



**FY  
2024  
ISSUE**

# GRATITUDE REPORT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Emma Baranowski**  
AUVESY-MDT

**Ed Coke**  
Retired

**Peggy Couthie**  
Mercantile Bank

**Bill Dang**  
Oliver Packaging

**Peter Dann**  
Lake Michigan Credit Union

**Dana Fillmore, RDN**  
Gordon Food Service

**Buzz Goebel**  
Goebel Furniture Group

**Oliver Hale**  
Retired

**Shannon Heads**  
Doyle & Ogden Insurance

**Marcie Lewis**  
Retired

**Suzanne Moody**  
Heart of West Michigan  
United Way

**Mike Munch**  
Retired

**Gage Selvius**  
Varnum Law

**Jo VerBeek, RN**  
Retired

# LEADERSHIP UPDATE



## DEAR FRIENDS,

MOWWM was honored to celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2024, a huge milestone made possible by the dedication and generosity of donors and volunteers like you. As I reflect on the tremendous work and progress last year, I am deeply grateful for your unwavering support.

One big highlight was the launch of our Medically Tailored Meals Program, designed to meet the specific dietary needs of seniors with chronic health conditions. You made the research and planning of this program possible, and we can't wait to share more with you as we see success.

Additionally, your support helped expand our scratch-cooked meals, which enhances the nutritional quality, variety, and flavor of the food we serve every day. We are proud to promote better health outcomes for the seniors we serve through your gifts. Your steadfast support last year also helped us navigate unexpected funding cuts, ensuring that no senior was left behind. Your contributions provided the stability we needed to continue our vital services without interruption.

This Gratitude Report highlights the remarkable impact you've made in our community. Together, we go beyond providing meals—we foster dignity, health, and hope. Your contributions—of time, talent, and treasure—have helped create a caring community where no senior feels hungry or forgotten.

With heartfelt gratitude,

*Lisa Wideman | President and CEO*



## HI THERE,

I am honored to join our CEO, Lisa Wideman, in presenting the 2024 Meals on Wheels Western Michigan Gratitude Report. As Board Chair, I am privileged to stand alongside an extraordinary community of volunteers, staff, and donors—people like YOU—who make our mission possible every single day.

Because of your generosity, we served over 6,200 seniors in Kent and Allegan Counties, providing not just nourishing meals but also the warmth of human connection. Your kindness ensured that no senior was placed on a waitlist and every call for help was answered. I hope you take a moment to read about your impact on the following pages and feel the significance of your support last year.

Looking ahead, the Board of Directors remains steadfast in our commitment to strong governance and strategic growth. Partnering with Lisa and the dedicated MOWWM team, we envision a future where every senior experiences the security of consistent nutrition and the joy of meaningful connections. Your support fuels our mission, and with your continued partnership, we are excited to make an even greater impact in the year ahead.

With deepest appreciation,

*Shannon Heads | Board Chair*

# FISCAL YEAR 2024 IMPACT

OCT. 1 2023 - SEPT. 30 2024

TOGETHER, WE SERVED **6,209** SENIORS IN KENT AND ALLEGAN COUNTIES

  
**3,185**  
Seniors Living Alone

  
**676**  
Senior Veterans

  
**2,376**  
Seniors Living at or Below Poverty

## DELIVERING MORE THAN JUST MEALS

  
**1,218**  
Referrals Made to other Needed Services

  
**7**  
Emergency Assists

  
**173**  
Well-being Concerns Followed up on

### DID YOU KNOW?

ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE OFFERED ON A DONATION BASIS. NO SENIOR IS TURNED AWAY IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THEIR MEALS.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT AND COMPASSION, NO CALL FROM A SENIOR WENT UNANSWERED, NO ONE WAS PUT ON A WAITLIST.

# THE POWER OF SOCIAL CONNECTION IN FIGHTING ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

Social isolation and loneliness are linked to strikingly higher rates of dementia, heart disease, stroke, depression, anxiety, and cognitive decline.

Meals on Wheels programs are associated with reduced feelings of loneliness, improved well-being, and a reduction in hospitalizations.

**1 in 4**

Seniors report their only visitor throughout the week is their delivery driver

Seniors served who live alone

**51%**

“ It's not just someone dropping off food, it's like you become friends. That's what I really enjoy. It brings meaning to my life to be able to have the conversation and interaction.

-Tim

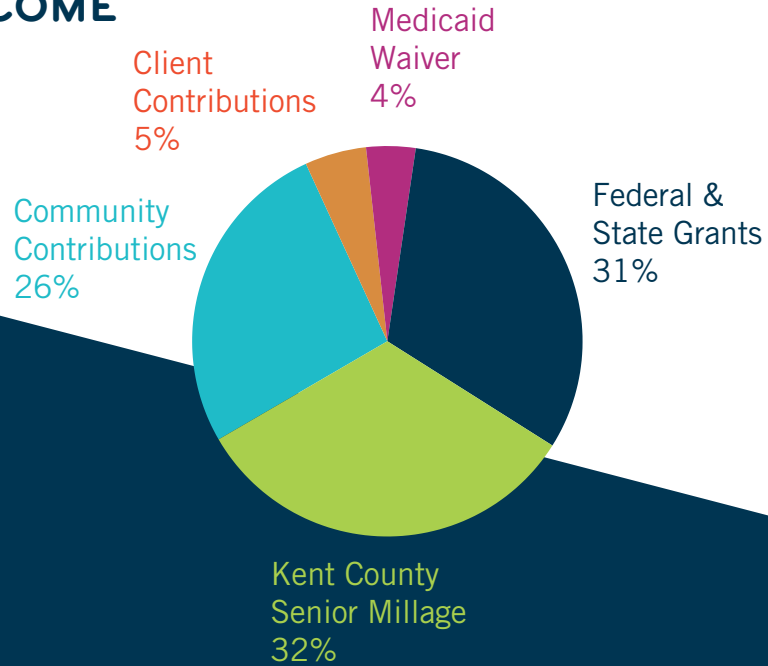
”



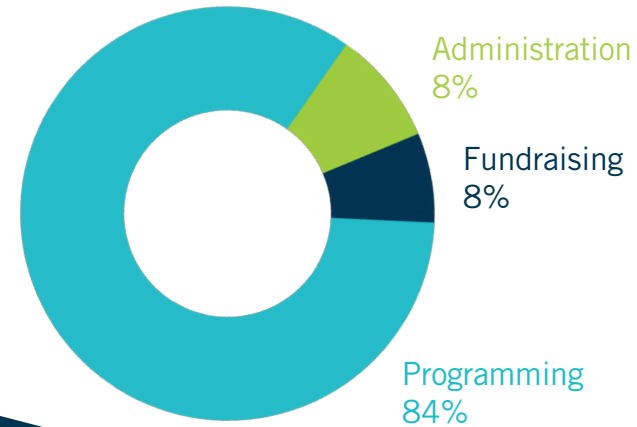
# FY 2024 FINANCIALS

OCT. 1 2023 - SEPT. 30 2024

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



## FY 2024 ASSETS

Cash and Other Assets	\$4,444,607
Grand Rapids Community Foundations	\$84,114
Deferred Compensation Investment	\$107,445
Right-Of-Use Assets	\$471,701
Property and Equipment	\$2,606,885
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,714,752</b>

## FY 2024 NET ASSETS

Total Income	\$8,495,224
Program Expenses	\$6,872,560
Development Expenses	\$680,789
Admin Expenses	\$656,509
Total Expenses	\$8,209,858
<b>End of Year Net Assets</b>	<b>\$5,894,794</b>

# HOME DELIVERED MEALS



I use the meals on days my wife works. I never get sick of them!

-Tim



Home Delivered Meal Clients can choose from a seasonally rotating, nutritionally focused menu of dozens of meal options.

This past year brought huge progress toward our goal of each meal being 100% made from scratch in our kitchen.



# HOME DELIVERED MEALS

“ I have macular degeneration so can't cook anymore. It's easy to heat up the meals, and I enjoy the vegetables and meat.

-Judy ”

555,641

Nutritionally balanced and tasty meals were delivered to homebound seniors

2,816

Seniors received Home Delivered Meals

73%

Of our clients report eating more fruits and vegetables now than they did previously

# SENIOR PANTRY

**MEALS on WHEELS**  
WESTERN MICHIGAN  
SENIOR PANTRY

“

At the end of the month, I don't have the money to go to the supermarket. When I go to the Senior Pantry, it's a lifesaver.

-Terry

”

**2,060**

Seniors were served by the Senior Pantry over

**20,534**

visits

**1,026,700**

Pounds of food were distributed through the Senior Pantry Program

**482**

Senior Project Fresh coupon books distributed for fresh produce from local farmers



# COMMUNITY DINING SITES

“

I don't like looking at the same four walls all the time, so it's good to come here. It means a lot. It's the best meal I get all day!

-Sandra

”

95,712

Meals served at

15

sites

1,503

Seniors served at Community Dining Sites

80%

Of seniors reported health improvements since joining Meals on Wheels

# HUNGER HEROES

OUR MOST DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS, INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SERVED 100 HOURS AND MORE

AAA Lawn Care  
Amway  
Larry Avery  
Theresa Avery  
Jim Baker  
Richard Bandstra  
Sherry Bean  
Gary Berkenpas  
Camille Bodziak  
David Boehm  
Byron Center Ministries  
Darlene Cutter  
Jessica Cutter  
Ken DeGood  
Sue DeHaan  
James Dehlinger  
Marcella DeWildt  
Michael Dodge  
Jennifer Dougherty  
Phil Dougherty  
Martha Dove  
Duane Elders  
Robert Gilman  
Gordon Food Service  
Mark Grasmeyer

Sherry Gunderson-Schipper  
Melissa Hamby  
Wallen Hamtambo  
Ken Harris  
Sandy Hoonhorst  
Jeff Jenks  
Connie Jones  
Wayne Kinzie  
Dennis Klein  
Andy Knaut  
Mary Knaut  
John Kooyer  
Wanda Kunzi  
Maureen Latimer  
Dan Markle  
Tom Marschall  
MOKA  
Kimberly Mueller  
Doug Mulder  
Michael Munch  
Vicki Niewiadomski  
Ed Nol  
North Kent Connect  
Becky Palmer

Candyce Peterson  
Sarah Peterson  
Paul Purwin  
Cynthia Rhodes  
Diana Ruel  
Nancy Russell  
Richard Safir  
Frank Schwein  
Sherry Shiplett  
Barbara Smalley  
Deb Smith  
Gordon Smith  
Tim Smith  
Walter Spielberger  
John Stubbs  
Cathy Thompson  
Ann Usakowski  
Judi Van Dyke  
Ken VanDan  
Debora Walsh  
Michelle Weckwert  
Marge Wilcox  
Mary Witucki  
Penny Wohlford

\$959,086  
WORTH OF  
VOLUNTEER  
TIME DONATED

Value According to Independent Sector



28,638  
Volunteer hours



1,399  
Volunteers

# 2024 SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AARP Grand Rapids  
CareLinc  
Fusion IT

HAP  
Kellogg Community Credit Union  
Meijer

Oliver Packaging & Equipment  
Progressive AE  
The Law Offices of David Carrier, P.C.

## MARCH FOR MEALS COMMUNITY WALK & 5K SPONSORS

Doyle & Ogden Insurance  
Fusion IT  
Grand River Bank

Gun Lake Casino  
LMCU  
Meijer

MSU Federal Credit Union  
Oliver Packaging & Equipment  
PrideStaff

## MORE THAN A MEAL LUNCHEON SPONSORS

Care Resources  
Doyle & Ogden Insurance  
Fifth Third Bank  
Fusion IT  
Gordon Food Service

Grand River Bank  
Heritage Life Story  
Funeral Homes  
Hopkins Fundraising  
Consulting

LMCU  
Meijer  
Mercantile Bank  
Oliver Packaging & Equipment

## CHEF'S SPECIALTY SPONSORS

AARP Grand Rapids  
AF Group/Blue Cross Blue  
Shield of Michigan  
Amarco  
Beacon Hill at Eastgate  
Brio Living Services  
Corewell Health  
Culinary Cultivations

Doyle & Ogden Insurance  
Fifth Third Bank  
Fusion IT  
Gordon Food Service  
Grand River Bank  
Green Frog Photo  
Heritage Life Story  
Funeral Homes

JRA Food Service Consultants  
Meijer  
Mercantile Bank  
Oliver Packaging & Equipment  
Progressive Companies  
The Catering Company  
Townsquare Media





2900 WILSON AVE. SW SUITE 500  
GRANDVILLE, MI 49418

Meals on Wheels Western Michigan is supported by:



LOOK INSIDE TO SEE THE IMPACT YOU MADE ON  
OVER 6,000 LOCAL SENIORS LAST YEAR!

FISCAL  
YEAR  
2024



GRATITUDE REPORT **iW** MEALS on WHEELS WESTERN MICHIGAN