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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOND COUNTY SENIOR CENTER TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONWIDE 2016 MARCH FOR MEALS

SUPPORT WILL HELP TO FIGHT SENIOR ISOLATION AND HUNGER IN BOND COUNTY

Bond County Senior Center announced today that it will be participating in the [14th annual March for Meals](#) – a month-long, nationwide celebration of Meal on Wheels and the homebound and vulnerable seniors who rely on its vital safety net. Bond County Senior Center’s March for Meals celebration will include having “community champions” deliver meals and encourage donations to the meals on wheels program during community champion’s week (March 20-25) and the following week in March.

“The services that we provide the seniors of Bond County are critical and the need is rapidly increasing,” said Anna Oestreich, Executive Director of Bond County Senior Center. “Together, we can keep seniors living independently, healthier at home and feeling more connected to their community as they age.”

Since 2002, [Meals on Wheels America](#) has led the annual awareness campaign in an effort to fill the gap between the seniors served and those in need that is widening due to increased demand with a rapidly aging population combined with declining public and private resources, and rising food, transportation and operational costs. This March, hundreds of local Meals on Wheels programs, like Bond County Senior Center, will reach out to their communities to build the support that will enable them to deliver nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks to America’s seniors all year long.

“The Meals on Wheels ‘more than just a meal’ model addresses three of the biggest threats of aging: isolation, hunger and loss of independence,” said Meals on Wheels America President and CEO Ellie Hollander. “More than ever, we must join forces to meet the needs of the fastest growing population in America who want to be able to live at home for as long as they can. It not only makes economic sense to enable seniors to stay healthy and safe at home, but it improves the health and vibrancy of our communities and our nation at large.”

For more information on how you can volunteer, contribute or speak out for the seniors in Bond County and across the country, visit www.marchformeals.com.

Bond County Senior Center serves about 600 home delivered meals each month to homebound older adults. Many people are aware that this has been a very difficult year for us as a result of having no state budget in Illinois. Our meals on wheels program has been under a mandated

waiting list for the first time in our history. We also experienced a limit on the number of meals that could be delivered weekly. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we have received donations that allowed us to temporarily fill the gap. The longer Illinois goes without a budget, the more our nutrition programs are jeopardized. All of the donations raised during the March for Meals effort go directly to our Bond County Meals on Wheels program. In addition, we may receive an additional grant from Meals on Wheels America through the March for Meals campaign. We would like our friends and neighbors to share information about the importance of this program wherever they can, including on social media.

About Meals on Wheels America

Meals on Wheels America is the oldest and largest national organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based senior nutrition programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior hunger and isolation. This network exists in virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million volunteers, delivers the nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that enable America's seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity. By providing funding, leadership, research, education and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time. For more information, or to find a Meals on Wheels provider near you, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org.