

# On the Move

Providing meals to the homebound in the State College area since 1971



Spring 2020 Newsletter

[www.scmow.org](http://www.scmow.org)

## Meals on Wheels Welcomes New Director

On January 20th, State College Meals on Wheels welcomed **Suelynn Shiller** as its new executive director. Suelynn becomes only the sixth director in the 49-year history of the organization. Originally from central Pennsylvania, Suelynn relocated to this area in 2016 after many years in Pittsburgh. She is very happy to be in a position to make an impact on the community she knows and loves.



Little did Suelynn know that within a few short weeks she would face an unprecedented challenge posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic. Rapid transmission and debilitating effects of this new virus required wholesale changes to MOW's normal mode of operation. Fortunately, she brought with her the leadership and skills needed to quickly adapt the organization to the difficult and unforgiving new conditions (see the article below, "We're All In This Together").

Suelynn has extensive experience as a volunteer and working with non-profit organizations as a consultant, most notably United Way of Allegheny County. Her specialties include program management, developing collaborative partnerships and teams, market research, data analysis, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and training, and many more.

Undaunted by the COVID-19 challenges, Suelynn continues to calmly and decisively lead us through uncharted waters. We are thrilled to have her on board and look forward to a very bright future for MOW as we move through and past this crisis. **Welcome Suelynn!** ☺

### Annual Benefit Dinner Canceled

## PLEASE DONATE TO CENTRE GIVES

Due to the COVID-19 emergency and the need to avoid large gatherings, the **Meals on Wheels Annual Benefit Dinner scheduled for May 14th has been canceled.** We regret that this event cannot be held as it was to feature Penn State and NFL football great **Matt Millen** as our honored guest and speaker. This dinner is the major fundraiser for our organization, and typically provides a significant portion of our annual income.

We expect to be back on track in May 2021 and it is our hope that Matt can be with us at that time. **To help offset the loss of income from this event, please consider a donation to Meals on Wheels during the Centre Gives campaign.**

Centre Gives 2020, the 36-hour online giving event sponsored by the Centre Foundation, is designed to encourage community giving and will be held from 9:00 am on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 until Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 9:00 pm.

Your tax deductible donation, designated to Meals on Wheels, will be enhanced with the availability of \$300,000 in matching funds that are prorated based on the amount each organization raises. *(Continued on page 2)*

## We're All In This Together

### *MOW Strategies to Continue Service During the Crisis*

This spring, the outbreak of coronavirus has had a widespread impact on all of us, affecting every aspect of our daily lives. State College Area Meals on Wheels Executive Director Suelynn Shiller and her staff immediately developed strategies to protect both our clients and our volunteers by instituting minimal contact, observing rules of social distancing, and strict use of anti-viral wipes and gloves.

Instead of daily deliveries, every Monday clients receive all meals for the week, plus a bag of shelf-stable groceries. The meals are frozen, but can be easily heated in an oven or microwave. The bag includes groceries to make lunches for the week, plus necessities such as toilet paper.

The deliveries are made by one volunteer (or with a spouse or household member) per car to maintain social distance. Drivers have a scheduled time to pick up their meals, and, rather than entering entering Harkins Hall in Grace Lutheran Church (traditionally a time when volunteers would congregate and chat), they must stay in their cars. A staff member brings the meals to them on a cart—and then stands back to ensure social distance.

Each driver is given a list with 5-7 clients, including their addresses and phone numbers. Wearing a face mask, and using gloves and anti-virus wipes to carry the meals and groceries, the driver rings the doorbell at the residence, leaves the meals, then steps back 6' while the client comes to the door. *(Continued on page 2)*



*New Executive Director Suelynn Shiller and Volunteer Coordinator Mary Lemmon organize canned vegetables.*

## Volunteers & Staff Step Up to Serve

*Here are just a few photos of our dedicated volunteers and staff, continuing to deliver meals despite the restrictions required during the coronavirus pandemic.*



## DONATE TO CENTRE GIVES (Continued from page 1)

Go to [CentreGives.org](https://CentreGives.org) to participate on May 12 or 13 and select Meals on Wheels or your favorite nonprofit. Since its inception in 2012, \$8.2 million has been raised via Centre Gives for more than 175 non-profits in Centre County. ☺



State College Meals on Wheels is grateful to many businesses and individuals who have been generous in assisting us during the recent pandemic.

Here are some of the folks who provided critical donations:

**Emergency Funding:** Centre Region Council of Governments Emergency Management Fund (Shawn Kauffman, Coordinator); Giant Food Stores; Ferguson Township (Lisa Strickland); Webster's Bookstore Café (also provided shelf stable groceries).

**Freezers on Loan:** Grace Lutheran Church (also for their patience and support, during this time and always); State College Presbyterian Church; Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services (Brian Hoffman); Café Lemont; Tim Robinson; Anne Cornell.

**Personal Protection Equipment:** Discovery Space, Gekks, Lowe's, Lehman's, Pat Spicer.

**Food Support:** Walmart, Benner Pike (Mike Meraglia, Holly Church); Walmart, North Atherton (Lexie Meraglia, Andrew Kitlas); Fasta & Ravioli Company; Uncle Chen's; Calvary Church Our Life Group.

**Media Coverage:** WJAC TV (Samantha York): [CORONAVIRUS: Growing needs](#) and [CORONAVIRUS: State College Meals on Wheels serving residents](#); WPSU (Emily Reddy); *Centre County Gazette* (Vince Corso); Fanlu Gui Photography @fanluphotography on Instagram. ☺

## We're All In This Together

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Volunteers are reminded to monitor their health, and if they or a member of their household are not well, they are to stay home—better safe than sorry. Strategies are in place to function with fewer volunteers if need be. The hope is that volunteers will stay well, as committed and energetic volunteers will be needed when MOW returns to normal operations.

Another group of volunteers calls during the week to check in with clients and see how they are doing and if they have questions about the meals. This is important not only to our clients, but also to our volunteers, who often develop a bond with the clients on their routes and want to make sure they are doing well during these trying times. Concerns or questions that the volunteer cannot answer are forwarded to the MOW staff.

Many thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers for their compassion, hard work, and flexibility during this challenging time. ☺