

AROUND THE TABLE

A Meals on Wheels Publication

NEW YEAR EDITION!

SANTA FOR SENIORS- A SEASON OF EXTRAORDINARY GENEROSITY

Our Santa for Seniors program was a smashing success this holiday season, made possible by an overwhelming outpouring of kindness from our community.



With 347 registered "Santas," we were able to provide holiday gifts to all 1,204+ Meals on Wheels of Rockingham County clients, ensuring that every individual in our home-delivered program felt remembered, valued, and cared for. We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated, especially the many groups who went above and beyond by providing "extra" gifts for clients with greater needs. Special thanks to the **Ray Fre Knit & Crochet** members for their beautiful handmade hats and scarves, and to **Stitched With Love of Hampstead** for their generous donation of 25 quilts, along with placemats and even a festive tree skirt. We also extend heartfelt appreciation to the **Portsmouth Women's City Club** and the **Exeter Gilman Grange** for donating Market Basket gift cards, helping clients purchase groceries and necessities during the holiday season.

But the true impact of Santa for Seniors is best expressed through the words of our clients:

"Thank you for the holiday gifts. It made me feel special and believe in Christmas again."

"Thank you for my Christmas gifts and for thinking of me. It's as if you read my mind, there were so many items that I really needed. Thank you!"



Employees from Marquis Management in Salem drop off gifts to Salem



Meals on Wheels Delivery Driver, Sherri loads up her car for a day of meal and gift deliveries



To every Santa, volunteer, and organization who made this program possible, thank you for helping us create a holiday season filled with warmth, compassion, and joy.



DID YOU KNOW...

MEALS ON WHEELS
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY



PROVIDES BOTH HOT & COLD MEAL OPTIONS



DELIVERS THESE MEALS MONDAY - FRIDAY & PROVIDES FROZEN MEALS FOR WEEKENDS



PROVIDES CARB CONSCIOUS MENU OPTIONS FOR BOTH DIABETIC & CARDIAC CLIENTS



HAS LUNCHEON CENTERS AT 10 OF OUR MEAL SITES FOR CLIENTS TO COME IN AND ENJOY A MEAL AND ACTIVITIES WITH FRIENDS.



HAS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR TRIPS TO THE GROCERY STORE, MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND MORE



Anmarie Guilmette,
our wonderful Hampton
Site Manager,
celebrates **30 years**
with Meals on Wheels!

Thank you, Annemarie,
for being such a vital
part of our mission and
for the care you bring to
your work every single
day!

A COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS

At Meals on Wheels of Rockingham County, every meal delivered supports the long-term health, independence, and well-being of older adults across our community. This past holiday season, local organizations came together in inspiring ways to ensure our clients felt nourished, cared for, and remembered.

On Christmas Day, the **Knights of Columbus, Bishop Peterson Council #4442**, brought warmth and comfort to Salem by preparing and delivering 100 hot, fresh holiday meals to our clients. Their generosity ensured that no one had to face the holiday without a nutritious meal and a reminder that their community cares. In addition, the **Salem High School Culinary Program** provided frozen meals, helping sustain our clients' nutritional needs beyond the holiday itself.

The **Liberty Mutual** Portsmouth Branch also embraced the season of giving through several thoughtful initiatives benefiting clients throughout Rockingham County. Team members created festive, holiday-themed lunch bags, adding cheer to daily deliveries, and organized a shelf-stable snack food drive that collected 12 full reusable shopping bags of snacks. These items will help stock the pantries of higher-need home-delivered clients, providing important nutritional support between meals.

We are deeply grateful to our community partners whose kindness and generosity make our mission possible.



DONATIONS THAT MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

Donations come in many forms, and each one plays a meaningful role in supporting our clients. This season, generous community contributions went far beyond financial support, bringing comfort, creativity, and peace of mind directly into our clients' homes.

Residents of **RiverWoods Exeter** shared their time and talents by crafting handmade bookmarks and beautiful glass votive candles for our Exeter clients. The candles were used to decorate tables during the Thanksgiving special meal and were an instant favorite, adding warmth and a personal touch that made the holiday feel extra special.

The **Brentwood Girl Scout Daisy Troop** added sweetness and cheer to Thanksgiving by donating candy and festive placemats. Their thoughtful creations brought color, fun, and joy to the holiday meal, reminding our clients that even the smallest acts of giving can create big smiles.

Safety is also a critical part of independence. We extend our sincere thanks to the **Hampstead Lions** for their generous donation of 12 carbon monoxide detectors for higher-need clients served from our Plaistow site. For many older adults, having a working detector provides essential protection and peace of mind, allowing them and their loved ones to feel more secure at home.

Finally, heartfelt connections were delivered through holiday, birthday, and sympathy cards lovingly created by **Salem Preschool, Silverthorne Adult Day Care, Hampstead Academy Preschool** (led by teacher Trinere McCabe), and members of the **NU Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa of New Hampshire**.





SHARED SERVICE & SHARED MOMENTS

Pictures L to R: Andrew Pate(Site Assistant), Charlene Macdonald (Lions Member), Chris Gies (Lions Member), Annmarie Guilmette (Site Manager), Beth Gilloran (Lions President), Ed Fernald (Lions Member)

This season, meaningful partnerships and shared experiences brought people together to strengthen connections, enhance services, and spread holiday cheer.

The **Hampton Area Lions Club** made a lasting impact by funding the purchase of a brand-new freezer for our Hampton meals site. This much-needed addition allows us to safely store more meals and better support our Hampton and North Hampton clients. We are deeply grateful for their continued commitment to fighting hunger locally.

Teamwork and holiday spirit filled the Newmarket Sunrise Sunset Activity Center in November when 14 members of the **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)** joined 15 Meals on Wheels congregate clients, including five veterans, to assemble 30 holiday stockings for Operation Care for Troops. The stockings were delivered to Nashua, NH, and began their journey to deployed service members around the world. What started more than 21 years ago as a small family-and-friends effort has grown into a global mission, bringing comfort, connection, and a reminder of home to those serving overseas.



The season concluded with celebration and joy at the Salem Holiday Special Luncheon, where clients enjoyed live entertainment from the **Salem Senior Tappers and Salem Recreation Dancers**, along with musical performances by **James Koczat and Guy Carbone**. These moments of connection and celebration are just as important as the meals themselves.



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