OCTOBER 2026

MEALS on WHEELS WESTERN MICHIGAN

Volunteer NEWS

YOU'RE AN ESSENTIAL PIECE

NO SENIOR HUNGRY OR FORGOTTEN

VOLUNTEER DRIVER MEETING

Are you a regular volunteer driver? We have a few important updates for our volunteer delivery drivers coming at the end of October, and we'd love the opportunity to share them with you in person. Please join us for a Volunteer Delivery Meeting at MOWWM Grandville office on either:

Thursday, Oct. 22 at 2:00 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 23 at 11:00 a.m.

This brief meeting will provide program updates, review upcoming changes to our delivery process, and give you a chance to ask questions or share feedback. The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes.

Thank you for being such an important piece of our mission.

We appreciate your dedication and hope to see you at the meeting!

BLIZZARD BOX DELIVERY DAY

Our annual emergency meal delivery is coming soon. This year's "Blizzard Box Delivery Day" will be on Saturday, October 17th.

Each fall, we deliver boxes filled with shelf-stable emergency meals to our homebound clients. These "Blizzard Boxes" ensure that during lake-effect blizzards and black ice mornings, our seniors will not go hungry and our drivers will be safe.

This year, we need over 100 volunteers to help deliver Blizzard Boxes to around 1,500 clients.

We need more volunteer drivers! Routes go out between 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and last around 1.5 hours. This is a great opportunity for those who are looking to get involved on a weekend. Pair up with a friend or deliver as a family!

Sign-ups are available now: https://vhub.at/blizzardboxday.





12th Annual

Chef's Specialty

Use promo code

MOWWMVolunteer

to save $25 on your ticket

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

Scan QR code today

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. Check out a few of the savory bites!

If you are interested in attending as a guest, you 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**.

Food & Household Essentials

FALL FOOD DRIVE

Fill up our Pantry this October through November!

October 1 - November 13, we're collecting non-perishable food and household essentials to help stock our Senior Pantry.

Volunteers can make a difference by bringing donations during their volunteer shift and placing them in the collection boxes located at the front office in Grandville or at the Pantry.

Every donation helps ensure local seniors have access to nutritious food and essential household items.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

- Cereal
- Pasta
- Canned Protein (ex: chicken or tuna)
- Soups
- Condiments
- Oils
- Spices
- Toothpaste
- Toilet Paper
- Soaps (laundry, body, dish)

Looking for an even bigger way to help? Learn more about how you can host your own food drive and expand the impact.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

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MEALS on WHEELS WESTERN MICHIGAN

Jenna Veard

FRONT DESK AND DELIVERY

SEPTEMBER 2026

Jenna has really made her presence felt since she joined us earlier this summer, volunteering in multiple areas within the organization.

"Whether it's greeting guests at the front desk or making meal deliveries, Jenna wears a smile that can light up a room. She has embraced our mission wholeheartedly and is always looking for opportunities to serve our seniors and help our teams."

Jenna has jumped in as a substitute multiple times in the last couple of months and signed up to help at special events. We're very fortunate that Jenna has donated her time, talents, and energies to MOWWM.

Thank you for all that you do!

ANNIVERSARY DATES

- Steve Lewis, Delivery, 10-21, 2 years
- Smiley, Dining Site, 10-13, 3 years
- Paul Purwin, Dining Site, 10-18, 3 years
- Penny Wohlford, Kitchen, 10-17, 3 years
- Jim Baker, Delivery, 10-02, 3 years
- Deb Smith, Front Desk, 10-18, 4 years
- Kimberly Reynolds, Pantry, 10-14, 4 years
- Dan Markle, Delivery, 10-22, 4 years
- Scott Haebich, Delivery, 10-13, 4 years
- Mark Bronkema, Delivery, 10-15, 8 years

thank you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Kitchen Volunteers

After a major renovation over the summer, our kitchen is in full swing, catching up on food production needs! Volunteers assist with portioning frozen food into trays for our home delivered meals program.

Opportunities for kitchen plating volunteers are now available in VolunteerHub. Register today:

MONDAY – FRIDAY
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
or 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

HELP IN THE KITCHEN













Community Dining Sites

Community Dining Sites are a great place for seniors to eat a nutritious meal and build relationships with their neighbors! Volunteers assist MOWWM staff with all aspects of the meal: from set-up and take-down to serving food and fostering community.

Help needed at
Kentwood Community Hub
Grand Rapids: at Mt. Mercy Apartments
Grand Rapids: at MoTown Square Apartments
Allegan County: at Baraga Manor Apartments

VOLUNTEER AT A DINING SITE



Delivery Drivers

We need more delivery drivers! Whether you can occasionally pick up an open shift and cover vacancies, or if you want to volunteer each week and adopt a route, we need more help filling all our stops.

Volunteer drivers deliver on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting around 8:30 a.m., and the routes typically take 1-3 hours. If you or someone you know is interested in driving for the first time, let us know at volunteer@mowwm.org.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Gordon Smith is always a calm and kind presence at the Senior Pantry. He often goes above and beyond, helping with tasks others don't want, like taking out the trash. Recently, our staff caught him outside cleaning up our dumpster area, which had "gotten quite nasty," without anyone even asking him. Thanks, Gordon!

Duane Elders has been a volunteer driver with MOWWM since 2019 and is always going the extra mile! Fellow driver Cathy Thomson said, "He is always the nicest person. Every time he sees me working, he will come over, say hi, and help me load my car." On Labor Day delivery, we had a route canceled, and Duane, who was already on a route, took the extra route to help us cover. Thanks, Duane!

GROUP SPOTLIGHT

YAY!

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

- Ada Hotel
- AF Group
- Bethany Christian Services
- Bucher Hydraulics
- Charter Capital
- Delta Faucet
- Extol
- Gordon Food Services
- Health Alliance Plan
- Heart of West Michigan United Way
- Hormel Foods
- Integrated Packaging Machinery
- Kent District Library
- Lake Michigan Credit Union
- MFCU
- Polish Falcons
- Steelcase
- Zawadi Group Home

NO SENIOR HUNGRY OR FORGOTTEN







KEEP IN TOUCH, STAY INVOLVED

"We frequently say the service starts with the meal and opens the door to so much more."
~Ellie Hollander, CEO of Meals on Wheels America

mowwm.org | (616) 459-3111