



Summer 2010

Dear Meals on Wheels Supporter:

You may have seen on the news lately that many municipalities are postponing much-needed and long-awaited projects as the economic downturn continues. **Road repairs** are some of the most commonly delayed municipal projects – rather unfortunate for those of us who commute and travel on our local roads.

The result? **Bumpy roads!**

Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon and our volunteer drivers are familiar with some of Hunterdon County's most challenging roads – bumpy, winding, hilly, or just plain *long*. We've traveled them all, regardless of their state of repair. The agency's mission has been challenged of late because of some 'bumpy roads' of our own. We've even met some outright 'road blocks.' We continue to see a drop in funding and private donations; it's a 'ripple effect' of the current economic environment. The biggest problem with this – in our minds – is that no matter how bumpy the road, we must still travel it and deliver to the 225 recipients who depend on us for their daily meals. Everyone must eat; many families who live far away also depend on Meals on Wheels to check in daily to ensure their family member is healthy, nourished and secure.

What to do? What we've always done.....turn again to the community that has supported us since 1973. We depend on our donors to help fill the gap between the average donation for a meal (\$3.80) and what the meal costs from the caterer (\$5.10 - food cost only) - that number does not include rent, insurance, salaries, equipment, etc.

Recently in our annual newsletter 'Food for Thought,' we discussed the reality of *food insecurity*, how it is growing, and that it doesn't depend on income or ZIP code. It exists in many American communities and Hunterdon County is no exception. So, while our 'roads' are in bad repair, that will never take away the fact that they need to be maintained if we are to protect our frail elderly neighbors from hunger.

Please renew your commitment. It has already made a difference in many lives – Hunterdon County is fortunate to have so many residents who understand the connection between their support of the community and the quality of the life we enjoy here.

Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon maintains a deep commitment to continuing to support our community by serving the frail elderly and homebound, and we are hopeful you can maintain your commitment to help us as well. Thank you again for your constant belief in us by supporting our mission.

Yours truly,

Monica Strenk, Executive Director