

# MEALS ON WHEELS of Columbia



August, 2020

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800 Hospital Drive  
Columbia, MO 65201

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*Office Manager*

573-886-7554  
573-814-6363 FAX  
[mowheels@gmail.com](mailto:mowheels@gmail.com)  
[www.mealsonwheelscolumbia.org](http://www.mealsonwheelscolumbia.org)

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funded by client fees, local  
individuals/organizations,  
and the City of Columbia.*



Dear Meals on Wheels supporters,

We sincerely hope this letter finds you well! Wellness continues to be critical to all of us. You will find included our annual report for 2019. We are pleased to have served our clients with amazing volunteers efficiently and effectively. One of the highest praises we received came from our clients - 100% of them would recommend Meals on Wheels to a friend! ☺ While it is important to reflect on our previous year, the present is ever changing and unprecedented. When we reached out to you in April we were amazed at your quick response! Over the last 5 months, Meals on Wheels has been blessed with a steady stream of brave volunteers, community guidance through swiftly changing times, words of encouragement, and a jump in donations. These acts of support have made us strive to work harder and care deeper for this vulnerable population! ***Thank you for being our partner!***

In April we adjusted some policies to protect everyone but especially the precious clients we serve. We expanded our service area to serve pockets near our current routes; recognized staying home as a qualifying reason for services; reduced the qualifying age from 70 to 60; and offered payment leniency where needed. This allowed us to serve 19 additional seniors almost 400 meals during this time. We continue to deliver food to coolers to protect all our seniors.

This health crisis affected our daily operation but also fundraising. In April we thought maybe we would just move Big Wheels to fall but we have decided Big Wheels is cancelled during 2020. It's easy to see why this is impossible at this time. This fundraising event was to generate almost \$40,000 to feed our clients throughout the year.

Even without an event to mark their sponsorship, several Big Wheels sponsors left their gifts in place to support Meals on Wheels. We are tremendously grateful for funds from **Central Bank of Boone County, Elton Fay, Kerry Bramon Remodeling, Missouri Employers Mutual, Satin Stitches & Embroidery, Senior Benefit Services, Senior Marketing Specialist, Shelter Insurance, Simmons Bank, The Trust Company, and Williams-Keepers**, which are underwriting the cost of this letter and helping to feed more seniors. Together these business leaders have given over \$10,000! Please thank them when you solicit their businesses again. Even when our business community has been hit hard, they continue to support Meals on Wheels!

MANY of you sent donations immediately in April and May! Your gifts FEED people as \$.95 of every dollar goes directly to food cost. Thank you so very much! Our goal is to be able to finish the year with a balanced operating budget. We have cut spending and with your sacrificial gift, we can work together to care for the seniors of Columbia. Please use the enclosed envelope or the Donate button on our website at [www.mealsonwheelscolumbia.org](http://www.mealsonwheelscolumbia.org). Our clients have communicated how critical getting their food was to their nutritional health AND emotional well-being! **Undoubtedly, this crisis has crystalized why Meals on Wheels is so important!**

Please continue to take care of yourselves and your loved ones. This has been a longer journey than we hoped but I'm sure the cure or vaccine is in the future! Thank you for being part of this journey with us!

Our deepest thanks,

*JoNetta Weaver*  
JoNetta Weaver,  
Executive Director

*James Heavin*  
James Heavin,  
Board of Directors, President