grateful for her – and Minnie – for their volunteer spirits and compassionate hearts.

Volunteer Tidbits

- Since August 2023, **Steve Rosenbaum** has delivered 4,004 meals in Waco and Marlin. Way to go, Steve!

- KWTX Meteorologist **Brady Taylor** joined the ranks of our weekly volunteer crew in June. Welcome aboard, Brady!



- Huge thanks to two groups who volunteered with us recently. Students and staff from the **Vanguard College Preparatory School** packed 1,056 shelf stable meal boxes in April in time for the Memorial Day holiday.



- A team from **Circle K** packed 1,080 boxes in June for the 4th of July holiday.



15 Millionth Pet Meal Delivered



Meals on Wheels America and PetSmart Charities have been supporting Meals on Wheels pet programs across the country for many years, providing funds for veterinary services and pet meals. In June, the milestone 15 millionth pet meal was delivered to Kali Mae, a 7-year-old dachshund who lives in Lorena with her owner, Sharon, who is one of our clients. Sharon suffers from devastating vision loss and, as a result, she is homebound.

Sharon and Kali Mae have been on our pet program for three years, receiving monthly pet food assistance and veterinary care. "My dog is what keeps me going," said Sharon. "We're best friends." To celebrate the 15 millionth pet meal milestone, Sharon and Kali Mae were featured in a special video produced by Meals on Wheels America and PetSmart Charities. You can watch their story here: <http://bit.ly/4emLmgZ>

Senior Center Spotlight

Whitney Silver Circle is one of our senior centers in Hill County. Started in April 2024, the senior group meets at the First Baptist Church in Whitney every Thursday, from 9 am to 1 pm.

"I come here every week. I don't get around much and I don't drive. But I love coming here," says **91-year-old Barbara**. "I play cards and do crafts if it's something I like and can do. I love the fellowship and the wonderful meals. I cannot say enough good things about this place. I love it." There are only two possible reasons that would keep Barbara away from the center: she's not feeling well or she has a doctor's appointment. And she makes sure she schedules all her appointments around senior center day.



"This comes first," adds **94-year-old Norm**. "If I wasn't here, I'd be at home watching TV. That's not good." Norm spends six months in Whitney and the rest of the year in Florida. When he's in town, he looks forward to hanging out with the Whitney Silver Circle. "They should have a place like this everywhere. It is very good for senior citizens."

Barbara encourages other seniors to "put forth the effort to come. It may take a couple of visits for you to get used to it, but you'll eventually love it. Don't isolate yourself."

Aside from Meals on Wheels Waco, the Whitney Silver Circle is supported in part by the Hudson Smith Foundation, First Baptist Church, and local community partners.



Honor & Tribute Giving

We are always grateful for donations we receive from our community. From February 2025 to May 2025, we received monetary gifts in honor or in memory of the following:

In honor of:

Tom Croft
Mandi DuPuy
Polly A. Hedrick
Dr. & Mrs. Scott Jones
Nancy Livingston

In memory of:

Carolyn Marie Anderson
Dr. John Anderson
Patricia Blesener
Tim Brown
Sandra Clark
Jacque Crawford
Theresa Dwyer
Joan Gervig
David & Vickie Gonzales
John Hawes Jr.
Ann Johnson
Alex Krzywonski
Marie Linder
Dean & Don Meinecke
Woodrow "Woody" Page
Lawrence W. Pennington
Arthur Pertile
Vern Sauter
Michael Shryock
Jon Spelman
Michale Veselka

Bella (a client's pet)



Join Our Community of Support

Meals on Wheels Waco receives about half of its funding from the government and relies on the kindness and generosity of our community for the rest of our financial needs. YOU have the power to help and impact lives. **\$41.25 will feed a senior for a week. \$189.75 will feed a senior for a month. \$2,277 will feed a senior for a year.**

Every dollar you give makes a big difference and allows us to strengthen our programs and ability to provide essential services to our senior neighbors. Here are ways you can give:

- Donate through our website (mowwaco.org)
- Send funds to donate@mowwaco.org on PayPal
- Send a check by mail (PO Box 85, 76703)
- **Scan the QR code**



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