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## SENIOR SERVICES OF ALEXANDRIA RECEIVES \$1,000 FOR PARTICIPATION IN MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA'S 2016 MARCH FOR MEALS

*Funding for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Awareness Campaign Made Possible by Subaru's Share the Love Event*

**Alexandria, VA, July 8, 2016** – Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) is proud to announce that it has received a \$1,000 grant award from Meals on Wheels America for its participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Meals campaign. This past March was Senior Services' 7<sup>th</sup> year participating in the national Meals on Wheels awareness campaign designed to celebrate the proven collaboration of local community organizations, businesses, all levels of government and compassionate individuals to ensure that our seniors are not forgotten.

"The March for Meals Campaign is a great way bring attention to senior hunger, said Mary Lee Anderson, Executive Director for Senior Services. SSA thanks the Alexandria community for its support during the month of March volunteering to deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors."

Throughout the month of March, SSA raised awareness around senior hunger partnering with public and private groups including Congressman Don Beyer; Alexandria's Mayor Allison Silberberg and members of the City Council; members of the City's Commission on Aging; representatives from the Police, Sheriff and Fire Departments as well as Meals on Wheels America. These groups took time to deliver meals on wheels to homebound seniors. Other outreach included articles and information in the local newspaper, *The Alexandria Gazette* as well local online media outlets. Alexandria City proclaimed the month of March as "March for Meals" in a proclamation read by the Mayor at a City Council Meeting.

Nearly \$400,000 has been granted to 265 local Meals on Wheels programs and one Meals on Wheels America-affiliated State Association based on their March for Meals efforts. This year's grants were made possible through the generosity of Subaru of America, Inc. and its eighth annual [Share the Love Event](#). During the event held from November 19, 2015 through January 2, 2016, \$250 was donated to a customer's choice of a national or hometown charity for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased. Meals on Wheels America has been a participating national charity since the event's inception in 2008.

"The March for Meals grant program is our way of recognizing Meals on Wheels America Members for their efforts to raise awareness and much-needed support for the critical service they provide their communities," said Meals on Wheels America President and CEO Ellie Hollander. "Together, we can change the way this country cares for its seniors."

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](http://marchformeals.com).

### **About Senior Services of Alexandria**

Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) is a nonprofit organization that has as its mission, “to foster independence and self-sufficiency, enabling seniors within the City of Alexandria to age with dignity.” SSA operates the Meals on Wheels delivery program and DOT transportation reservations for the City, presents educational programs through various events, a speaker series and a monthly cable television production, *Senior Living in Alexandria*. SSA and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria operate the Animeals on Wheels program, providing food for pets of low-income seniors. SSA’s Friendly Visitor Program matches volunteers with seniors for weekly visits, enhancing connections to the community. SSA also operates a *Groceries to Go* Program for seniors who have difficulty shopping.

### **About Meals on Wheels 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](http://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org).