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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEALS ON WHEELS OF MERCER COUNTY JOINS MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA IN CAMPAIGN TO END THE WAIT™ FOR MILLIONS OF SENIORS FACING HUNGER AND ISOLATION

SUPPORT WILL HELP TO EXPAND NUMBER OF SENIORS SERVED AND SERVICES OFFERED IN MERCER COUNTY

EWING, NJ, (February 18, 2025) – Meals on Wheels of Mercer County (MOWMC) announced today its support of [End the Wait](#) – a nationwide campaign led by Meals on Wheels America and designed to rally communities around our older adult neighbors. For far too long the pressing needs of seniors have been underfunded and ignored, leaving millions nationwide waiting for nutritious meals and moments of connection. Despite the fact that Meals on Wheels has been proven to be the most effective solution to senior hunger and isolation, community-based providers are *waiting* too – for more government funding, donations and volunteers – and we can't wait any longer.

In honor of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program anniversary and the End the Wait campaign, we will be organizing a month-long event of prominent VIPS delivering meals throughout Mercer County to promote awareness.

"In the last year, we have experienced a 54% increase in the demand for our services in Mercer County," said Beth Englezos, Interim CEO and Chief Operations Officer of MOWMC. "We appreciate the support our community has extended to us so far, but we need additional funding and volunteers in order to ensure every senior who could benefit from nutritious meals and social connection receives this vital lifeline."

56% of MOWMC participants report that they live alone, many with no family members in the area. With more volunteers, more older adults could receive the extra care that comes with personal meal delivery from a friendly face.

Federal funding has not kept pace with either the growing senior population or rising costs. Additionally, only 1% of philanthropic donations in the U.S. go toward senior causes. Local Meals on Wheels providers like MOWMC exist in nearly every community across the country, and are eager to do even more, but desperately need more resources to do so.

"Across the country, local Meals on Wheels providers are working tirelessly to deliver seniors nutritious meals and moments of connection, but they could be reaching even more seniors and doing even more for them if they had additional resources," said Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America. "That's why Meals on Wheels America launched a bold plan to End the

Wait and ultimately ensure all seniors have access to the life-saving services they need to live nourished lives with independence and dignity.”

For more information on how you can volunteer, contribute or speak out for the seniors in Mercer County, visit <https://www.mealsonwheelsmercer.org/>. And for more information about Meals on Wheels America’s campaign to End the Wait, visit <https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/end-the-wait>.

About Meals on Wheels of Mercer County

Meals on Wheels of Mercer County (MOWMC), founded in 1973, is a comprehensive nutrition program committed to providing healthy meals and friendly connections to our community neighbors who experience challenges in accessing nutritious food and support. The goal of our services is to eliminate food insecurity and social isolation in our communities and neighborhoods so that all people can live nourished lives with independence and dignity. With assistance from an amazing corps of over 280 volunteers, MOWMC staff oversaw the delivery of over 120,000 meals to 599 Mercer County participants last year. www.mealsonwheelsmercer.org

About Meals on Wheels America

Meals on Wheels America is the leadership organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation. Powered by a trusted volunteer workforce, this network delivers a comprehensive solution that begins with a meal and is proven to enable independence and well-being through the additional benefits of tailored nutrition, social connection, safety and much more. By providing funding, programming, education, research and advocacy, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time. For more information, or to find a Meals on Wheels provider near you, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org.