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## More Than 2,000 Meals on Wheels Champions Across the Country to March for Meals This Week

*Community Champions Week to Raise Awareness of Meals on Wheels Programs Across America and the Seniors They Serve*

**Alexandria, VA, March 17, 2014** – The Meals On Wheels Association of America, the oldest and largest organization composed of and representing local, community-based Senior Nutrition Programs, kicks off [Community Champions Week](#) today as part of the [12<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Meals](#). Over the past month, nearly 350 Meals on Wheels programs across the country have recruited more than 2,000 Members of Congress, mayors, governors, local celebrities and community leaders as champions to help raise awareness for senior hunger.

March for Meals is the community-by-community nationwide celebration of the Meals on Wheels programs that keep our senior neighbors happier, healthier and able to stay independent in their own homes. Community Champions Week occurs during the third week of March and is devoted to building an army of supporters that will enable these programs to serve a nutritious meal, a warm smile and the safety check to even more seniors all year long.

“The month of March mobilizes local Meals on Wheels programs across the country to engage their communities and build the support needed to help boost their capacity and impact,” said Meals On Wheels President and CEO, Ellie Hollander. “Community Champions Week highlights the long-standing, dynamic and effective public-private partnership between Meals on Wheels programs and the businesses, organizations, governments and volunteers who give so generously to their communities.”

Notable Meals on Wheels Community Champions include singer/songwriter Huey Lewis, famed racecar driver Mario Andretti and Miss America 2014 winner Nina Davuluri. The event has also enlisted more than 430 mayors and 130 Members of Congress who believe Meals on Wheels has the power to alleviate senior hunger, enable independence and reduce health care costs to keep our country’s fiscal future on the right track. Community Champions Week activities range from ride-along meal deliveries, town council proclamations and fundraising events. A full list of participating Meals on Wheels programs can be found at [mowaa.org/marchformeals-celebrations](http://mowaa.org/marchformeals-celebrations).

As part of Community Champions Week, the Meals On Wheels Association of America has also released all-new [State-by-State Senior Hunger Fact Sheets](#). The Association designed these fact sheets to be comprehensive resources that capture the number of hungry seniors in each state, the number of meals and seniors served, and to showcase that investing in these programs saves taxpayer dollars.

Sponsored nationally by [Subaru of America, Inc.](#) and [Caesars Foundation](#), the 12th annual March for Meals

campaign is an effort led by the Meals On Wheels Association of America to present opportunities for volunteers, businesses and governments to support seniors in a variety of ways that make communities stronger, safer and healthier. For more information, visit [marchformeals.com](http://marchformeals.com).

**About Meals On Wheels Association of America**

*The Meals On Wheels Association of America is the only national organization and network dedicated solely to ending senior hunger in America. The Association is the oldest and largest organization composed of and representing local, community-based Senior Nutrition Programs in all 50 states as well as the U.S. territories. More than 5,000 local Meals on Wheels Programs leverage a dedicated army of two million volunteers who day-in and day-out create an efficient and caring way to help America's seniors stay independent, healthy and able to live in their own homes. For more information, or to locate a local Meals on Wheels program, visit [mowaa.org](http://mowaa.org).*