2012 March for Meals
Schedule of Events

March 1
www.independentlivinginc.org
Launch redesign of website
Shout-outs to March for Meals supporters

March 9
WPS Health Insurance
Official Kick-Off
featuring The Monona Grove High School Percussion Band

March 12
Zimbrick of Madison
Volunteer Recognition
featuring The UW Marching Band

March 21
Mayors for Meals
Mayor John Murray, Sun Prairie
Mayor Shawn Pfaff, Fitchburg

March 29
Mid-West Family Broadcasting
Meals on Heels featuring The UW Marching Band
Volunteer and celebrate in pairs!

Meals on Heels

We’re using the rock n’ roll atmosphere of Mid-West Family Broadcasting to bring together as many pairs of family members, friends, co-workers and any other combination of high heels, flats, boots or sandals to celebrate and learn about volunteering for Evening Meals on Wheels. (See calendar of events.)

“You can spend about an hour and a half with your best friend while having an immediate, positive impact on a senior’s day,” notes Debbie Borcherding, Volunteer Services Manager, “then go out and have dinner together!”

Please join us for food, spirits and a silent auction to raise funds to end senior hunger. For more information, please email Melissa Makela at mmakela@independentlivinginc.org or call 608.268.9631.

Want to receive this newsletter via e-mail? Send your address to: info@independentlivinginc.org
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Our Mission

Independent Living, Inc. supports adults as they manage their independence by providing a variety of care services, skilled home health care and housing options to maintain health and well-being.

From our CEO

In a recent local article, hunger in our community was referred to as a “silent problem.” I could not agree more and for the elderly and adults with disabilities, it’s even more silent.

March for Meals, an initiative of Meals on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA), provides us with a great opportunity to make some noise and bring attention to this issue locally. The statistics on senior poverty in our community remain grim, however, each time a volunteer knocked on a door or rang a bell to deliver one of 44,000 meals in 2011, we worked together to quiet the pang of hunger.

Attend one of our scheduled events and help us make some noise this month and throughout the year! Please consider a contribution to help us address hunger in our community. We continue to appreciate all of our volunteers and donors.

Thank you

Hovde Donation

“You’ve got some new wheels to deliver the meals!”

That’s what Eric Hovde, Founder of the Hovde Foundation, had to say when he surprised Evening Meals on Wheels Manager Michelle Christenson with a brand new 2012 Subaru Forester in December. Eric presented the keys to Michelle at Mid-West Family Broadcasting with Ted Waldbillig, ILI Board Chair and Rita Giovannoni, ILI CEO both on hand to enjoy Michelle’s shocked expression.

“This donation could not have come at a better time,” notes Rita. “It replaces an old 1997 sedan with lots of wear and tear. We’re so completely overwhelmed and thankful for the Hovde Foundation’s generosity.”
Keeping It Fresh

Ask Susan Wilkerson, Independent Living, Inc. Head Chef how she gets 230–250 hot, nutritious meals prepared each day for adults throughout Dane County and the answer is straightforward – committed volunteers and staff.

“Our kitchen volunteers play a critical role in keeping our Evening Meals on Wheels Program running efficiently,” states Susan. “They support every aspect of getting meals ready for delivery from boxing and bagging items to organizing meals for individual routes.”

Susan is equally complimentary about her staff. “We work together with each other and volunteers - Mary, Michael, Gabby, Kristen, Rochelle, Josclyn and Europe – they are all like extended family to me.”

Susan, her kitchen staff and volunteers, are all part of the team that have made Evening Meals on Wheels one of a handful of national programs that have received Exemplary Magnet Accreditation from Meals on Wheels Association of America. Susan’s attention to detail in planning menus is equally important. She plans menus one month in advance following specific dietary guidelines while also bringing her own creativity to each meal.

“One of the best parts of my job is looking at what new flavors and recipes I can introduce to menus based on upcoming holidays and especially fresh, seasonal ingredients,” notes Susan, “I'm always looking for new ideas.”

If you’d like to be part of our nationally recognized program, contact Debbie Borcherding, Volunteer Services Manager by email: dborcherding@independentlivinginc.org; or phone: 608.268.9641.

Celebrating 40 Years

In March 1972 Congress passed the inclusion of the Senior Nutrition Programs in the Older Americans Act (OAA) and President Richard Nixon signed it into law. This laid the groundwork for more than 5,000 Senior Nutrition Programs that exist across the country today. The OAA is the primary piece of legislation that authorizes and supports vital nutrition services to Americans age 60 and older.

Where were you in 1972? Visit us on Facebook and share your 1972 memories.

Sound Your Own Horn

A gift directed to Evening Meals on Wheels has a direct impact on making sure no senior in our community goes hungry. With support from individuals like you, our staff and volunteers prepared and delivered more than 44,000 nutritious meals with compassion and care to adults in our community in 2011.

Join our goal to end senior hunger today! Contribute by returning the enclosed card with your gift or make your call to become a volunteer. Get your business involved by asking co-workers to adopt a route. Rally your friends and neighbors.

Make some noise!!!
Kibble on Wheels

Nine girls from Girl Scout Troop 2490 delivered more than 3,000 pounds of support for Independent Living, Inc. Kibble on Wheels Program. Troop members began their drive in December 2011 to make sure elderly, low income Evening Meals on Wheels clients had food and supplies to maintain the health and well being of their pets.

Troop Leader Jackie White explained the many strategies these nine and ten year old girls used to make the Kibble on Wheels drive a success, “They decorated and delivered donation bins to businesses in the area and made presentations to both businesses and students and Randall Elementary School. They were very enthusiastic and worked hard on this project and we are all excited about the results.”

Not only did the troop members collect food, litter and toys, but they also made sure people could donate money to purchase additional food and supplies and raised more than $250.00.