FRESH MEALS ON WHEELS ANNOUNCES CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK

SHEBOYGAN, WI (March 12, 2020) -- In an effort to provide the safest and best possible service to Sheboygan County’s frailest neighbors, Fresh Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County (FMOW) has put together a plan to manage the unprecedented potential impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

“While we continue to closely monitor international and local news, as well as available resources from the experts in disease control, we are also proactively planning on how we will continue to feed those in need,” said Kelly Anderson, Fresh Meals On Wheels CEO.

Older adults face higher risks of contracting COVID-19 and/or experiencing serious complications and death, particularly if they also have chronic medical conditions. While there are often additional prevention and treatment recommendations for such individuals, that currently is not the case for COVID-19. At this time, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone, regardless of age, take the same precautions to avoid illness including stocking up on supplies, staying home as much as possible and being diligent about washing hands throughout the day.

At FMOW, all non-essential group volunteer projects have been suspended, delivery bags and baskets as well as surfaces throughout the building are being regularly disinfected, and sanitizing stations have been put in place throughout the building. Volunteers who have traveled to areas with high contagion-risks and/or cruise ships are required to wait 14 days before delivering meals. Staff and volunteers are to remain home if they show signs of fever, cough or sore throat.

FMOW plans for a reduction in volunteers and staff and has begun preparing and freezing additional meals. “If necessary, we will deliver two weeks worth of meals at one time to meal
recipients,” explained Anderson. To cover the daily safety check, FMOW is arranging for volunteers and staff to make daily phone calls to those receiving frozen meals to make sure all is well in their homes.

Support from the community would be greatly appreciated to cover the cost of the additional food and supplies needed to safely provide extra meals to current clients and to feed those additional people in need of home delivered meals who may not be able to afford them.

For more information, or to make a donation, call Fresh Meals On Wheels at 920-451-7011 or visit FreshMealsOnWheels.org.

**About Fresh Meals On Wheels**

Fresh Meals On Wheels of Sheboygan County provides fresh, nutritious, home-delivered meals to elderly, disabled, and home-bound Sheboygan County residents. Meals are made daily in Meals On Wheels’ Christopher Family Kitchen using fresh, local ingredients grown in the Meals On Wheels gardens, or donated by local farmers and gardeners. Each day, volunteers deliver more than a meal; they provide a wellness check and social interaction for over 300 people. Meals On Wheels continually works to find new ways to improve clients’ health and well-being through partnerships with local healthcare, academic and service organizations. Meals On Wheels is *Driving Wellness Home* in Sheboygan County.