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WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES HAS ANOTHER RECORD YEAR

Wesley Community Services enjoyed another record year in 2008, providing more meals, more specialized transports, and more hours of homemaker services than it has ever provided since it began in 1992.

Meals-On-Wheels increased from 224,672 in 2007 to 247,423 in 2008, an increase of 22,751 meals, or over 10%. When added to the 2,770 meals Wesley provided to Humana Medicare subscribers, as part of a nationwide program through the national Meals-On-Wheels Association of America (MOWAA), WCS provided over a quarter of a million meals in 2008.

An area of even greater growth was in physician-prescribed Senior Choice™ therapeutic meals for seniors needing a special diet because of renal or kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, or problems with chewing and swallowing. In 2008 Wesley, which prepares all of its meals in its own state-of-the-art kitchen at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church, delivered 24,953 therapeutic meals, up from 14,552 therapeutic meals provided in 2007, a whopping 71% increase. During the year Wesley Community Services hired an R.N. who talks to various health care professionals about this special meals service, as Wesley is the only Meals-On-Wheels provider in Hamilton County that offers therapeutic meals.

One-way specialized transports increased by 36%, growing from 25,046 transports in 2007 to 34,141 in 2008. Not only does Wesley provide medical transports to seniors, it also works with the Hamilton County Board of MR/DD in transporting their clients to work sites, two local school districts in transporting special needs students to school, and the Salvation Army in transporting their senior clients to adult day care centers.

The third leg of Wesley Services is homemaker services. Hours of services increased from 18,067 hours in 2007 to 21,471 hours in 2008, an increase of 3,404 hours, or 19%.

Wesley continued to provide free pet food to its clients in 2008, and through another grant from the Walter & Sophie English Foundation, it will again provide free pet food in 2009. Working with other partners, it is exploring opportunities to provide limited health care to clients' pets, as well.

Wesley Senior Housing, LLC continues to operate a 9-unit apartment building in Cincinnati's Westwood community.

Wesley Community Services' mission of serving a rapidly expanding senior population is growing by leaps and bounds, and it is exceedingly grateful to its many supporters for making this expansion possible.

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Wesley Community Services seeks to foster and support the independence, dignity and functioning of senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, including those who are low-income, who seek to remain in their home for as long as possible through the provision of Home Cleaning Services, Meals-On-Wheels, Medical and Worksite Transportation, and a Pet Portions Program (free pet food for client pets) to 2,300 or more individuals in 2008. Wesley Community Services is funded by the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio and is a United Way partner agency. For more information about Wesley Community Services call 513/661-2777, or visit www.wesleycs.org.