



SUMMER 2020

# Highlight NEWS

MONTGOMERY AREA COUNCIL ON AGING



## THE COMMUNITY RESPONDS





## A Word From Board Chair, Paul Scott and Executive Director, Donna Marietta



**Paul Scott**  
Board Chair

Over the past months, MACOA has been incredibly grateful for the community response to our cause and mission. During these challenging times, we are so proud to be associated with the staff and volunteers who have continued to deliver meals to the homebound seniors in our area during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have responded to the needs of our clients and have done a remarkable job in these stressful and trying times. They have been on the front lines and they are heroes in our opinion. They have continued to get done whatever is needed to be done to serve our clients. Again, we want to emphasize how fortunate MACOA is to have the caliber of employees and volunteers and to see how they are committed to our mission. They are truly an inspiration.



**Donna Marietta**  
Executive Director

Because of the pandemic, we provided shelf-stable meals for our clients as well as frozen meals and fresh produce for several months. We were able to start back with hot meals the first week of June and we have changed many of our procedures. The volunteers are driving up to the front of our building and not leaving their cars, and the staff is loading their cars with the hot meals and cold items for their route delivery. The temperatures of our volunteers are taken before they head out to the clients' homes. When they arrive at a home, the volunteers are knocking on the door and leaving the food on a chair or table and then stepping back until the client answers the door. Our goal is to keep our clients, volunteers and staff as safe as possible.

We will continue to navigate the uncharted water of this global healthcare crisis and adapt our approaches when necessary. It is a difficult time for our country and a huge adjustment for so many seniors. Please keep our most vulnerable senior population in your prayers. Our thoughts are with all those who have been affected by the virus and our top priority is the safety, health and well-being of our staff, volunteers and clients.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to the donors who have supported MACOA during this trying time. With your donations, we can continue our work and mission.

### Montgomery Area Council On Aging

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### MACOA DIRECTORY

<b>Donna Marietta</b> Executive Director	<a href="mailto:dmarietta@macoa.org">dmarietta@macoa.org</a>
<b>Melissa Cameron</b> Office Manager	<a href="mailto:mcameron@macoa.org">mcameron@macoa.org</a>
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Contact Traci Herndon at (334) 263-0532 for information on rental space.

For volunteer opportunities contact Amy Dennis  
[adennis@macoa.org](mailto:adennis@macoa.org)



### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Montgomery Area Council on Aging assists senior citizens by providing services to promote independent living, by offering opportunities to enhance quality of life, and by increasing community awareness of Senior issues.*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Jason Gardner, Vice Chair  
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### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Barbara Duke • Sue Groce • Sarah Spear • Sieu Tang Wood

# Community Volunteers - MACOA's Everyday HEROES



**Dr. Cary Phillips, DVM**

Due to COVID-19, MACOA and the Central Alabama Aging Consortium adjusted the food delivery methods to protect both our Meals on Wheels clients and volunteers. Shelf-Stable Meals were delivered on a bi-weekly basis by community volunteers and businesses along with supplemental food bags to sustain the clients during this pandemic. The supplemental food bags were put together by First United Methodist Church, Montgomery. The bags contained donated food items and supplies from both local churches and the community. We are thankful for all of the volunteers that assisted during the temporary pause of the Hot Meal Program.



**Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama**



**The Junior League of Montgomery**



**Youth Helping Senior Adults**



**Donations from Mercy Baptist Church**



**Fresh Produce donated by Central Restaurant**



**About the cover: (top) Excelsior Ambulance (L), First United Methodist Church (middle), Careavan (R); (bottom) MAX Credit Union (L), Montgomery Co. Sherrifs Department (middle), Synovus Bank (R)**

## FROZEN MEALS PROGRAM - Keeping Seniors Fed during COVID-19



**Carroll Penton, Frozen Meals Coordinator, and Jennifer Dvorak, RSVP Director, managing the bi-monthly frozen meals distribution**

The MACOA Frozen Meals Program continues to serve seniors even during the pandemic. Although the MACOA offices closed to the public March 31st, arrangements were made with the 130 frozen meals clients to pick up their meals every two weeks.

Between the hours of 12:00 and 3:00 p.m. the MACOA staff sets up a pickup station outside the Welcome Center every other Tuesday. Ten meals and, if available, supplemental food such as canned goods, fruit, and Jello are distributed to the frozen meal clients. This provides the senior with enough food to have one hot meal a day for 10 days.

The Pike Road Frozen Meals Program is also continuing its distribution at a pickup station outside Founder's Station. RSVP volunteer Clara Jehle has been instrumental in helping keep the 13 clients in this community supplied with meals every two weeks.

Our frozen meals providers have also kept working diligently to make sure no senior goes hungry. First United Methodist Church (Montgomery), St. James Church, Providence Presbyterian Church, The Junior League of Montgomery, Mary Ellen's Hearth, Christchurch, King's Table Catering, The Pye Bar, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, and many individuals have cooked, packaged, and delivered to MACOA's freezers.

We are thankful to all our volunteers, meal providers, and staff that are dedicated to making sure our seniors receive nutritious meals.



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**A special THANK YOU to the Central Alabama Aging Consortium and the Alabama Department of Senior Services in helping MACOA to continue serving our seniors during COVID-19.**

