

MEALS ON WHEELS OF CHESTER COUNTY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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HOME OF THE SPARROWAffordable Housing Options for Women in Chester County

Home of the Sparrow is a Pennsylvania nonprofit that prevents homelessness for women and children in Chester County.

Their Shared Housing Program matches homeowners in Chester County (who would like to share their home and earn additional income) with women who are seeking affordable housing.

How can Home of the Sparrow help Meals on Wheels clients?

Many of our seniors struggle financially and are lonely. The Shared Housing Program could be a perfect solution for them.

Shared Housing is a living arrangement for people who want or need to share their homes for financial, security or

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companionship reasons. It is also for people seeking affordable housing. The Home of the Sparrow Staff facilitates matches between home seekers and home providers to meet the needs of both. They do extensive background checks and meet with both parties to make sure it is a good fit.

If someone owns or rents a home with a spare bedroom and is willing to share their home, this program provides additional income for the homeowner and much needed companionship.

How Does It Work?

Through a careful matching process, homeowners looking for companionship and a supplemental income are introduced to a suitable woman looking for affordable rent that is below market rates in Chester County (average \$500 a month).

All participants are screened by Home of the Sparrow to ensure safety and the best possible match based on the requirements and preferences of the interested parties. Strict confidentiality is kept and only first names and numbers are exchanged with screened clients. Shared Housing does not provide assistance with legal matters or preparing the lease.

Details of the program are explained during the first contact with the agency. A phone interview is conducted initially. There are some forms to fill out and the women meet with the Shared Housing Coordinator for an interview. The Shared Housing Program Coordinator also conducts site visits.

The Shared Housing Program Coordinator will keep in touch with both home providers and home seekers to facilitate the match and follow-up on its success or any issues. This is a free service.

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A Recent Success Story

Mabel, who recently lost her husband, just didn't want to live alone and wasn't ready to move into a retirement home. The Smiths, who both worked and had two young daughters, were looking for a live- in nanny. Home of the Sparrow introduced them and found them to be a perfect match.

Mabel lived with the Smiths for five years. Mrs. Smith said Mabel was like a grandmother to our girls and we loved having her welcome our girls home from school, read to them and keep them company until we got home from work.



To learn more, contact:

Home of the Sparrow 610-647-4940

or email

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TO OUR VOLUNTEERS DELIVERING MEALS...

Arrive as close to your pick-up time as possible. We want our clients to get the food while it is **STILL** hot.

This is why it is **SO IMPORTANT** to have an insulated container for the hot meals and a separate one for the cold items.

Please pick up meals close to the set time for your Chapter. We have 12 different food providers and times do vary. See chart below:

CHAPTER	TIME OF PICK-UP	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
Avon Grove	11:30	2 meals delivered on Tuesdays, 0 delivered on Wednesdays.
BradLin and West Chester	10:00	BradLin has 1 route, WC has 3. Make sure you take the right meals.
Coatesville & Pony Express	10:45	Coolers left in front lobby. Coatesville has 3 routes and Pony has 2 routes. Make sure you take the right meals.
Coventryville, East Coventry and North Coventry	11:00 (They serve residents at 11:30, if you arrive late, you have to wait until they are finished.)	Call 610-705-3744 when on your way and tell them how many meals you need that day and if any special instructions (like 1 meal no fish).
Downingtown, Glen Springs and Uwchlan/ Whitelands	10:30	Ring bell. Bring your own client list. Milk only delivered on Mondays.
GoshenTown Rts 1, 2 & HM (Hershey's Mill)	12:00	Pick-up coolers at side door.
GoshenTown Route 3	11:30	Please do not come earlier than 11:30.
Honey Brook	11:15	Sign-in at the checkpoint and go wait outside the double doors of Meadowridge Dining Room til meals come out.
Kennett Square	11:00	
Luther House	11:30	
Oxford	10:45	Meals picked up on loading dock.
Phoenixville, Spring City, and East Pikeland	11:00	Drivers must have a MOW badge to enter hospital lobby and check in at desk.

Volunteers should always bring the client list that was sent the PREVIOUS Friday and arrive as close to the pick-up time as possible. Always count your meals before leaving to deliver. The number of meals should match your number of clients.

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NEVER leave a new meal on top of an **OLD** meal. If a meal is already in the cooler when you deliver, it has been there over-night or longer. Would you eat it? When in doubt, think about whether you would eat the meal not knowing how long it has been sitting outside a refrigerator.



NEVER leave a meal on the ground. In the summer, ants and other bugs are on the ground. Also, there is a risk that a cat, dog, or other animal could break into the packaging.

These guidelines may sound like common sense. But if someone is rushing to get through the route because they have an appointment, it is tempting to leave the meal at the door, not call the client to make sure they are home, and run to the next stop.

Bacteria can grow in food at temperatures between 40 degrees and 140 degrees. If you have ever had food poisoning, you know it can be quite uncomfortable. People who have immune deficiency or are elderly are even more susceptible to food related illnesses.

Remember, if you would not eat it, our clients shouldn't either.

SO VOLUNTEERS REMEMBER...

- 1. Pick up meals on time (see chart on Page 4)
- 2. Always use coolers or thermal bags to keep food at the right temperature while you deliver. Keep cold and hot in separate. coolers/thermal bags.

EXAMPLES OF SAFE BAGS













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	/	2					4	9
8	3	1	6			5		
	4	9	8	7		1		6
		6	2		1	4		
			4	6		3	2	
				3				1
	1	5	9	2				3
7	6			5	8	2		
	2		3			6		

SUDOKU

Complete the numbers (1-9) in each section of white boxes. No number may appear more than once in any section.

Answers on Page 6

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Clients receiving meals have an important role as well. Make sure if you are leaving a cooler out for meals, retrieve your meal immediately after it is left for you by the volunteer.

If you have requested the meal be left outside your door, it is your responsibility to bring it in or have someone get it for you promptly. If you forget to get the meal, you should throw it out.

Do not eat food that has been sitting outside for an extended time. It may no longer be good to eat and it certainly will not be hot!

6	7	2	5	1	3	8	4	9
8	3	1	6	9	4	5	7	2
5	4	9	8	7	2	1	3	6
3	9	6	2	8	1	4	5	7
1	5	7	4	6	9	3	2	8
2	8	4	7	3	5	9	6	1
4	1	5	9	2	6	7	8	3
7	6	3	1	5	8	2	9	4
9	2	8	3	4	7	6	1	5

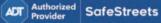
Answers to Sudoku puzzle on page 5.



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Meals on Wheels of Chester County 404 Willowbrook Lane West Chester, PA 19382



TOGETHER WE DELIVER

Here are our accomplishments from last fiscal year (7/1/20—6/30/21):

OF MEALS DELIVERED: 93,088 # OF PEOPLE SERVED: 750 # OF VOLUNTEERS: 588 COST OF FOOD: \$382,297 DONATIONS FROM CLIENTS: \$147,189 Please DONATE to help feed homebound seniors either by:

1. Sending a check to:

MOWCC

404 Willowbrook Lane West Chester, PA 19382

2. Going to our website and donate

online: www.mowcc.org

Meals on Wheels of Chester County (MOWCC) is a registered 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. MOWCC receives partial funding from the Chester County Department of Aging Services. Other funding is provided by contributions from foundations, businesses, individuals and clients. MOWCC's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free (within PA) 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement . EIN# 23-2636379.