



**BOND COUNTY
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Bond County Receives Grant for Participation in Meals on Wheels America's 2015 March for Meals

*Funding for the 13th Annual Awareness Campaign Made Possible by Subaru of
America, Inc.'s "Share the Love" Event*

June 10, 2015 – Bond County Senior Center is proud to announce that it has received a \$1750.00 grant from Meals on Wheels America for its participation in the 13th Annual March for Meals campaign. This year's grants were made possible through the generosity of Subaru of America, Inc. and its seventh annual "Share the Love" event. During the event, Subaru donated \$250 to the owner's choice of participating charities for every new vehicle purchased or leased.

According to Anna Oestreich, Center Director, "Throughout the month of March, the senior center recruited several Community Champions that helped to promote Meals on Wheels by actually delivering meals to Bond County residents, promoting the program on social media, and helping with fundraising. Becky Blackburn, Darryl Bolen, Alan Gaffner, John Goldsmith, Bill Knuf, Lou Lorton, and Wes Pourchot were the community champions. Fundraising activities were conducted that raised approximately \$500." Meals on Wheels America made grants to 258 local programs, "We are grateful to be one of them". The entire grant, as well as the local funds raised, will be used directly to support the meals on wheels program in Bond County. "This comes at a critical time for our program", said Oestreich. "For the first time since I have been Executive Director, we have been forced to implement a waiting list for home delivered meals." This is a result of several factors. Older Americans Act funding is not keeping up with the growth of the 60+ population. Funding through Illinois is in jeopardy as our leaders struggle to arrive at an acceptable budget; we have been told to anticipate a 10% reduction in state funding. Local donations are declining, as are the numbers of volunteers so critical to the delivery of meals on wheels. Oestreich added that all of the funding provided by the county goes to support the senior nutrition programs.

July marks the 39th anniversary of Bond County Senior Center. The community based services provided through the center come at a fraction of the cost of institutional care. "Our 39 years of service provided with compassion have enabled thousands of Bond County residents to remain independent in their own homes. The construction of the

Frank and Susan Watson Community Building addition enhances our ability to provide services, with strong support from our seniors themselves, our community, our lawmakers, and organizations like Meals on Wheels America.”

Individuals with questions about services provided by Bond County Senior Center, to donate, to volunteer should contact the Center at 618-664-1465.

The March for Meals grant program is our way of recognizing local programs for bolstering the dynamic and effective partnership between Meals on Wheels and the businesses, organizations, governments and volunteers who provide critical support within their communities,” said Meals on Wheels America President and CEO Ellie Hollander. “In addition to mobilizing nearly 400 local Meals on Wheels celebrations across the country, we commemorated the month by releasing the findings of a [groundbreaking research study](#) proving that Meals on Wheels delivers so much more than just a meal.”

The annual March for Meals campaign is an effort led by Meals on Wheels America to present opportunities for volunteers, businesses and governments to support seniors in a variety of ways that make communities stronger, safer and healthier. For more information, visit marchformeals.com.

About Meals on Wheels America (formerly Meals On Wheels Association of America)

Meals on Wheels America is the oldest and largest national organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. This network exists in virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million staff and 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, education, research 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.