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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **YOUTH GROUP FROM WESTWOOD UMC HELPS WESLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES DELIVER HOLIDAY MEALS-ON-WHEELS**

On Wednesday, November 21, the day before Thanksgiving, Wesley Community Services Meals-On-Wheels delivery drivers received a helping hand from the Westwood United Methodist Church youth group. “November 21 is one of our busiest days of the year because our drivers have to deliver 5 meals to each senior” said Mike Hodges, Manager, Meals Delivery. Six youth group members helped out as did two youth group adult advisers.

Jan Peter, Youth Group Adviser commented that “our youth gave of their time to express their commitment to the church and to serve those in need” Jan and her husband Tim supervised the students at Wesley Community Services Glenmore Avenue Meals-On-Wheels distribution center. The youth spent all morning and part of the early afternoon assisting WCS Meals-On-Wheels

drivers package and deliver meals to seniors in the Western Hills area. Charles Taber, Meals-On-Wheels driver was accompanied by Aaron Cunningham and Taylor Walters. “They really helped me out today”, stated Mr. Taber.

Participating youth included Aaron Cunningham, who attends Rapid Run Middle School, and Emma Morehart, Aaron Morehart, Matt Regnold, Tanner Walters and Taylor Walters, all of whom attend Walnut Hills High School.

Westwood United Methodist Church is one of 65 churches in Wesley Community Services WesleyLinks program. WesleyLinks serves as a network between Wesley Community Services and area churches to provide information and services to seniors in church congregations. “The youth group members volunteering to help us deliver meals at this special time of year is another example of how local churches can make a difference to area seniors in need” said Stephen Smookler, Executive Director of Wesley Community Services.

Wesley Community Services has as its mission to provide services to seniors so that they may remain in their homes for as long as possible. Wesley Community Services provides Meals-On-Wheels, medical transportation and homemaker/housecleaning services to seniors throughout the Cincinnati area. In 2006 nearly 200,000 Meals-On-Wheels were delivered, over 20,000 medical transports covering 291,000 miles were completed and over 15,000 hours of homemaker services were provided to over 1,700 area seniors. Wesley Community Services is a contracting agency of the Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio and is a partner agency of United Way of Greater Cincinnati.

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