

Food for Thought

Metro-Erie Meals On Wheels / (814) 452-6930 / www.MealsOnWheelsErie.org

A Message From the Executive Director

My two sons came home for the holidays, one from Cincinnati and one from San Francisco. It is rare anymore since they've left college and are on their own. But as much as I love when they're here, I love when Jan and I get our house back!

Since coming to work here, when I think about our clients living in their house or apartment I can't help but wonder about their lives and how the passage of time brought them to be, in some cases, truly alone.

Isn't it a wonderful service we provide...to be

someone who brings our clients a brief but important human contact during their long day. Not to mention the nutritious food!



If one looks hard, there is probably a lot of joy in their lives, in the simple but meaningful things that pass their way each day.

I'll bet one of those joys is you. Thank you for your dedicated service. I hope you get as much from bringing our clients meals as I know they get in receiving them.

Have a great new year!

- Terry Pytlarz

"New Volunteer Welcome Packets"

We just rolled out the new *Volunteer Handbook* for all volunteers.

In the coming weeks, we will be introducing the "New Volunteer Welcome Packet," a folder of information designed to welcome new volunteers with the Volunteer Handbook, recruiting flyers, recent newsletters, a car sign, and other information about our organization.



We will also be offering a discount on auto repairs and tires to all volunteers from our national partner, Firestone. You can find the sign up form at GECAC and Hamot pick up sites.

1128 State Street
Suite 317
Erie, PA 16501
(Citizens Bank building
on 12th and State)

8AM to 4PM

p (814) 452-6930

Volunteer Services Meets

Leon Akus, Karen Hein and Lenny Pernice met with Wendy and I last Thursday to discuss our organization and how best to serve not only our clients, but all of our volunteers. The meeting was casual, upbeat and productive. We will meet every first Tuesday of the month from now on. Please contact these volunteers (or us) if you would like to join us or offer suggestions to improve our mission.

Custom Driving Maps Now Available

We use a computer mapping program to determine what route would be

best for a new client. Built into that program is the option to create driving directions.

What's exciting about this is A.) making it easy for a volunteer to change

to drive a new route or sub on an unfamiliar route, B.) making it easy for a recent new resident to drive a route if they moved to Erie yesterday and C.) possibly shortening the time it takes to drive a route

if the volunteer follows the software's driving directions.



Karen Hein tested our software on Rt. 10 last week. It shaved four minutes off her usual time which may not seem significant. But, it's *3½ hours* a year. Now what if every volunteer saved four minutes? Faster meal deliveries to our clients! And, you may find it saves you significantly more time. Try it! Just call and tell us what address you want to deliver last and we'll do the rest. If you test it against your usual time, we'll report your results in an upcoming *Food For Thought*.

Sign Up For our Senior News updates on our Website: www.MealsOnWheelsErie.org

Contact us anytime by email

General Inquiries: info@mealsonwheelserie.org
Terry Pytlarz, Executive Director: terry@mealsonwheelserie.org