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PRESS RELEASE
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**Wesley Community Services to hold Sixth Annual
“March For Meals” Campaign**

Program raises awareness of the need to help end senior hunger by 2020

Cincinnati, Ohio – Wesley Community Services (Wesley) announced today that it will be participating in the 2011 March For Meals national campaign by declaring the week of March 21-25 **“March For Meals Week.”** Wesley has participated in this national event since its inception in 2006, with dozens of mayors and local elected officials participating. This year, hundreds of elected officials across the country will deliver meals to seniors to demonstrate their support for the Meals-On-Wheels program in their communities. As part of this event, Wesley has asked each unit of government to officially declare March 21-25, 2011, **“March For Meals Week”** and provide an official Proclamation reflecting this action.

“We are excited about our current March For Meals campaign. Our goal is to recruit as many people as we can who will Take the Pledge to end senior hunger in America by 2020,” said Stephen Smookler, Executive Director, Wesley Community Services.

In 2010, Wesley Community Services’ Meals-On-Wheels program delivered nearly 250,000 nutritious meals, including physician-prescribed Senior Choice™ meals for individuals with diabetes, cardiac disease, kidney disease, high blood pressure, and swallowing and chewing problems.

March For Meals is initiated and sponsored nationally by the Meals-On-Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) to raise awareness of senior hunger and to encourage action on the local level. Senior Nutrition Programs across the United States promote March For Meals in their local communities through public events, partnerships with local businesses, volunteer recruitment, and fundraising initiatives. The campaign takes place in the month of March because it was during this month that Congress passed the Older Americans Act, which included the creation of Senior Nutrition Programs.

An integral part of the 2011 March For Meals campaign is for Americans to team up with their local Meals-On-Wheels program and Take the Pledge to end senior hunger in America by 2020. This national movement comes at a time when MOWAA research studies have shown that the problem of senior hunger in America is growing worse, with one in nine seniors at risk of hunger in the United States. (Take the Pledge on MOWAA’s website at www.mowaa.org.)

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About Wesley Community Services: Wesley Community Services (Wesley) fosters and 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. Wesley also has a Pet Portions program (free pet food for clients’ pets) and PetKare program (vouchers for veterinary services for clients’ pets). Wesley serves over 2,300 seniors and individuals with disabilities, is funded by the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio, Boone County, Kentucky, and is a United Way partner agency. For more information about Wesley Community Services call 513/661-2777, or visit www.wesleycs.org. Wesley Services Organization is the parent entity of Wesley Community Services and Lincoln Crawford Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.