



Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels

Serving the community, one meal at a time!

JUN 2017

Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels – Funded by....YOU!

Several weeks ago, Blue Ledge Coordinator, Tammy Martin, received an influx of phone calls. However these were not her usual calls regarding meal prep and delivery. *“Everyone was calling me asking if Meals on Wheels was ending,”* Tammy recalled. *“Volunteers and clients were asking me if I knew what would be happening to the program.”*

This flurry of speculation came in immediately after news coverage of proposed budget cuts put Meals on Wheels squarely in the headlines as an organization whose funding might end or be reduced.

The Board of Directors would like to remind everyone that Amherst-based Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels receives no federal funding and will continue to provide hot meals to the homebound of the area with no interruption. Day to day operations will remain the same, whether federal budgets and grant programs are revised or not.

“Blue Ledge relies heavily on community support and does not seek out - or receive - federal assistance,” commented Amanda Hall, Treasurer. *“We have no one on payroll. Every individual contributing to the operations of this organization is a volunteer.”*

Cash donations from residents, local organizations, and businesses are key to keeping this chapter of Meals on Wheels operating. The Subaru *“Share the Love”* event is also a large benefactor to the program. And donations of time are essential...there are 60 volunteer drivers delivering hot meals to area residents, 5 days a week.

“In addition to the wonderful volunteers we have, we are also extremely fortunate to partner with generous food vendors in our area,” said Ashley Carter, President. *“And we have nine churches that prepare and donate meals every month. This is truly amazing fellowship that I am proud to say comes from right here in the Amherst community.”*

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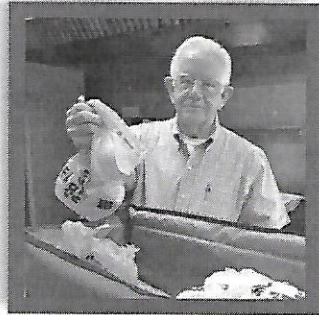
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SPOTLIGHT on four MOW Amherst County Volunteers

At age 6, **Chance Dodd** is Blue Ledge's youngest volunteer. He delivers hot meals in the evenings along the Town route with his mother, Shannon Dodd. "Meals on Wheels has been a great way for Chance to learn responsibility as well as the importance of giving back to the community," comments Shannon. "It's a fantastic lesson at such a young age. We are grateful for the opportunity!"



Glen Mabrey In 2013, when Glen heard several Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels volunteers speak to members of his church, Clifford Baptist, he knew there were some areas in the organization he could fill with his volunteer hours. He has volunteered to drive and deliver meals on several routes as well as shares his talents by serving on the Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels board. Glen never expects a reward and he knows the feeling of losing a loved one but believes, "when you feel sorry for yourself, go do something for someone else".



Betty Cash and **Jonathan Neighbors** started delivering in the Temperance, 151/ Warrick Barn Route in 2010. After Betty attended several Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels events and with a desire to contribute and fill some of her empty time, Betty and her grandson chose to become MOW volunteers. She said she knew the area and many of the clients and always enjoyed visiting with them. As many of our volunteer have expressed, Betty confirms you become close to the clients and want to help them with other needs. Betty has also substituted for some of the Amherst routes.

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AMHERST BAPTIST CHURCH (ABC)

First church to prepare food for Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels in Amherst County



During the last part of April 2013 lots of research was done on the **Amherst County Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels (MOW)** organization and identifying needs that required attention for the organization to continue, as well as grow. After a discussion with Pastor David Clay and Larry Pollard at Amherst Baptist Church, we began to get the ABC kitchen, the first church to prepare meals for MOW in Amherst County, qualified for meal preparation to help feed MOW clients.

Two teams of volunteers were formed and ABC agreed to prepare meals on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for approximately nine to eleven clients each time. June 27, 2013 the first meals were prepared and this pattern of meal preparation has continued with rave reviews from the MOW clients. We now prepare 20 to 23 meals the Thursdays we prepare food. Each meal consists of an entrée, two sides, and a dessert and our volunteers cheerfully donate additional food with each meal.

We have been fortunate to receive generous financial support from team members as well as other member of the Amherst Baptist community to pay for the food. Since Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels is a volunteer organization receiving no federal funds, food preparation donated by churches has been a great asset. During 2016 Amherst Baptist Church volunteers prepared and donated 498 meals saving MOW \$2,241.

Amherst Baptist volunteers find it very rewarding to also provide meals for our members who have not been able to attend church. Another delight for the ABC volunteers is to have other churches come observe our meal preparation. Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels is now fortunate to have nine churches in Amherst County preparing donated food for our clients. Thank you Amherst Baptist for leading the way.

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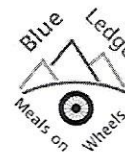
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