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Winter Season Leaves Visiting Nurse Meals On Wheels in Need of Volunteers

Rochester, NY – Visiting Nurse Meals On Wheels (MOW) – delivering hot meals one smile at a time for more than 50 years – has reported a low volunteer count for November and December that is expected to hold steady until March. MOW serves Monroe County’s homebound, elderly, disabled and ill through a dedicated volunteer force that make this community program possible.

While the funding to sustain the third oldest meal delivery program in the country is made possible by generous donors, funders, and community support, volunteers play an integral part by ensuring independence and peace of mind for program participants and their loved ones, nourishing the health and spirit of thousands in need.

“Our dedicated volunteer base shrinks during the winter months,” said Kimberly Stubbe, Manager for MOW Volunteer Services. “The demand for seasonal substitutes increases greatly during the winter as some of our regular volunteer force goes south and others limit their driving. It’s important that our clients receive not only their meals when the temperatures drop but also that important safety check volunteers provide, making sure our clients are doing well.”

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About Meals On Wheels

VNS established the Meals On Wheels program, the third oldest in the United States, in 1958 and has since served nearly 10 million meals throughout Monroe County. In collaboration with the American Red Cross, Greater Rochester Chapter, MOW ensures that more than 2,000 individuals receive 350,000 meals per year. The program is ranked among the top 2 per cent of programs in the U.S., accredited by the Meals On Wheels Association of America. Not just a meal delivery service, the program has evolved into a complete nutrition resource for the community, expanding its reach through innovative programs and partnerships with other community service organizations. For more information on receiving meals, please call 585-787-8397; to volunteer, please call 585-787-TEAM (8326) or visit www.vnsnet.com.

Visiting Nurse Service of Rochester and Monroe County, Inc. (VNS) is a non-profit, Medicare-certified home health care and hospice agency. Licensed by the State of New York, the agency has provided quality care since 1919. As one of the largest full-service home health and hospice providers in the Rochester area, VNS conducts more than 600,000 visits to 13,000 patients annually. VNS is a member of the Home Care Association of New York State, Inc., and the National Association for Home Care. For more information, please call 585-787-2233 or visit www.vnsnet.com.

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