

MORE THAN MEALS IMPACT

Community

Laura M. and her mother, Ruth B., joined our program in 2020. Laura, who is wheelchair-bound, faces significant mobility and cognitive challenges that make even moving around her home difficult—preparing meals or shopping on her own is simply not possible. After Ruth passed away in November 2023, Laura remained on our program with no local support system; her closest family member lives in Pennsylvania. For Laura, Meals on Wheels Ocean County is not only her primary source of nutrition but also a critical daily wellness check. She receives weekday meals as well as weekend and holiday meals to ensure that she is never without support. Laura is the very reason our program exists—providing nourishment, safety, and reassurance to seniors who would otherwise be left without care

Care

In August we had a Brick participant not answer his door as he always does. The Meals on Wheels office called his emergency contact, who tried to reach him as well, but couldn't and was concerned. MOW office called Brick Senior Services, and an Outreach Worker went to the home for a well check. Brick PD were also called and the landlord let them in. Our senior was found on the floor and EMS were called. He had fallen sometime after we delivered his meal the day before and had been unable to get up. This was such an awesome effort between Meals on Wheels Ocean County, Brick Senior Services, Police and EMS and goes to show how when we work together we deliver **More Than Meals**.

Connection

Barbara “Bobbi” G. has been part of our program since February 2019. Over the years, we have provided her with daily nourishment and safety checks, ensuring she could continue living independently. In 2022, Bobbi suffered a stroke that left her even more vulnerable. Since then, our drivers have played a vital role in monitoring her wellbeing. Her niece has expressed deep gratitude, knowing she will be contacted immediately if Bobbi does not answer the door. For Bobbi, our service means more than a meal—it is a daily safeguard, a connection to others, and the comfort of knowing she is not alone.

MOBILIZING 2026

Meals on Wheels Ocean County is in a transformative era with the completion of our first-ever Strategic Plan—a roadmap to strengthen our services and prepare for the future.

For more than 50 years, we have delivered more than meals. Each day, our dedicated staff and volunteers provide nutrition, wellness checks, and meaningful human connection to over 1,000 homebound seniors, helping them remain healthy and independent in their own homes.

Looking ahead, our Strategic Plan outlines a bold vision centered on innovation, sustainability, and community impact. Key priorities include strengthening governance and leadership, diversifying funding to ensure long-term stability, integrating technology to improve efficiency and client experience, enhancing marketing and communications, and deepening partnerships that support aging in place.

This plan comes at a critical time. With federal funding for social services increasingly uncertain, Meals on Wheels Ocean County must continue to lead with resilience and innovation. Our history—from Superstorm Sandy to the COVID-19 pandemic—demonstrates our ability to adapt and deliver essential services when our community needs us most. To ensure our staff is informed and engaged, we hosted an in-service session to explain the details of the Strategic Plan, invite feedback, and foster collaboration as we move forward together.

At the heart of our work is Community, Care and Connection. For many seniors, our drivers are the only human contact they receive each day, providing both a nutritious meal, socialization and a vital wellness check.

Thank you to the Leaders who served on Meals on Wheels Ocean County

Strategic Planning Committee

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More Than Meals: Community. Care. Connection

