

2024-25

ANNUAL REPORT



MEALS
on WHEELS
SOLANO COUNTY



Delivering more than a meal, **together.**

This report shows the collective impact our donors, partners, volunteers, and staff delivered to seniors in Solano County during the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.



MEALS on WHEELS
SOLANO COUNTY

Our Mission

To support the independence, health, and well-being of seniors by regularly providing nutritious meals and human connection.

Our Vision

A Solano County where no senior goes hungry or forgotten.

Our History

For nearly 50 years, Meals on Wheels Solano County has delivered nutritious meals and wraparound services so that older adults can live nourished lives with independence and dignity.

Meals on Wheels Solano County (MOWSC) was incorporated in Vallejo in 1977. A small group of community members came together to ensure their senior neighbors had access to food. Meals were delivered 365 days a year from Sutter Solano Hospital in Vallejo and NorthBay Hospital in Fairfield to those who didn't have proper transportation and could not prepare their meals.

In the following decades MOWSC expanded, preparing and distributing meals from its own central kitchen in Suisun City. During this time, the organization expanded the meal services program to include home-delivered and congregate dining meals to seniors.

MOWSC also expanded its programs over the years to include case management services, supplemental pet food programming, fall prevention programming, resource referral hotlines, and even isolation-reducing tablet programming.

Now in 2025, MOWSC operates out of its own 15,000 square foot administrative office and commercial kitchen in the heart of Fairfield.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Meals on Wheels Solano County Family,

Reflecting on fiscal year 2024–25, I am reminded of the resilience and dedication that define Meals on Wheels Solano County. Despite losing programs that once served nearly half of our seniors—an outcome of funding cuts beyond our control—we faced rising food costs and a growing demand for help with determination.

While these challenges have resulted in fewer seniors being served overall, our commitment has never wavered: to ensure that every older neighbor we can reach is nourished, supported, and safe in their home.

For the first time in many years, we were forced to implement a waitlist... a reality that weighs heavily on us, as we remain committed to ensuring no senior in our community goes hungry or feels forgotten.

Yet, even in the face of these challenges, there is so much to celebrate. This year marked our first full year in our new building, a space that has become a true hub of service and connection.

Every day, I am inspired by our dedicated staff and volunteers, whose passion ensures that older neighbors are not only nourished but are also able to remain safe and independent in their homes. Their commitment embodies the spirit of compassion and care that lies at the heart of our mission.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our promise to adapt, to innovate, and to serve as many seniors as possible.

With the support of our community, partners, and friends, we know that together we can meet the challenges ahead and continue building a future where every senior in Solano County feels secure, supported, and valued.

With gratitude,



Laurie Hartmann
Executive Director, MOWSC

*Your support
means the world!*



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO — THE FACTS



Approximately 35%
of the seniors we serve
in Solano County
LIVE ALONE



Approximately 37%
of the seniors we serve
lives on less than
\$1200 A MONTH



By the year 2040
the population of adults
over 60 years old will
INCREASE 15%



HUNDREDS OF SENIORS ARE WAITING FOR SERVICES

every day in Solano County due to funding. It's important now more than ever that the community come together to help those in urgent need to ensure no one is left hungry or alone.

Together, we must **END THE WAIT** for our older neighbors.

THESE FIGURES REVEAL A SIGNIFICANT GAP BETWEEN WHAT SENIORS HAVE AND WHAT THEY NEED TO AGE WITH DIGNITY.

In Solano County, a single older adult in poor health who rents **needs about \$3,174 per month**—just over \$38,000 annually—to cover basic expenses like housing, food, health care, and transportation (Elder Index). Yet, in California, \$38,000 is barely enough to survive, let alone live comfortably, especially as housing and health care costs continue to rise. **Over 60% of older adults are housing cost-burdened, and one-third spend more than half their income on housing** (Solano Master Plan for Aging).

While only 10% of older adults live below the federal poverty line in Solano County, **more than one-third are considered the “hidden poor,”** earning too much to qualify for assistance but still unable to meet basic needs (Solano Master Plan for Aging).

These figures reveal a significant gap between income and the true cost of living, underscoring the urgent need for programs that help older adults remain healthy, housed, and independent in the community they call home.

WHO WE SERVE — BY THE NUMBERS

A snapshot of the neighbors you help us serve — primarily homebound older adults, many living alone, on limited incomes, and representing the diverse communities of Solano County.



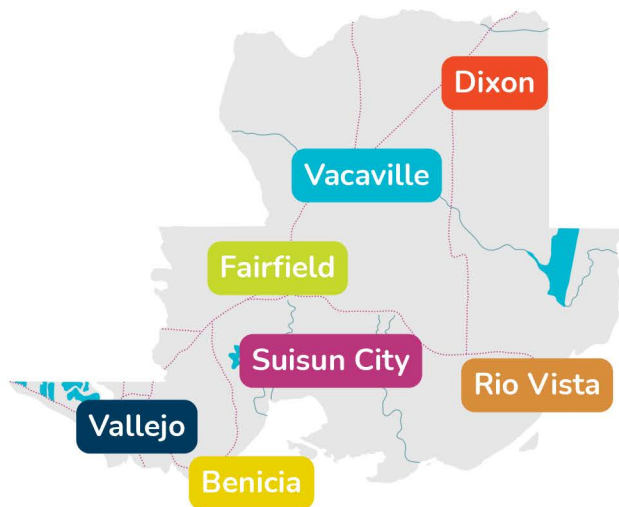
six of our clients
are over 100 years old!

1,600+

seniors were served
across all programs & services



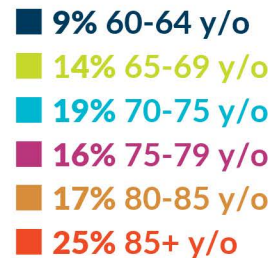
Approximately 25%
of clients live with a disability



WHERE OUR CLIENTS LIVE



Approximately 10%
of clients live in rural areas



59% FEMALE



41% MALE



Roughly 3%
of clients identify
as LGBTQIA+



About 11% of clients
are military spouses



Over 13% of clients
are military veterans

...AND they are our
friends, neighbors,
family members, and
SO MUCH MORE!



OUR MEAL SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

We recognize that our success is a collective achievement, made possible by the dedication of our staff, the generosity of our donors, and the commitment of our volunteers. Together, we are making a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

672

emergency meals kits delivered

HOME-DELIVERED MEALS

Our Home-Delivered Meals Program ensured that older adults across our community continued to receive the nutritious food and personal connection they need to remain healthy and independent at home. This fiscal year, we served **180,583 meals** to **1,159 clients**, reaching seniors in every corner of Solano County. With **37 routes** running daily, our drivers not only delivered meals but also provided vital wellness checks that gave clients and their families peace of mind.



3700+

lbs of supplemental food delivered

We also distributed **672 emergency meal kits**, each containing five shelf-stable meals — ensuring that our clients had access to food during hardship, natural disasters, or other emergencies. These resources were particularly critical for those on our active waitlist.

Working closely with the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County, we delivered **3,723 MealPlus (+) bags** — over **11,000 lbs of food** — which included fresh produce and shelf-stable goods to clients with high food insecurity and could prepare meals comfortably.

180,583

meals served

OUR VITAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Looking ahead, we remain committed to deepening our impact and expanding our reach. By strengthening community partnerships, enhancing our programs, and innovating our services, we aim to meet the growing needs of Solano County's seniors with compassion and excellence.



230+
cats & dogs provided care

ROSEY PROGRAM

Our Rosey Program supported **227 active tablets** that helped older adults stay connected. Participants overwhelmingly reported positive impacts — **83%** said the tablets **improved their mental or physical health**, and **78%** experienced **stronger social connections**. Clients initiated more than **234,000 activities**, played over **52,000 games**, and visited **86,600 websites**, keeping their minds sharp and engaged. Social connections flourished with **3,400 messages** sent, **1,099 photos** shared, and even **109 video calls**. Importantly, **87%** shared they **would be negatively affected without their tablet**, underscoring how essential Rosey Tablets have become in supporting well-being, connection, and lifelong learning.

2450

pounds of pet food provided

PAWS PROGRAM

Our PAWS Program ensured that clients never had to choose between feeding themselves and caring for their beloved companions. This fiscal year, the program supported **155 clients** and their pets — **115 cats** and **118 dogs**. We distributed **1,286 bags of pet food**, totaling **2,450 pounds**, along with **100 doses of flea medication**. By caring for pets, the PAWS Program also cares for people — reducing stress, preventing loneliness, and helping seniors age in place with dignity.



234k+
activities initiated on Rosey Tablets

OUR VITAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D)

Together, with the same spirit of collaboration that has brought us this far, we will continue to ensure that no senior in our community is left hungry or isolated.

202

clients provided fall prevention

FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM

Falls are one of the greatest risks to the health, safety, and independence of older adults—but they can be prevented. This fiscal year, our Fall Prevention Program served **155 clients**, providing **796 assistive devices** and home modifications such as grab bars, shower chairs, nightlights, and other adaptive supports. Thanks to careful assessments and meeting individual needs, **98% of recommended items were provided**, with only high-cost ramps or complex installations occasionally beyond budget limits.



1760

assistive devices & home modifications provided



Within just 90 days of receiving devices, clients experienced a **99% reduction in falls**, a **98% decrease in 911 calls**, and a **98% reduction in ER visits** due to falls. These improvements not only kept seniors safe, but also reduced strain on emergency services and family caregivers.

While the average cost per client has risen with inflation and installation expenses, the return on investment remains remarkable — every dollar spent prevents injuries, reduces hospitalizations, and preserves independence for the seniors we serve.

ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

In addition to daily meals, we distributed fans to help seniors stay cool, delivered holiday and seasonal cards to brighten their days, and provided winter drive items to keep them warm.



130
Fans Provided



3,200+
Cards Signed



2,800+
Winter Items Gifted



AND SO MUCH MORE!

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

Every meal delivered, every smile shared, and every moment of connection is made possible by the dedication of our volunteers. Their efforts are not only a lifeline for those in need but also a powerful reminder of the strength and generosity within our community.



213
Volunteers



5,878
Hours Dedicated



44,431
Miles Driven



VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

"When you think of a volunteer, you think of someone who gives their time to make a difference in their community. **PACE Solano** has done that and so much more. They are always ready to lend a hand, whether it's delivering meals to our clients, packing food bags, or preparing menus. They consistently show up with a positive attitude and happy knowing they're making an impact."

- **Anthony Lim, Volunteer Coordinator**

TESTIMONIES TO THE WORK WE DO



MEET BRET

Rio Vista Client

Bret Bailey's story is one of perseverance, communication, and gratitude. Born deaf, he learned to speak with the help of his mother and the March of Dimes, eventually becoming an ASL teacher. Now retired, Bret lives with his wife and spends his days with his loyal dog, Gipper — who helps him hear the door when someone arrives. MOWSC has become a vital part of Brett's routine, offering more than just food. "Being at home alone most of the day, Gipper and Meals on Wheels brings joy to my life," he shared. Bret also uses his voice to advocate for others, encouraging the community to support MOWSC: "Give unto Meals on Wheels so the community can receive these services and be happy and fulfilled."

MEET JEAN

Vacaville Client

At 90 years old, Jean is a proud MOWSC client and a living piece of history. She immigrated from London as a young teen during wartime and has built a full life here in Solano County. After losing the ability to drive, she turned to MOWSC to help her maintain her independence. "A lot of people are alone. This may be the only time they see anybody and they need to be fed. And certainly America has the food. That's why it matters," Jean said. She treasures the daily knock at her door, not just for the meal but for the reassurance that someone cares. "It's just another set of people who I think care. Maybe I'm kidding myself, but I think they care." Jean is also passionate about rallying support for the program: "Go do it. Don't talk about it. Do it. Write the check."



TESTIMONIES TO THE WORK WE DO



MEET LEANNE

Dixon Client

Leanne grew up in Vacaville and worked as a mechanic for Harley Davidson, a career that matched her hardworking and independent spirit. Six years ago, a stroke left her in a wheelchair, and she worked tirelessly to regain her mobility, first using a walker and now walking on her own again. Through it all, Meals on Wheels was there, providing both nourishment and companionship. “I wouldn’t have that many people in my life without Meals on Wheels,” Leanne said. Her favorite part is Woody, her volunteer driver, whose visits brighten her day and make her feel cared for. Now fully mobile, Leanne takes care of her small homestead, her cats, and sheep — proof that independence and connection can thrive together.

MEET ANN

Former Board President

Ann first connected with MOWSC after she and her husband retired in 1999. Looking for a way to give back, the couple began delivering meals together, forging close bonds with the clients on their route. “They became like extended family,” Ann said. After her husband passed away, she was invited to join the board, stepping into his position — a role that eventually led her to serve as Board President. Now retired, Ann reflects warmly on 30 years of service, saying she received more from the experience than she ever gave: “The hugs, the smiles, the friendships — we got so much out of it.” Today, she continues to advocate for MOWSC’s mission and encourages others to get involved: “It’s truly worth it. Just do it. It’s what keeps the community moving forward.”



THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS

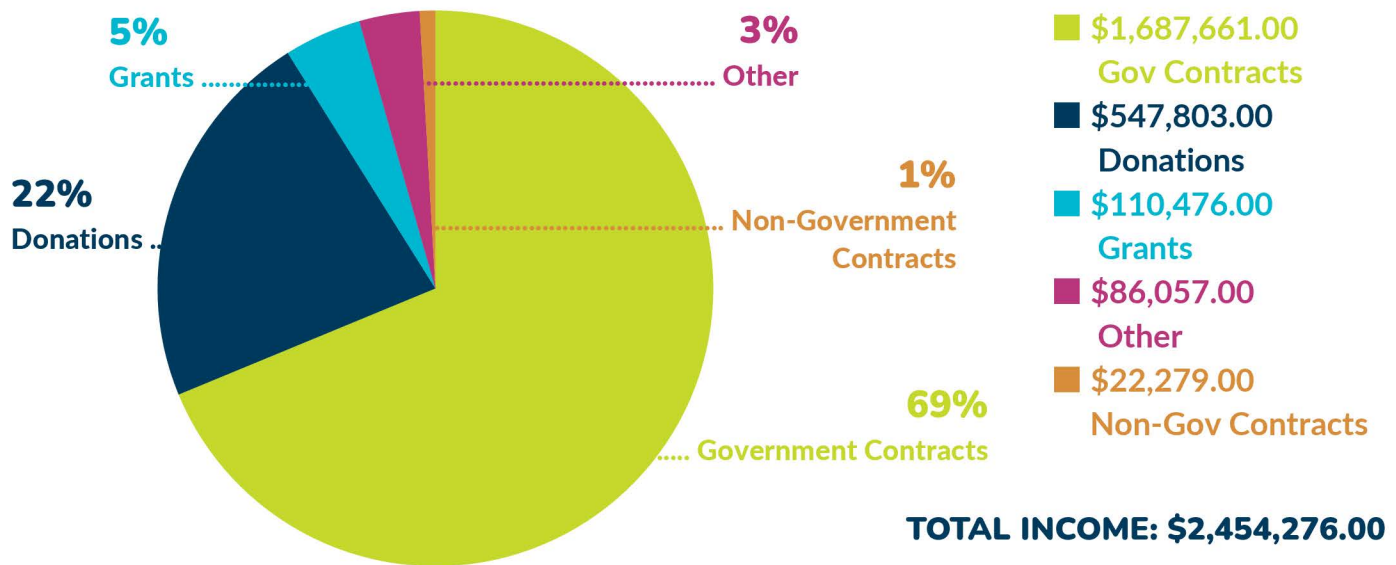
We are deeply grateful to the thousands of other donors not listed here who have made generous and thoughtful gifts to MOWSC during this past fiscal year. A special thank you to the donors who gifted \$500 or more between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. To respect their privacy, we have eliminated gift levels from our annual report.

- Darrell Archer
- Frances Armfield
- Aspegren Family Foundation
- Joseph R. Barocio
- Amy & Mitch Bassignani
- Joann A. Beath
- California Foundation for Stronger Communities
- Nancy Carrell
- Michel J. Caurant
- Chevron
- Sally Cicka
- Brenda Coleman
- Community United Methodist Church
- David Craighead
- Mary & Robert Cretti
- Tommy Daniels
- James Baker & Delia Davis-Baker
- Kay B. Deane
- Cormac Downey
- Downtown Vacaville Business Improvement District
- Martha & Anthony Eason
- Francelia Eldridge
- Fairfield Host Lions Comm SVC FDN Inc.
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- Timothy Laforce & Valerie Boggs
- Ann & Matthew Lofton
- M.I.N.Y Post 550 American Legion
- Ana Martel & Ricardo Gonzales
- Robert & Kelly Ann Marston
- Solano County Supervisor Mitch Mashburn
- Patricia C. Matteson
- Connie L. Mauldin
- Navya Mayavan
- Barbara A. McCune
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- Michael Metcalf
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- Christopher & Terry Ronco
- Wolfgang Schaechter
- Frederick M. Schleich
- David Schoenthal
- Sheet Metal Workers' International Association - Local Union No. 104
- Shell USA Company Foundation
- Joanne L. Smith
- Albert Socorro
- Solano Needle Arts Guild
- Soroptimist International of Central Solano County
- Paul & Delia Stichick
- Paula Sun Chee Fore
- Narayana & Veena Swamy
- Syar Foundation
- Rebekah J. Taba
- Target Impact
- William W. Taylor
- The Golf Club at Rio Vista
- The Vista Club
- Brigitte & Gunther Thiemer
- Alba F. Tiller
- Jennifer Tomson
- Dolores Tozzi
- Trio Community Meals
- United Methodist Women
- Valero
- Valley Strong Credit Union
- David & Nadia Van Kirk
- William VanDervoort
- Visa
- Norm & Joan Wallace
- Betty Wargo
- Wells Fargo
- Terry West
- WestAmerica Bank
- Ann Whittemore
- Miles & Phyllis Wichelns
- Charles Wood
- Walter J. Zaks
- Richard & Diane Zimmerman
- Gabriella & Lawrence Zunino

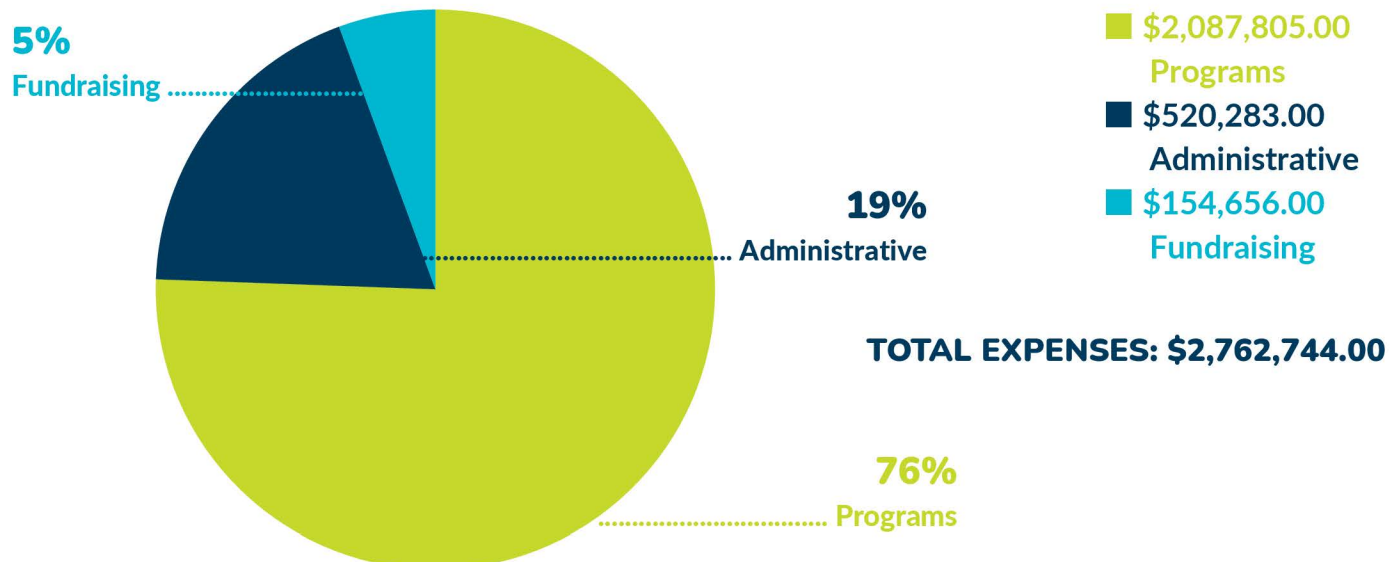
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT FOR FY 24-25

Our financial stewardship ensures that every dollar is used wisely, maximizing the impact of our programs and sustaining our commitment to serving Solano County's seniors.

REVENUE AND SUPPORT



EXPENDITURES



A THANK YOU FROM OUR CLIENTS

Below are some heartfelt notes from some of the clients whose lives you've directly impacted through your meaningful support and generosity.

"We really enjoy the meals
and can't thank you
enough for helping us."
-Ron & Kathy



"Thank you for all the
work you folks do. It's so
important to people like
me who can't afford much.
It's truly a blessing."
-Darnell

"It's really important to
give to programs like Meals
on Wheels. Thank you for
keeping their wheels
turning so people
like me can be
looked after."

- Regina



"My husband is benefitting
so much from the meals and
really enjoys them. We
appreciate the meals and this
service very much!"
-Janette

A THANK YOU FROM US AT MOWSC

For nearly 50 years, we've been making a difference in Solano County for older adults and Meals on Wheels thanks each and every one of you for your endless support. Together, we continue to rise above each and every challenge to ensure that seniors are happy, healthy, included, and have nutritious meals to look forward to.

From the bottom of our hearts, and on behalf of our clients, we thank you.

If you or someone you know can benefit from our services, please call our office at (707) 425-0638 or visit our website at www.mealsonwheelssolano.org.

OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

At Meals on Wheels Solano County, we believe that caring for our senior neighbors is a shared community responsibility.

Our community partners play a vital role in helping deliver nourishment, connection, and dignity to older adults across Solano County.



FOLLOW US!



CONTACT US!

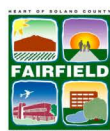


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