



Around Town:

SHORE UNITED BANK LENDS HELPING HANDS TO OWINGS MILLS COMMUNITY

Submitted by Sarah Lyons, Marketing Specialist, Shore United Bank

Shore United Bank staff in Owings Mills have been volunteering with Meals on Wheels since May 2017.

Photo courtesy of Shore United Bank

It may be strange to think of a bank lending something other than money, but Shore United Bank is doing just that by lending their communities a helping hand. Each day, 27 Meals on Wheels vans and more than 1,800 volunteers hit the road throughout Central Maryland to bring much more than a simple meal to over 3,100 homebound elderly Marylanders, and Shore United Bank staff in Owings Mills are some of those who are pitching in.

The Meals on Wheels volunteers at Shore United Bank bring approximately 26 nutritious hot and cold meals weekly to elderly recipients in Owings Mills. There is more to this volunteer work than just delivering food. Their responsibilities also include providing a customized service plan, safety-net services and personal contact to those who may not receive visits. The volunteers are also responsible to document any changes in condition of the clients on their Meals on Wheels route.

"It is always a pleasure to be able to bring a little sunshine into a person's day. We love the people on our route.

This is what community is all about," says Sonia Carreras, personal banker at Shore United Bank and Meals on Wheels volunteer.

Shore United Bank has been involved with Meals on Wheels since May 2017, delivering meals every other week. COVID-19 shook the schedule up when volunteers became scarce, and many shifts and routes needed to be covered. The Shore United team was happy to assist and picked up those additional routes and meal deliveries, making visits every week instead of every other week. Many of the clients seemed to benefit from the social interaction that is so necessary for positive mental health and well-being.

"It is very satisfying to volunteer for Meals on Wheels. The clients are always so appreciative to see us, and over time, we really get to know them. The need for nutritious food is so great in the communities we serve, and volunteering for Meals on Wheels is just one way that we fulfill our company motto, 'Our communities will not wait for our involvement,'" explains Branch Manager Kris Kozlowski on the Bank's involvement.


The delivery meals consist of a hot meal containing items, such as chicken, green beans and mashed potatoes, and a cold meal, which has two trays, one that holds items like juice, milk and fruit and the other for a cold sandwich and side dish like potato salad. The program also has adjustments available for certain dietary restrictions as well as weekend food options by way of frozen meals.


"Shore United Bank is more than just a bank, we're a bank who cares," said Kristopher Kozlowski, Branch Manager. "We care about the communities and the people who live and work in them while understanding that giving back can make a lasting impression on someone's life and their community."

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Meals on Wheels at 410-558-0827 or visit their website, MealsOnWheelsMD.org.

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