

**MCDOWELL SENIOR CENTER  
RECEIVES PET FOOD GRANT FROM MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA  
TO SUPPORT HOMEBOUND SENIORS AND THEIR PETS**



*Much-Needed Funding Helps Keep McDowell Seniors and Their Pets Together*



McDowell Senior Center is proud to announce that it has received a \$1,500.00 grant from Meals on Wheels America to support its home-delivered meal client pet support program. The program began in 2016 and has continued through donations of pet food from Mercy Fund Animal Rescue, Inc. for the pets of homebound seniors that have trouble in affording and obtaining food for their animals. The grant funding will be used to provide pet food to the current home-delivered meal clients on the program and to add additional clients and pets.

“Pets provide so much more than just love and companionship for our seniors. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that pet ownership may improve your quality of life as you age. Some of the possible health benefits of pet ownership listed by the CDC include decreases in blood pressure, cholesterol/triglyceride levels and feelings of loneliness,” said Weyland Prebor, Director for the McDowell Senior Center.

In total, Meals on Wheels America has granted \$300,000 to 193 local Meals on Wheels programs across the country through the *Meals on Wheels Loves Pets* initiative this year. Funding is made possible in part through a donation from Banfield Charitable Trust (BCT). To date, the grant program has distributed more than \$2.4 million in funding and pet food donations.

“While the benefits of companionship are clear, taking care of a pet can be financially and physically challenging for seniors,” said Meals on Wheels America President and CEO Ellie Hollander. “Meals on Wheels Loves Pets helps local Meals on Wheels providers alleviate this hardship and at the same time reduce the negative effects of isolation.”

If you would like to help this program to expand and help more homebound seniors and their pets please consider donating pet food and monetary donations to the Mercy Fund Animal Rescue, Inc. For more information on how to help please contact Joy Harklerode at 652-7980.