



**A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MARCH 2024 AS THE
22nd ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH**

WHEREAS, on March 22, 1972, President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include a national nutrition program for individuals 60 years and older.

WHEREAS, for more than five decades, this landmark law has helped to fund community-based organizations – like Meals on Wheels – and it is still the only federal program designed specifically to meet the nutritional and social needs of older adults.

WHEREAS, this year, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining together for the March for Meals awareness campaign to celebrate its success and garner the support needed to ensure these critical programs can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence and improve health for years to come.

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Western Michigan– both congregate and home-delivered, in Kent and Allegan Counties have served our communities admirably for 40 years and

WHEREAS, volunteers for Meals on Wheels Western Michigan are the backbone of the program and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also caring concern and attention to their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Western Michigan provide nutritious meals to seniors throughout Kent and Allegan Counties that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby helping to prevent unnecessary falls, hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Western Michigan provide a powerful opportunity for social connection for thousands of seniors to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels Western Michigan deserve recognition for the heroic contributions and essential services they have provided amid the COVID-19 pandemic, inclement weather and other emergencies.

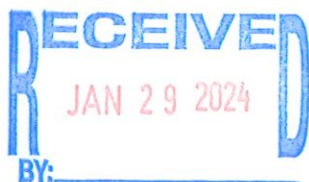
WHEREAS, the senior population is increasing substantially, and action is needed now to support local Meals on Wheels programs through federal, state and local funding; volunteering; donations; and raising awareness to ensure these vital services can continue to be delivered for years to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I [INSERT NAME], as [insert Title] of [insert City/State] do hereby proclaim March 2024 as a month celebrating Meals on Wheels and urge every community member to take this month to honor our senior nutrition programs, the individuals they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national March for Meals celebration can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

Dated this eighteenth day of March, 2024



[Insert Title]



January 18, 2024

Mayor Jerome Donovan
PO Box 757 86 W Center St.
Douglas MI 49406-0757

Dear Mayor,

I am writing on behalf of Meals on Wheels Western Michigan and the 6,000+ seniors we serve in Kent and Allegan Counties to invite you to participate in our March for Meals celebration honoring the **Older Americans Act Nutrition Program**; the federal legislation that helps to fund community-based programs like Meals on Wheels. Throughout the month of March, Meals on Wheels Western Michigan will join the national Meals on Wheels network to rally support for this vital public-private partnership that provides millions of seniors with essential services that help them remain healthier and independent at home.

In your district, we provide older adults with quality nutrition services. As the Mayor of Douglas, you are in an important position to help raise awareness for the growing number of older Americans facing hunger and isolation, both serious problems that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and historic food, fuel and labor costs.

The annual March for Meals celebration commemorates the historic day in March of 1972 when President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. This year, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining forces to raise awareness and support to ensure they can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation, enable independence and improve health for years to come. For more information, please visit www.marchformeals.com.

We would be honored if you could participate in this year's event by making an official proclamation (see attached) at our press event on Monday, March 18th at our Meals on Wheels Western Michigan headquarters. During the week of March 18th - 22nd, we would also invite you to join us in delivering meals, stopping by our senior pantry, or joining us at one of our community dining sites. In doing so, you can support your constituents in our community, and help Meals on Wheels Western Michigan gain much-needed visibility for this cause and successful public-private partnership.

If you are interested in joining us on March 18th and witnessing the daily impact of this federally supported program on your senior constituents, please contact us at your earliest convenience. I would be delighted to answer any questions that you may have and can be reached at 616.459.3111 x148 or lduvernois@mowwm.org. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Laci Duvernois

Laci Duvernois
Community Engagement Coordinator
Meals on Wheels Western Michigan