

MEALS ON WHEELS OCEAN COUNTY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Happy New Year!

As we reflect on 2025, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the unwavering commitment of our community. Because of you, Meals on Wheels Ocean County has continued to expand services, strengthen partnerships, and provide vital support to thousands of seniors across our county.

This past year, we proudly introduced our new brand—More Than Meals: Community, Care and Connection—because our work goes far beyond delivering just a meal. We create essential support systems that help seniors live safely and independently in their own homes by providing reassurance, a friendly face, and vital connection.

COMMUNITY

We create welcoming spaces and supportive services that keep seniors engaged, informed, and connected to their community. Meals on Wheels Ocean County hosts a Community Café in Manahawkin and provides meals to cafés across the county, where seniors enjoy companionship and engaging activities that range from chair volleyball to holiday parties. We also distribute Community Impact Surveys to ensure our services continue to meet evolving needs, and we advocate at all levels of government to help amplify the voices of older adults.

CARE

We believe food security, safety, and well-being are human rights. Our program mobilizes nutritious food that is preventative healthcare for aging adults, and our drivers deliver daily wellness and safety checks with every meal to ensure our seniors are supported. Meals on Wheels Ocean County's community partners show their care for our participants by donating items ranging from quilted placemats to everyday necessities, as well as special treats like cases of Girl Scout cookies, bringing comfort and connection beyond the meal.

CONNECTION

We address social isolation among older adults by providing meaningful daily interactions with caring and trusted drivers. Our participants are often part of an overlooked population, and Meals on Wheels Ocean County's drivers bring a friendly hello and a brief conversation, something they may not otherwise receive. Our team will also inquire about other services they may need to live safely. These older adults have access to social services and referrals for housing repairs or accessibility accommodations, mental health support, and other essential programs that foster belonging, emotional wellness, and stability.

With your support of Community, Care, and Connection, we can ensure that no senior in Ocean County goes hungry or unseen, while strengthening a resilient and innovative organization and building lasting partnerships that support healthy aging and independence.

As we look ahead to 2026, we invite you to help shape the future of this bold vision.

More Than Meals,



James Sigurdson



More Than Meals: Community. Care. Connection

