

ROCKY RIVER LAKEWOOD MEALS ON WHEELS
March 2020 Newsletter

ARRIVALS . . .

We're thrilled to welcome volunteers who have joined our organization in the past few months: **Richard Cook, Tony Duna, Marty & Janet Herman, Wendy Mainardi, and Ken & Carol Szabo.**

The Board of Directors also welcomes long-time volunteer **Steve Jurak**, who has agreed to share his energy and talents as a Board member. Thanks for stepping up, Steve!

. . . AND DEPARTURES

Lynda Kovach did an amazing job as our Board Chair during 2019, devoting a great deal of time, thought and effort to furthering MOW's mission. She went above and beyond the call of duty attending meetings, putting out "fires," and handling countless small and large issues that landed in her inbox. She deserves our enduring gratitude and will be difficult to replace. (In fact, we're still seeking her replacement!) Lynda is now serving as the Executive Director of West Shore Meals on Wheels, our parent organization, which also oversees the Fairview Park MOW kitchen. Thank you, Lynda!

The Board also honors **Jan Cook** and **Kent Spelman**, who have stepped down from the Board after many years of dedicated service. We thank them both for contributing their valuable time, effort and counsel to a variety of projects and events that have made our service so valuable to our recipients. Their participation on the Board will surely be missed.

IN SYMPATHY

We are deeply saddened by the passing of volunteer **Ernie Demanelis** in December. Ernie cheerfully contributed his time and effort working in our kitchen, as well as volunteering with numerous other organizations in our community following his retirement from practicing law. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Anne, to all his family and to his many friends. His bright spirit will be missed by all who knew him.

THANK YOU!

We thank the **Lakewood/Rocky River Rotary Foundation** for the \$2,000 grant presented to our program on February 24. Board member **Lauren Walsh**, who represented us in receiving the check, also deserves a round of applause for writing this grant request and so many others that we receive annually.

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries, under the leadership of **Pastor John Butchko**, deserves our continuing gratitude for hosting our program through the church's kitchen and for the numerous ways they support our daily operations. A big shout-out of thanks to the church's office administrator **Deborah Dzurilla** for her dedicated responsiveness to our needs and concerns.

We send huge thanks to volunteer **Rachel Burris**, who has devoted countless hours to setting up a new database to track donations, volunteers and community contacts. The database will be invaluable in helping us regularly communicate with our MOW community.

REPORTING OF VOLUNTEER HOURS

Volunteers are no longer being asked to track and report the hours they contribute. (Thank you for your effort doing so in the past.) In future, we will be estimating hours volunteered based on activities completed.

GOT COZIES?

Some of our cozies (padded pockets used to cover hot meals) have gone AWOL. If you find any in your car or home, or you know of a recipient who may be stockpiling them, please make an effort to direct them back to the kitchen.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: EMIL GIROD

Emil Girod brings us tons of superior-quality vegetables during the growing season, freshly picked from the two community gardens he manages and from his own gardens. The produce that we aren't able to use immediately is processed and frozen for use throughout the year. Emil also takes all of the kitchen's vegetable leftovers and adds them to enrich his garden soil organically.

Emil came to us from Lakewood MOW, where he had worked for many years as the community gardener, and later in the kitchen as well.

In addition to giving us a great variety of veggies, Emil is regularly in the kitchen (sometimes up to five times per week) helping to process those veggies for use and storage. He also makes us homemade jams and delicious soups, and pitches in with various repairs when needed.

We are so fortunate to know Emil and to have his many contributions to our program. Thank you Emil, for all you do!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like more involvement in our organization, or you know someone who may be interested in contributing their time and effort, here are some current opportunities:

- *Drivers and substitute drivers.* This is a critical need at present. Recruit your own "hopper" to make deliveries faster and more fun.
- *Kitchen volunteers.* We'll provide all the training you need to help prepare and package delicious meals on a regular schedule or as a substitute.
- *Administrative support.* There are a variety of ways you can help get the word out about our services and help keep our operations running smoothly: conducting outreach efforts, working on specific projects, representing us at community events, developing community contacts, distributing brochures, and more.

Contact Bob Burns: (440) 333-6298 or bobb@mealsonwheelsrr.org

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We thank members of our Board for the many hours of effort and thought they volunteer in support of our mission. They are:

Louann Buckley
Bob Burns
Deb Denney
Frank Grey
Mary Haggard
Steve Jurak
Linda Lewis

Andrea Molnar
Ann Rich
Bill Ridmann
Laurie Rokakis
Candace Vincent
Lauren Walsh