



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Josh Newby  
Marketing Communications Director  
Phone: 850-432-1475 ext 130 Cell: 850-292-8846  
Email: [jnewby@coawfla.org](mailto:jnewby@coawfla.org) Website: [www.coawfla.org](http://www.coawfla.org)

## **Council on Aging of West Florida joins Meals on Wheels programs across the country in 15<sup>th</sup> annual March for Meals celebration**

PENSACOLA, Fla. (February 28, 2017) – Council on Aging of West Florida will be participating in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual March for Meals – a month-long, nationwide celebration of Meals on Wheels and the homebound and vulnerable seniors who rely on its vital safety net. Council on Aging’s March for Meals celebration will include meal routes with Pensacola dignitaries, partnerships with local restaurants and client testimonials.

“The services that we provide the seniors of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties are critical and the need is rapidly increasing,” said John Clark, President and CEO of Council on Aging. “Together, with help from volunteers, donors, and those who raise awareness about this service, we can keep seniors living independently, healthier at home and feeling more connected to their community as they age.”

Since 2002, Meals on Wheels America has led the annual awareness campaign in an effort to fill the gap between the seniors served and those in need that is widening due to increased demand with a rapidly aging population combined with declining public and private resources, and rising food, transportation and operational costs. This March, hundreds of local Meals on Wheels programs, like Council on Aging’s, will reach out to their communities to build the support that will enable them to deliver nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks to America’s seniors all year long. In our area, Council on Aging provides almost 500 aging adults with nearly 130,000 meals each and every year.

“March is a time for us all to rally around Meals on Wheels,” said Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America. “Our ability to meet the needs of vulnerable seniors lies in the willingness and generosity of businesses, government and concerned individuals of all ages to contribute in their own way. It not only makes economic sense to enable seniors to stay healthy and safe at home, but it improves the health and vibrancy of our communities and our nation at large.”

“It has helped me a lot,” said Mamie Powe, a local participant in the program. “I’m so glad I was told about the program. I really look forward to the food. More people should know about it.”

For more information on how you can volunteer, contribute or speak out for the seniors in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties and across the country, visit [coawfla.org](http://coawfla.org). For more information on March for Meals, visit [marchformeals.com](http://marchformeals.com).

###

### **About Council on Aging:**

*Council on Aging of West Florida is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that has served seniors and their families since 1972. Council on Aging of West Florida helps seniors in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties live healthy, safe and independent lives in their own familiar surroundings by providing community-based, in-home programs and services such as Meals on Wheels and Alzheimer's respite care.*

### **About Meals on Wheels America**

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

###

### **Josh Newby**

#### **Marketing Communications Director, Council on Aging of West Florida**

Editor-in-Chief, *Coming of Age Magazine* - Executive Producer/Host, *Coming of Age TV*

[www.coawfla.org](http://www.coawfla.org) [www.facebook.com/coawfla](http://www.facebook.com/coawfla) [www.twitter.com/coawfla](http://www.twitter.com/coawfla) [www.youtube.com/coawfla](http://www.youtube.com/coawfla)

[a](mailto:jnewby@coawfla.org)

875 Royce Street, Pensacola, FL 32503 Main: (850) 432-1475 Direct: (850) 266-2507 Cell: (850) 292-8846 Fax: (850) 479-7986

**Home of our adult day health care center:**



Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may include information that is legally privileged. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy copies of the original message.