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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Youth Bring Easter Joy to Meals-on-Wheels Seniors**

Thanks to the kindness of Greater Cincinnati youth, Meals-On-Wheels clients served by Wesley Community Services (Wesley) will have a brighter, happier Easter. The sixth grade class at Our Lady of Victory in Delhi donated hand-crafted Easter magnets, and two local Girl Scout troops donated Girl Scout cookies and handmade Easter cards. The donated cookies, magnets, and cards, along with other Easter treats supplied by Wesley, were delivered to each Meals-On-Wheels client throughout the week before Easter.

Stephen Smookler, Executive Director, expressed his gratitude for the time and effort these volunteers put into the donations: "It's great that Wesley can serve as a bridge between generations, and our clients are thrilled to receive their special treats."

Lori Geeslin's three sixth grade religion classes, consisting of 67 students at Our Lady of Victory, together created 1,600 Easter magnets as part of their service-learning projects.

Ms. Geeslin used the project to help students better understand the growing population of seniors, many of whom are socially isolated in their communities. She remarked, “Our Lady of Victory sixth graders enjoy making magnets to share with Wesley Community Services’ clients.” While working on the project, the students learned about the needs of the elderly and how Wesley strives to support seniors so they can stay in their home as long as possible.

Through their Cookie Share program, Girl Scout troop #41962 of Fairfield East Elementary School, lead by Melissa Boittnot, and Girl Scout troop #48546 of St. Antoninus, Cincinnati, lead by Patty Raker, donated a total of 130 boxes of Girl Scout cookies. Troop #41962 also contributed several dozen three-dimensional Easter cards. The Girl Scouts Cookie Share program allows Girl Scout troops to ask those who buy cookies to purchase an extra box to be donated to a designated community organization.

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**About Wesley Community Services:** Wesley Community Services supports seniors seeking to remain in their home for as long as possible, through the provision of essential home-based services, including Meals-On-Wheels, specialized transportation, and home care, plus a Pet Portions program that gives clients free dog and cat food. More than 2,300 seniors and individuals with disabilities were served during 2010. 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 go to [www.wesleycs.org](http://www.wesleycs.org). Wesley Services Organization is the parent entity of Wesley Community Services and Lincoln Crawford.