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Meals on Wheels Honors Volunteers with 50 Years of Volunteerism

By Keri Young

BETHLEHEM – Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley (MOWGLV) announced today the awardees to be honored at the organization's annual volunteer appreciation event. The event will take place via Zoom on April 21, 2021 at 5pm.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Meals on Wheels of the Greater Lehigh Valley. MOWGLV chose this year to commemorate 50 years of service since Lehigh County (1971) and Northampton County (1972) Meals on Wheels were founded within one year of each other 50 years ago.

Betty Duffy has the distinction of being one of MOWGLV's "original" volunteers, delivering meals on the organizations first day of service in 1971! Originally dividing her time between the Northampton and Lehigh County programs, since MOWGLV's merger, Betty's focused on delivering every Friday in Northampton. Over her many years of service, Betty, now 94, has received recognition for her extraordinary efforts including awards from the Pennsylvania Department of Aging as well as the Meals on Wheels Association of America which presented her with its American Volunteer of the Year award in 2012. Betty's 50 years of volunteer service with MOWGLV coincides with the organization's 50th anniversary celebration.

A group of volunteers is also celebrating 50 years of service. The members of Gray's Group are continuing the tradition of their predecessors, delivering three times a month on their Emmaus route. The group was originally started by the wives of Air Products employees. Currently consisting of members of St. Thomas More and First Presbyterian Church of Allentown. Today's members are Anne Marie and Bob McCarty, Betty Collins, Susan Giacobbe, Sue Heller, Joan and Jack McCue, Robin and Larry Miller, and Eileen Strohle. There's no question about Gray's Group's contributions; they set the example for all the other groups that have participated in MOWGLV over the years.

Both Betty Duffy and Gray's Group encompass generosity in all forms and, over the past 50 years, have taken actions to improve the well-being of human kind. These awardees have dedicated a significant amount of time to MOWGLV and through selfless acts have helped to improve the welfare of MOWGLV clients. MOWGLV is honored to be able to award Betty Duffy and Gray's Group with the Laros Family Volunteer Award.



License, ID Card Holders Can Save Lives Through Organ Donation

By Sean Brown

Harrisburg, PA – In conjunction with the national observance of Donate Life Month in April, the Pennsylvania departments of Transportation and Health are spreading the message that driver's license and identification card holders can easily help another person live a fuller, longer life by registering as an organ donor.



An organ donor designation can be added by selecting "Become an Organ Donor in 30 Seconds" at www.dmv.pa.gov.

"It is easy to add an organ donor designation to your driver's license or identification card," said PennDOT Secretary Yassmin Gramian. "Making the decision today to become an organ donor can potentially lead to saving a life."

Once the designation is added, individuals will receive a designation card that they must carry with them to affirm organ donor status until they renew or replace their driver's license or identification card. There is no charge for adding the designation to your driver's license or identification card.

More than 48 percent of current driver's license and identification card holders are registered organ donors – that's more than 4.9 million Pennsylvanians. More than 7,000 Pennsylvanians currently await organ transplants.

"Registering to be an organ and tissue donor has the potential to save many lives and only takes a few seconds, as you can register online," Acting Secretary of Health Alison Beam said. "Organ and tissue transplants have become an integral part of health care in the state and across the nation. We are encouraging Pennsylvanians to register as organ donors and learn more about the importance of organ and tissue donation."

Driver's license and identification card holders, as well as registered vehicle owners, can also support organ donation programs by donating \$3 to the Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust Fund at the time of application and/or renewal. Customers renewing their vehicle registration for a two-year period can donate \$6 to the fund when renewing online. Proceeds from the fund are used to educate and promote awareness of the importance of organ donation through non-profit organizations like the Center for Organ Recovery and Education and the Gift of Life Donor Program. Pennsylvanians have generously donated more than \$16.8 million over the life of the fund.

More information on organ and tissue donation in Pennsylvania can be found at www.donatelife-pa.org

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