

Books on Wheels

In 2023, Fresh Meals On Wheels (FMOW) began an impactful partnership with the Mead Public Library to bring the joy of reading directly to the homes of meal recipients. This program was created by Mead Public Library for those with significant short- or long-term barriers that prevent them from visiting the library, ensuring that a love for books could still flourish despite physical limitations. FMOW Sheboygan residents automatically qualify for this home delivery service.

"This program has allowed us to connect with people who may have struggled getting to the library otherwise," said Corrina, a librarian at the Mead Public Library. "It's a way to extend our reach and ensure everyone in our community has access to the library."

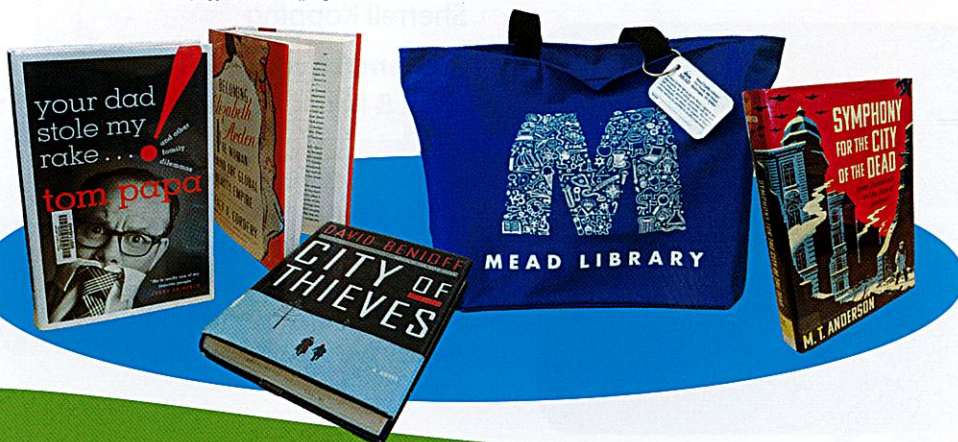
One such example came when the library received a handwritten letter from a client expressing her gratitude for the program. The woman, who could no longer visit the library, was deeply moved by the opportunity to begin reading again and thanked the library for making it possible for her to continue enjoying books despite her circumstances.

The delivery process is simple. The library drops off the requested books at the FMOW office, then FMOW sends the books out with the regular meal delivery. Once someone has finished reading, FMOW volunteers collect the books during their next meal delivery and the library volunteers pick up the returned books from the FMOW office.

This partnership is a testament to how collaboration between community organizations can bring meaningful services to those in need.



MEAD
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Baked with Love

Every day volunteers are greeted with cookies as a way to say thank you and meal recipients often gush about the sweet treats in their meals. This holiday season, Fresh Meals On Wheels bakers, Laurie and Mike were tasked with baking holiday cookies for each meal recipient.

For many meal recipients who may no longer bake their own holiday treats or have someone to make cookies with them, this thoughtful gesture is especially meaningful. "It's a nice, special treat for them and it's an easy way for us to show we care," Laurie said.

The delectable boxes included cookies such as peanut butter blossoms, molasses, cinnamon crackles, chocolate truffle tarts, date pinwheels, cherry chews and holiday cutouts. Each of the 350 cookie boxes were lovingly assembled by 50 kind-hearted volunteers from Sargento at FMOW.

"This would not have been possible without their help. We hope that this tasty and beautiful treat brought holiday cheer," said Laurie.



If you would like to sign up or get involved with home delivered library materials, please contact Corrina at Mead Public Library, 920-459-3400, ext. 2013, or email meadcirc@monarchlibraries.org.