

Local Mayors Serve a Warm Meal with a Smile

On Wednesday, May 20, Valley mayors served their morning delivering meals to clients of TEAM's Home Delivered Meals Program. Ansonia Mayor James DellaVolpe, Derby Mayor Anthony Staffieri and Shelton Mayor Mark Lauretti have joined hundreds of mayors throughout the country participating in national *Mayors for Meals Day*. *Mayors for Meals Day* aims to raise awareness about senior hunger and show support for the senior nutrition programs that deliver meals daily to older adults and those homebound and unable to prepare meals for themselves.



Ansonia Mayor James DellaVolpe

"We are excited about having our elected officials support our activities on behalf of seniors in this way. We hope to raise awareness of senior hunger in our communities with their help. Our Mayors have been consistently supportive of our senior meals program, and Mayors for Meals is an excellent opportunity for us to continue that partnership on behalf of vulnerable seniors in our community," states Richard Knoll, TEAM President/CEO.

TEAM's Valley Meals on Wheels program serves over 64,000 hot nutritious weekday meals to over 500 seniors annually. Approximately 243 meals are delivered daily.



Derby Mayor Anthony Staffieri

Derby Mayor Anthony Staffieri stated, "Meals on Wheels is the largest and oldest agency in the United States that provides nourishment to those in need. Not only does it help bring nutritional, essential meals to those most in need, but it affords many people the opportunity to be self-sufficient in their own dwelling." He further states, "I have a great deal of respect for TEAM and the care and dedication they show to our elderly and others, they deserve our gratitude and thanks."

"Participating in the Mayors for Meals Day was very rewarding and heart warming" states Ansonia Mayor James DellaVolpe. "For many of the elderly the Meals on Wheels driver is the only contact they have during that day, it was my honor to join in with my colleagues to support the Valley Meals on Wheels program".

Shelton Mayor Mark Lauretti commented, "That it is rewarding knowing that programs like TEAM's Valley Meals on Wheels program are taking care of the frail homebound seniors in our community. You can see from the smile on the faces of those served they appreciate what they are doing."



Shelton Mayor Mark Lauretti

"This is our first year participating in the Mayors for Meals day campaign and we are pleased the Mayors and Selectman agreed to participate. This collaboration of the Mayors is significant because it demonstrates, first hand, with leaders in our communities, just how necessary support becomes to seniors living at home. Meals-on-Wheels serves seniors who would be completely isolated without the program, as well as individuals who may receive help from family and friends but need more assistance", states Diane Stroman, TEAM Vice President of Development. She further states, "We hope to raise public awareness of this essential program and encourage citizens of the Valley to become involved through financial support or volunteering. Community support is vital to help meet the needs of older citizens throughout our Valley."



Oxford First Selectman Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers

Oxford First Selectman Mary Ann Drayton-Rogers participated with her fellow officials on Wednesday, May 27 delivering meals to the residents of Oxford.

The Meals on Wheels Program is funded by the Older Americans Act Title IIIIC through the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut, Hewitt Foundation, Lane Trust and the Valley United Way.