

# NEWS WHEELS

FOR FRIENDS OF TORRANCE/LOMITA MEALS ON WHEELS

SUMMER ISSUE 2020

## Covid-19 Edition

### MESSAGE FROM LAURA

MOW Office Manager

Operations at Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels went into a tailspin in early March at the onset of Covid-19. A phone call that we would need to pick up our own meals for the clients turned into untold hours of coordinating to find a vehicle and volunteers to get the food from Los Angeles to Torrance. Oh, and it was effective the next day at 10am! Our wonderful Board, staff, and volunteers stepped up and we had a first day plan. And then we just kept working until we had a well oiled system in place. Our volunteer base dropped by over 50% due to the fact that many of them are seniors with underlying conditions and preferred to follow the guidelines and stay home until a time that it would be safe. We added over 50 new clients in a short span of time which took many office hours to coordinate; and just when we got a little comfortable it switched to only a once per week delivery on Mondays!

Prices changed, hours changed, sanitizing procedures came to light and a whole new Meals on Wheels world happened. Masks, hand washing stations, social distancing, and frozen versus hot food was the new normal. Volunteers, used to being together with one another, were now choosing to go alone resulting in having more to do. We were scrambling trying to constantly get out the most up to date communications of the changes taking place. But the truth is it all worked out, we adjusted our sails, put in the time, and handled our mission of feeding those who need our help in their time of need. This is what makes my heart warm.

—Laura Bohm



Torrance / Lomita  
**MEALS  
ON WHEELS**

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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA  
Instagram: @mealsonwheels\_tl  
Facebook: Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels

When  
you give  
cheerfully  
and accept  
gratefully,  
everyone is  
blessed.

~

Maya Angelou



Thank  
you



from PICKUP...

# OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

## MESSAGE FROM A VOLUNTEER

During the first couple weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic I had the opportunity to volunteer with Meals on Wheels as a distribution center delivery driver. I had always known that Meals on Wheels existed, and I've even had several people in my life that rely on their services. However, to actually be involved in the well-oiled machine that is M.O.W. gave me a real appreciation for what they actually do. My job as a volunteer was to pick up the meals from St. Vincent in Los Angeles and drive them back to Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels where they were distributed to people in need. I didn't know what to expect when I picked up the van and arrived at St. Vincent, and I have to say, I was taken aback.

There were dozens of volunteers driving vans and box trucks up to loading docks. Cart after cart full of prepared meals were being pushed out of the facility and loaded into the vehicles. The coordination and ease at which a truck would arrive, be loaded with meals and sent away was staggering. I felt like a small cog amongst hundreds of cogs all working together to help people in need, and it felt good. I could actually draw a straight line from the work we were all doing together, to people in need being fed. You just can't beat that feeling.

I only had the opportunity to volunteer a few times, but it inspired me to pursue more opportunities to do similar work in my community. There's thousands of people across the country that keep the gears of Meals on Wheels turning, and having the opportunity to be involved, even for a moment, is something I'll value forever.

—Dalton James



... to DELIVERY



# Wellness Support

## COVID-19 INFORMATION HOTLINE

If you have questions about COVID-19 and need assistance finding information, a statewide hotline number is available 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., 7 days a week at

**(833)544-2374**

California Department of Public Health

## THANK YOU! Donors

A special Thank You to all of our supporters who stepped up to help sustain us during this challenging time.

### FOOD

- King's Hawaiian donates rolls weekly!
- Islands restaurant donated hot meals once per week for a month!
- Boys and Girls Club of Harbor City provided 2 weeks of box lunches and milk for our clients.
- Archdiocese of Los Angeles held a food drive and sent us the non-perishable goods for our clients.
- Another generous donation was made to provide milk for our clients.
- For a limited time, to supplement our weekly frozen meals, two restaurants prepared and packaged special hot meals for us: *Brother's Burritos* through a generous donation from Maxwell from eMaximize and Peninsula General Insurance, and *Local Kitchen* through another group of generous donors.

### EXTRAS

- Michele & Bob Long, through Little Sisters Of The Poor, donated toilet paper for all of our clients.
- Facemasks were donated by Janice Hahn, and volunteers Barbara Marriott and Barbara Kiyokane's daughter.
- H.E.L.P. generously provides the van for our weekly food pickup. [Visit their website [www.help4srs.org](http://www.help4srs.org) to see their latest article featuring MOW!]
- Mike Nakawatase, Stu Smith, Toni VanBuskirk and other volunteers donated their time for weekly Monday meal transport and packing. A special thanks goes out to our delivery volunteers for their flexibility and service!

### THANK YOU for your generous donations:

Shirley Bogan, Jennifer Ando, Julie Dojiri, Barbara Kiyokane, Linda Lackey, Robert & Vicki Palomba, Diane Salter, William Ikemoto, Mary Propac, Frank & Marilyn Miles, Huimei Tseng, Yukio Sato, Shohei Oguma, Ayne Baker, Laura & Richard Bohm, Neena Lukmanjee, Kath Wundes

Plus our corporate sponsors: Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund, Bank of America, Facebook COVID fundraiser, OneWest Bank, Charities Aid Foundation America, Knights of Columbus, Las Vecinas Women's Club, Macy's, Palos Verdes Resale, Meals on Wheels of America, Janice Hahn Office



### Torrance/Lomita MEALS ON WHEELS — Our Mission

To deliver nourishing meals to housebound residents who cannot prepare meals for themselves due to illness, disability or poor health.