

## **LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR | Dean Miller**

We served another record of 52,000 meals in 2022, and we many phone calls and notes from expect to be around the same this year. It's still hard to our clients about how much these believe these numbers considering we were only serving 20,000 meals just a few years ago. We couldn't have done especially around the holidays. Local businesses and this without your support and the amazing efforts of our gardens also donate goods that help reduce our costs. It truly 175+ volunteers and 5 part-time employees who keep our kitchen running smoothly and deliver the meals with cheerful greetings and a smile. We're proud of our accomplishments in providing nourishment to those who can't prepare meals on their own, and it was an honor to be recognized as Ridgefield's Favorite Nonprofit in 068 Magazine Readers' Choice Awards this year.

community. In addition to monetary donations to help keep our operation running, we also receive a number of gifts and decorated bags from local school children, families and organizations that we deliver to our clients. We receive

special touches mean to them,

takes a village to help us achieve our mission, and Ridgefield always comes through for us!

We receive no federal or state aid, we have no age or income restrictions and we don't charge a fee for our program. We need to raise around \$400,000 each year to fund our operation. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for supporting Meals on Wheels so we can We are very lucky to live and work in such a generous continue to help those in need of assistance in our





### In 2022, we prepared and delivered an extraordinary 18% more meals than we did in 2021. Despite this significant increase in meal volume and the impact of inflation, we held the increase in our operating expenses to less than 13%. 90% of our spending goes toward preparing meals. The generous support of our donors is our primary

means of funding our growing meal program. We rely on income from our investment reserves to fund expenses that donations don't cover. Importantly, these investment reserves have also enabled us to provide our meals free of charge since mid-2021 and to plan for future capital needs. An extraordinary contribution of \$250,000 received in 2022 and other large contributions in previous years are the source of our



Operation

**Total Income** \$650,000

32%

**Annual Appea** 

**Total Expenses** \$400,000

23%

Employee Costs

# TO OUR 175+ VOLUNTEERS Who give countless hours preparing, packing & delivering our meals

Phyllis Appel Patti Ballard Sangeetha Basker Steve Berney Linda Bloch Patrick Caudill Eunice Cepeda Rafael Cepeda Bridget Colabella Avery Costigan Ree Coyman Terryann Cucinell Gina Cushman Jennifer Dayton Trudy Devivo Jeff Dinkel Tori Dinkel Lori Egan Betsy Fitzpatrick Lisa Flanagan Renee Fozouni Pat Giacone Mark Gilliam Linda Gliedman Amy Grossfeld

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Michael Occhicone

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# # Takes a Village! IN-KIND DONATIONS 2022 & YTD 2023

2022 FINANCIALS | Laurie Schupmann, Treasurer

Special thanks to these "villagers" who have donated so generously either their time, talent or specialty items:

### Client Gifts & Bag Decorating

Evie Aronow Commission on Aging Jan Cuny Mary Debiase The Desmarais Family Lynett Dickman Diana DiVestea Christine Eckler First Congregational Church Sunday School Classes Scarlett Fixler The Franceschini-Gatje Family Ann Gelbert Katie Imbrogno Jewell & Hackett Families Katonah Elementary School Lion's Heart

Meadow Pond Elementary School Michaela Martin & Abbe Radigan Mind Body Botanicals The Miner Family MOMS Club of Ridgefield

National Charity League Ridgefield Chapter Hannah Neumann

James Pereyra RHS Library Learning Commons Ridgefield Academy

Ridaefield Garden Club Ridgefield Girl Scout, BSA, Cub Scout & Brownie Troops

Ridgefield Public & Private School Students SES Scotty Cares

SPHERE of CT Tejada Family

Ridaefield Civic Ballet

Veteran's Park Elementary School 3rd & 4th Grade

**Goods & Services** 109 Cheese & Wine The Baghat & Puri Families Tom Bishop BJ's Wholesale Club The Cake Box Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Clark Construction Colonial Cleaners Cornerstone Home & Gardens Costco Wholesale Farvue Farm Renee Fozouni Jesse Lee Memorial Church Cathy Katin-Grazzini Lounsbury House Emily & Cathryn Mills Minuteman Press - Newtown National Charity League Nutmeg Chapter Ridgefield Academy Ridgefield Basketball Association Ridgefield Girl Scout, BSA & Brownie Troops Ridgefield Playhouse Ridaefield Public & Private School Students

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**Comunity Volunteers,** 

068 Magazine

Luke Boylan / Giving Art

Supporters & Fundraisers





## > VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# CLIENT SPOTLIGHT







Mike and Carol Millerick both really enjoy delivering meals as a team. "Carol does the navigation, I do the driving, and together we bring the food to the door," says Mike.

The Millericks moved to Ridgefield 29 years ago, attracted by the school system and charm of Main Street. They found a house built in 1859 which they restored themselves and still reside in. Carol and their two daughters delivered for MOW through the National Charity League while the girls were in school, and "got to see firsthand what a great organization it is."

Their daughters are now grown, and Mike and Carol started delivering when they both retired around two years ago. "After many years of working full time, we were happy to have more time to give back to the community," says Carol.

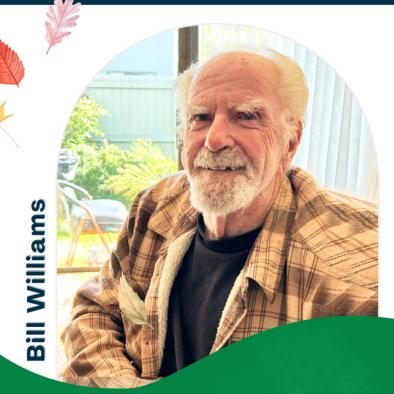
Driving the many roads of Ridgefield and learning more about the town has been fun, but Mike says that "chatting with clients is the most rewarding part of the experience."

Hilary Aronow is one of MOW's longest serving board members, having joined 7 years ago as public relations and social media manager. Originally from Montana, she and her husband Mike have lived in Ridgefield for the past 14 years and have two kids, Evie and

Hilary says that she was drawn to MOW at a Memorial Day parade. "I was impressed with all the bake sales to benefit various local nonprofits, including MOW. It was moving to see families so supportive of philanthropy and aware of the prevalence of food insecurity within the community, particularly in the aging population."

In her role, Hilary shares photos, stories and news about MOW on social media and with the press: "Social media is an amazina tool to keep us top of mind for everything from donations to gaining clients and volunteers. It is very satisfying to see the immediate impact of a single post. For example, I can post a call for bag decorators and a week later our kitchen will be flooded with beautifully decorated bags ready to be sent out to delight our clients. Or I can post a request for donations of items to fill our emergency bags and shortly after all items will be purchased. I am so proud of the work we do and honored to be part of the organization."





Bill Williams has lived in Ridgefield for 23 years, but he spent most of his career in Studio City, CA as a cinematographer and director of photography for film and TV. Bill worked on shows including The New WKRP in Cincinnati, Newhart and movies like The Color of Money and The Godfather Part II, and was beloved by many actors for his skill in lighting and attention to detail. Bill says "there were too many enjoyable experiences to be able to choose a favorite."

Bill grew up in Compton, CA and worked at a drive-in theater as a kid, which sparked his interest in the movies. He might have stayed on the West Coast, but he wanted the two grandchildren he was raising to be in a good public school system. Because he was able to work in New York City, he moved to Ridgefield, attracted to the beauty of the town and all the amenities and activities there were on offer.

Bill retired 17 years ago and has lived in Ridgefield ever since. When Bill injured his knee 9 months ago and found himself in a wheelchair, he was referred to MOW. "I am very grateful for the difference it made in my life," he says. "It came just at the right time."

Barbara Dobbin has lived in Ridgefield for around 50 years. She and her husband both worked for IBM until they retired, but before they started those careers, became licensed private pilots, and for many years took trips together all over North America.

Barbara has been a widow for the past few years, but she still loves to travel, and keeps busy reading, playing bridge and "learning about anything and everything." She also has been involved with various town organizations for many years. Notably, she used to be one of the youngest members of the board of the Ridgefield Library, and now, in her Emerita position, is proudly one of the oldest. She's also an active member of the board of the Ridgefield Guild of Artists as well as the Ridgefield Orchestra Foundation.

She used the services of MOW on a short-term basis while recovering from an illness. "It was a godsend. I wasn't able to shop or cook during the weeks I was recovering. I expected to be served macaroni and cheese or some carbheavy meal. I was so surprised that the meals were delicious and didn't taste like hospital food! And I was really impressed by the level of personal service."























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REFLECTS DONATIONS IN 2022 AND THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2023. WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS. PLEASE EMAIL US WITH ANY CORRECTIONS OR IF YOU WISH TO **REMAIN ANONYMOUS** 

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Devane

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

We welcomed 3 new board members this year: Beverly Griggs (Driver Scheduling), Rupinder Sura-Collins (Driver Administration & Compliance) and Yenny Reed (Design). Thank you to our retiring board members for their service: Michele Goodman, Liz Kelly and Minnie McCartan.

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