



February 28, 2022

Friends Foundation for Aging
Susan W. Hoskins, Executive Director
Sent Via Email: shoskins@friendsfoundationaging.org

Dear Ms. Hoskins,

The last two years has tested Meals on Wheels of Mercer County (MOWMC) in ways that I could not fathom, let alone believe that we would come out being a stronger and more resilient organization! Throughout the pandemic we had numerous obstacles such as food shortages and loss of volunteers, but thankfully the community rallied around us, and we were able to **serve over 24% more meals to homebound and socially isolated seniors.**

Since 1973 Meals on Wheels of Mercer County has steadfastly focused on our mission: to be a premier, comprehensive nutrition program committed to providing nutritious meals and related services designed to promote the independence, dignity, health and well-being of our homebound participants, even if they are unable to contribute to the cost of their meal.

We would like to **request \$51,000 for our Farm Fresh Produce Program** to support the cost of providing local, fresh, fruits and vegetables to homebound Mercer County seniors who are living at or below the federal poverty level and live in a food desert where it is hard to receive fresh produce. With this gift, Meals on Wheels of Mercer County will be able to provide 250 seniors a bag of produce twice a month for 6 months.

As one can imagine, food brings people together, but it can also be a barrier to service. Meals on Wheels of Mercer County is partnering with Snipes Farm and Education Center to provide the bags of produce while we deliver to the most vulnerable seniors. Snipes Farm is located in Morrisville, Pennsylvania (right across the bridge) and they believe in giving back to the community to ensure that they are doing their part to eliminate hunger. They currently have a partnership with Bucks County where they provide low income seniors with fresh produce. So we already know they can deliver the bags as we deliver the food for the Farm Fresh Produce Program.

With most of our seniors unable to get to the store and buy fresh items, your gift goes directly to cover the cost of their weekly bags of produce. Our participants have limited to no mobility, suffer from multiple chronic conditions, are reliant on numerous daily medications, and strive to resolve the ongoing dilemma between eating or filling their prescriptions. They desperately need live, human check-ins, nutrition, and companionship which is why a **grant of \$51,000 from The Friends Foundation for Aging is so important to the lives of Mercer County Seniors.**

Senior hunger does not take time off, and it also does not have an end date. We are pleased to continue to flex and respond to our community's crisis; to continue to supply essential meals and interaction to all those who need it in our community. We thank you for reviewing our request for 2022 funding, and are grateful for your consideration.

Sincerely

yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sasa Olessi Montañó'.

Sasa Olessi Montañó
Chief Executive Officer

ASSISTING PARTICIPANTS IN MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE, DIGNITY, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
BY PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION SERVICES AND HELPING EASE SOCIAL ISOLATION.

320 Hollowbrook Drive, Ewing, N.J. 08638-208 | ph: 609-695-3483
info@mealsonwheelsmercer.org | www.mealsonwheelsmercer.org