

Community Meals, Inc.
President's Report – 2017
January 11, 2018

Community Meals, Inc. (CMI) has successfully continued to fulfill its mission to provide nutritious meals to individuals who live in the seven towns we serve who are unable to shop or cook for themselves due to age or disability. In 2017, our dedicated volunteers delivered 24,831 meals over 250 days. As of December, 2017 we serve 87 clients weekly. Our fully subsidized applicants, those that pay nothing for their meals continue to exhibit very significant financial needs and we expect this trend to continue. CMI's client count and number of meals delivered continues to increase every year, however this year we had a significant increase in the amount of subsidized meals. Our financial status and our strong donor support allow us to continue to meet our ongoing mission and goal to never turn away a client for financial reasons.

CMI had a very successful year of fundraising and we are grateful for all our donor support that made it possible to raise an impressive total of \$67,294 in 2017. Our success was made possible by our loyal donors, fundraising efforts by board members and applying for new grant opportunities that have been very generous to CMI. With an increase in the percent of subsidized meals delivered in 2017 (from 36% in 2016 to 39% of total meals in 2017), the organization will need to continue its diligent fundraising. We greatly appreciate each and every donor, regardless of the size of their gift, for giving Community Meals the means to continue our valuable mission.

As fundraising is necessary to CMI's mission, equally important factors allowing us to carry out our mission are our wonderful volunteers and our extremely hard-working staff. Our organization exists only by virtue of the work of our enthusiastic volunteers and our dedicated executive staff, Penny Schildkraut and Karen Hoy. As of April, Penny became the Executive Director and Karen took on the position of Associate Director. They both keep our operation running smoothly, handling any concern that may occur with a client, meal delivery or any other issue that may surface. They are always one step ahead, handling all these matters with patience, skill and kindness. Our volunteers, as always, are loyal, dependable individuals who not only deliver good meals to our clients but also a kind word and a smile to brighten their day. I am so thankful for all of our volunteers and I appreciate all that they do for CMI. It takes all of us to make the organization function as successfully as it does.

In 2017, we applied for many grant opportunities from foundations that supported us in the past. We also continue to research new grant opportunities and make funding requests to these new organizations. This year was a disappointing year since many of these newer grant requests did not yield a donation to CMI. We understand that the grantors evaluate all their grant applications and distribute their finite resources among so many worthy organizations. We did receive support from many of our loyal grantors and I am very grateful for that. We will continue to nurture these relationships and continue to seek new support opportunities in 2018. I want to thank all of the foundations and organizations that donated to us in 2017 and those that donated in past years; we are grateful for your support.

With the commitment of 12 area restaurants in the towns that we serve, we held our 8th annual restaurant fundraiser, Meals That Matter on June 8. This event raised an impressive \$4,203. Many thanks to all the restaurants that participated and patrons that made this event such a success.

Our holiday campaign this year was “Be Kind this Holiday Season”. “Be Kind” gave people the opportunity to make donations in honor of or in memory of a loved one or just make a donation instead of giving a gift during the holiday season. Many of our donors love that this was “the gift you did not need to gift wrap”. “Be Kind” campaign to date has raised \$11,565.

We continue to supply our clients with Blizzard Bags so they have food available in the event we must cancel our meal service due to inclement weather. These emergency food bags were delivered to our clients in mid-November at no cost to them and are delivered to all new clients who sign up this winter season so they are prepared in the event of a meal cancelation. We have been lucky so far this winter season with only one snow day January 4, but as we all know, that can change and we want to make sure our clients are taken care of.

CMI is still broadcasting our mission via Facebook, Constant Contact, our website and printed material. Our dedicated board members will continue to develop ways to get our message out so we are helping everyone who is truly in need of our service. We also participate in volunteer fairs that not only recruit volunteers but also make people aware of the service that we offer. Continuing to contact new potential donors will be a priority as our clients continue to increase and we want to keep our service affordable to everyone.

As of the January, 2018 board meeting I will have completed my six-year term restriction and will be stepping down from serving on the Board of Directors. To the members that are also leaving the board after serving their six-year terms, all of your time and contributions were sincerely appreciated. I would like to thank all the Board Members and our Executive Director and Associate Director for their contributions to the organizations success in 2017. I extend a warm welcome to all our new board members; I know you will all be an asset to the organization. Serving on the board has really made me aware of all the people that give their time to help others in need. They are truly wonderful individuals that make a difference in so many lives. I wish you all much success in the years to come and it has been an honor and a privilege to work with all of you and serve on the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,
Kim Mount