

NEWS RELEASE



Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church

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Meals-on-Wheels Web Site www.marchformeals.org/mayors.htm

Mayor Mallory Delivers Meals on Wheels from Hyde Park Church

This **Wednesday, March 22nd**, during the national celebration of "**Mayors for Meals 2006**", Cincinnati Mayor **Mark Mallory** will be one of hundreds of other Mayors across the United States delivering meals to senior citizens. Mayors from all 50 states will be participating. Meals-on-Wheels works to nutritionally support vulnerable seniors. Meals-On-Wheels are available to seniors who are ill, homebound and live alone.

In 2005, a **unique public-private partnership** between the **Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, Wesley Community Services and the City of Cincinnati** resulted in the opening of a state-of-the-art, Meals-on-Wheels kitchen in the Church's Erie campus building in Hyde Park. **Funding** for the project included nearly **\$150,000 from the City of Cincinnati** thru the Federal HUD-Community Development Block Grant, and **other funds** that involved equal support by The **Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church and Wesley Community Services**, as well as support from the **Helen T. Ehlers Trust**. The total cost of the kitchen amounted to **\$470,000**.

In 2005, **the kitchen delivered 189,311 meals**. 4.3% were special physician-prescribed "Therapeutic" meals for seniors with severe diabetes, renal disease or high blood pressure. It is the only program in Southwest Ohio that provides therapeutic meals.

Initially a service for West Side frail and disabled seniors, **Wesley Community Services** expanded its Meals-on-Wheels program to meet the growing need of seniors residing in Cincinnati's downtown and East Side neighborhoods. Today, over 50% of Wesley Community Services' clients reside in East & North Side Cincinnati neighborhoods. **The kitchen at the Hyde Park Church's Erie Building now produces Wesley Community Services' meals for all its clients throughout Cincinnati and Hamilton County**. Meals are delivered to Shiloh United Methodist Church daily for distribution to West Side seniors.

On Wednesday, **Mayor Mark Mallory** will be at the kitchen at 10:30 am and **personally deliver meals to needy Cincinnati seniors**. **The Church's Erie Building is located at 3020 Erie Ave.**

For information: call **Stephen Smookler** at 513 910 1714, or Email: ssmookler@wesleycs.org