SEPTEMBER 2026

MEALS on WHEELS WESTERN MICHIGAN

Volunteer NEWS

YOU'RE AN ESSENTIAL PIECE

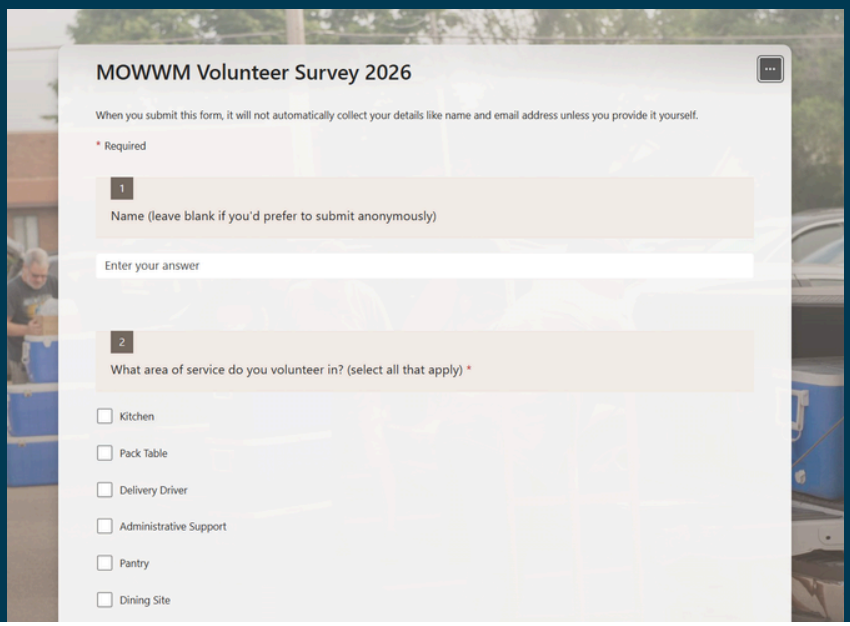
NO SENIOR HUNGRY OR FORGOTTEN

VOLUNTEER SURVEY

We'd like to hear from you! Our annual volunteer survey is out now. It should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

Fill out the form here: MOWWM Volunteer Survey 2026.

You are an essential piece of the MOWWM vision to create a community where no senior is hungry or forgotten. We could not do this important work without your help! Take some time to share your experience.













KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! WE'RE OPEN!!!

We have some exciting news: our kitchen is open to volunteers again! After a 3-month construction closure, the kitchen renovation is in its final stages. To learn more about the project, check out our Nourishing the Future Campaign.

Our staff have started food production in our kitchen again and are ready to welcome back volunteers. Opportunities for kitchen plating volunteers are now available in VolunteerHub, Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. Register today: MOWWM Kitchen Volunteer Opportunities.

12th Annual

Chef's Specialty

Use promo code

MOWWMVolunteer

to save $25 on your ticket

Scan QR code today

October 7, 2026
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
The Goei Center

An evening of exceptional food, community, and purpose, featuring 10 of West Michigan's finest chefs, an open bar, a live auction, and honoree Mark Secchia.

Our largest fundraising event of the year is coming up on **October 7th**. Chef's Specialty is an evening of exceptional food, community, and purpose. It features tastings of signature creations from 10 West Michigan chefs, an open bar, a live auction, and more. If you are interested in attending as a guest, volunteers can use the promo code MOWWMVolunteer for a $25 discount on the ticket price!

Find all the details and registration info here: **Chef's Specialty Event Info**.

Interested in serving at the event? We need volunteers to help with registration, greeting guests, assisting chefs, and helping with the auction. Sign up here: **Chef's Specialty Volunteer Opportunities**.

BLIZZARD BOX DELIVERY DAY

Blizzard Box Delivery Day will be on October 17th. Each fall, we deliver boxes filled with emergency shelf-stable meals to our homebound clients. These "Blizzard Boxes" ensure that even during lake-effect blizzards and black-ice mornings, our seniors will not go hungry. Each client will receive five meals to save in case their normal meal delivery is delayed due to inclement weather.

We need **over 100** volunteers to help deliver Blizzard Boxes to 1,000+ clients! Help us plan - details available here: https://vhub.at/blizzardboxday.











VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

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MEALS on WHEELS WESTERN MICHIGAN

Shannon Heads

BOARD CHAIR

AUGUST 2026

Since joining the MOWWM Board of Directors in 2020, Shannon Doyle Heads has been a dedicated volunteer, enthusiastic advocate, generous supporter, and exceptional leader for our organization. Like all MOWWM board members, Shannon volunteers her time and talents in support of our mission. As board chair, she helps guide our strategic direction, but her involvement extends far beyond the boardroom.

Shannon has delivered meals when routes needed coverage, served on the Chef Specialty Committee, introduced new supporters to our events, and championed our mission throughout the community. Her willingness to roll up her sleeves and help wherever needed reflects the spirit of service that makes MOWWM strong. We are grateful for her dedication and for the many ways she helps ensure local seniors receive the nourishment, connection, and care they deserve.

Thank you for all that you do!

ANNIVERSARY DATES

- Carol Gilkison, Dining Site, 09-19, 2 years
- Deborah Link, Dining Site, 09-27, 2 years
- John Krueger, Dining Site, 09-18, 2 years
- Tori Brady, Dining Site, 09-06, 3 years
- Amanda Doty, Delivery, 09-09, 3 years
- Joy Murphy, Admin, 09-06, 3 years
- Ann Usakowski, Pantry, 09-04, 4 years
- Michael Gurr, Delivery, 09-16, 4 years
- John Mester, Delivery, 09-15, 5 years
- Larry Bialk, Delivery, 09-29, 5 years
- Darlene Cutter, Kitchen, 09-19, 6 years

thank you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Pack Table Volunteer

We're looking for dedicated volunteers in the early morning to help at our Pack Table! The Pack Table is where meals are sorted, put into bags, and packed into coolers that will be delivered by our drivers. This is an essential role that helps the busy operations in our driver-hub go smoothly each morning.

Pack Table volunteers ensure that homebound seniors receive the correct meals on time! This is a fast-paced, high-volume volunteer opportunity that requires coordination.

MONDAY – FRIDAY
7:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

SIGN UP FOR THE PACK TABLE

Ever thought about driving? Reach out to the volunteer department to schedule a ride-along!

Know someone who would make a good volunteer driver? Please recommend that they check out our website or give us a call at (616) 459-3111!



Delivery Drivers

Volunteer drivers are crucial to our operation, and our volunteer availability has decreased because of life circumstances and moves. This has opened up some routes that were formerly adopted. In addition, we need help filling all the openings when drivers are on vacation, etc.

If you are a volunteer driver with us and are available to take an extra shift or two, it would be helpful. We have a list of volunteer substitute drivers that we contact by email or phone when we have openings. Let us know at volunteer@mowwm.org if you'd like to be added to the list.

SIGN UP TO DELIVER MEALS



Community Dining Site Events

Many of our community dining sites will be hosting a "Bring a Friend" event that gives seniors who have never been to a dining site the opportunity to join, share a meal, and meet new friends. We need volunteers to help with registration at these events. We also have regular opportunities for volunteers each week at several dining sites. Sign up today!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Special thanks to all the groups who volunteered in August! The support of community groups and corporate sponsors is essential to helping us provide quality nutrition services to older adults.

- AARP
- Amway
- Calvin University
- Health Alliance Plan
- Humana
- Integrated Packaging Machinery
- Oliver Packaging

NO SENIOR HUNGRY OR FORGOTTEN







KEEP IN TOUCH, STAY INVOLVED

"You meet saints everywhere. They can be anywhere. They are people behaving decently in an indecent society."
~Kurt Vonnegut

mowwm.org | (616) 459-3111