

Leanne Ely Steps Up as Meals On Wheels Association of America Champion

New York Times best-selling cookbook author and nutritionist to raise national awareness and funding to combat senior hunger

Alexandria, VA, May 9, 2014 – The Meals On Wheels Association of America today announces that *New York Times* best-selling cookbook author and nutritionist Leanne Ely has been named a champion for the oldest and largest national organization and network dedicated solely to ending senior hunger in America.

“We’re thrilled to have Leanne join the Meals On Wheels family as she has witnessed the power of our ‘more than a meal’ model in her hometown of Charlotte, NC for many years,” said Meals On Wheels President and CEO, Ellie Hollander. “As an ambassador for our mission, she will be able to communicate the needs of our seniors and the importance of our services to more people around the country who can truly help us do more.”

Ely’s syndicated food column appears in more than 250 newspapers in the U.S. and Canada, and she is founder of SavingDinner.com, the popular online menu-planning tool that assists family cooks in planning and preparing home-cooked meals. Ely also serves on the board of directors of Friendship Trays, the local Meals on Wheels provider in Charlotte, NC, and has been an active volunteer for many years.

“Millions of seniors in America don’t know where their next meal is coming from,” said Ely. “I’m very happy to be a champion for this devoted organization in an effort to raise awareness about not only this national crisis, but also the solution. Meals on Wheels programs have the infrastructure in place, but they need the resources to meet the demand.”

Ely will further carry the Meals on Wheels message when she embarks on a nationwide 20-city bus tour as part of the “Take Back the Dinner Table” initiative – a charitable campaign aimed at getting one million families back to the dinner table and eating healthy, wholesome meals. A documentary film production crew will follow the tour and capture Ely’s interaction with Meals on Wheels programs across the country. Shooting is set to begin in fall 2014.

About Leanne Ely

Leanne Ely is a New York Times best-selling cookbook author and is founder of the popular Saving Dinner web site (www.savingdinner.com) offering menu planning and other services. She is an acclaimed nutritionist widely regarded as the leading industry expert in family meal preparation (according to Woman’s Day magazine, Leanne is “the expert on family cooking”). Her syndicated newspaper column appears in 250+ newspapers in the U.S. and Canada. In 2014, Ely is launching a national “Take Back the Dinner Table” campaign and bus tour to bring one million families back to the dinner table.

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 and 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.