



3333 Glenmore Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211
Phone 513/661-2777 – Fax 513/389-3092
www.wesleycs.org

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Stephen Smookler
Executive Director
661-2777, cell 910-1714
Email: ssmookler@wesleycs.org

WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES AWARDED \$25,000 TO PROVIDE “THERAPEUTIC” MEALS-ON-WHEELS September 2006

Wesley Community Services Meals-On-Wheels program today announced a \$25,000 award from The Altria Group to provide specialty physician-prescribed therapeutic meals for low-income and minority frail and elderly Cincinnati seniors suffering from kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, or for those who can't chew solid foods. Since 2004, Wesley Community Services has been awarded a total of \$75,000 from the Altria *Senior Helpings* program. Wesley Community Services was one of three programs funded in Ohio and forty-four in the United States.

“As the elderly population increases in Greater Cincinnati, we see greater demand for our Meals-On-Wheels service,” said Stephen Smookler, Executive Director of Wesley Community Services. “Our cost to produce therapeutic meals versus regular meals is higher. Through this support from The Altria Corporation, we can now assure homebound seniors requiring special nutritional needs at least one nutritious meal each day.”

“The Altria family of companies is committed to the fight against hunger and to supporting organizations that are working to meet immediate needs and develop long-term solutions in their communities,” said Jennifer Goodale, Vice President, Corporate Contributions, Altria Corporate Services, Inc.

About Wesley Community Services

Founded in 1992, Wesley Community Services is devoted to providing services to frail and disabled seniors to support them to stay at home through **Meals-On-Wheels, Medical Transportation, Housekeeping and other in-home services**. Wesley Community Services is associated with Wesley Services Organization. For more information, please call (513) 661-2777 or visit wesleycs.org.

About Altria Group

Altria Group, Inc. is the parent company of Kraft Foods, Inc., Philip Morris International, Inc., and Philip Morris USA, Inc. For more than four decades, the companies of Altria have supported programs and charitable organizations nationwide and have provided philanthropic assistance to communities around the world. Since 1990, Altria companies have contributed more than \$630 million in financial and food assistance to hunger relief organizations. Since 2004 Altria's *Senior Helpings* program, in partnership with the National Meals-On-Wheels Foundation, awarded grants of up to \$50,000 to assist Meals-On-Wheels programs in addressing waiting lists for their services, as well as expanding service to underserved geographic areas or ethnic populations. Funds supported the purchase of food, equipment for food preparation and delivery, and key staff salaries. For more information about the Altria family of companies' programs and philanthropy, visit www.altria.com/media.

###