



For Immediate Release
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Mayor Aiello Issues a Proclamation Recognizing March for Meals Month

March 20, 2014--Olean—William J. Aiello, Mayor of the city of Olean, participated in Community Champions Day with the Cattaraugus Department of Aging on March 19, 2014. He spent the morning delivering Meals on Wheels with a volunteer driver and ate lunch at the Olean Nutrition site located at the St. Stephen's Club.

During lunch he issued a Special Proclamation to recognize March for Meals Month. On March 22, 1972 President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that established a national nutrition program for seniors. The Meals on Wheels Association of America established the National March for Meals Campaign in 2002 to recognize the historic month and raise awareness regarding senior hunger in America.

The Meals on Wheels volunteers are the backbone of the program. Over the past year over fifty-five volunteers in Olean worked a total of 3,292 hours delivering 35,497 meals to 260 homebound residents. If placed into monetary terms the Meals on Wheels volunteers donated \$53,273 to the community. The volunteers not only deliver meals to the homebound, but also express caring concern and attention to their welfare.

The Senior Nutrition Program helps our senior citizens avoid premature and unnecessary hospitalization and institutionalization. In addition the program provides a powerful socialization opportunity to help combat loneliness and isolation.

In his proclamation, Mayor Aiello said, "The Senior Nutrition Program in Olean deserves recognition for the contributions it has made and will continue to make in our community." He also urged every citizen to take time this month to honor our Senior Nutrition Program, the seniors that they serve and the volunteers who care for them.

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