

**Sheboygan & Plymouth Area United Way
Sheboygan Press Column #4
By Nancy Jusky**

**Week of October 15, 2007
“Meet Carl”**

Delivering over 300 meals a day in Sheboygan County requires dedicated volunteers and Meals on Wheels of Sheboygan County has a lot of them. A minimum of 25 volunteers a day deliver hot meals and a cold lunch on 25 different routes to those 300 appreciative recipients and they watch over their “people” as carefully as a mother hen over her flock of chicks.

The daily safety checks these volunteers make on their “flock” either averts or lessens a crisis, providing peace of mind to family members, neighbors and friends who know how seriously these volunteers take their job. The Meals on Wheels staff is one of the most caring I have had the privilege to work with and I think the people they serve feel the same way I do.

As an example of how much the MOW staff cares about the individuals they serve, I am going to share with you an article written by Paula Kletzien, the MOW Communications Director, about Carl, a long-time recipient of Meals on Wheels.

“Meet Carl. He’s lived in his own home for most of his life and started receiving Meals on Wheels four years ago after suffering a slight stroke. Carl is a favorite with Route 14 drivers. Every day they find him sitting at his kitchen table, listening to the radio and looking out upon his backyard. He is very proud of his home and his family and shares stories about them regularly with the Meals on Wheels volunteers.

Carl’s children visit him every night and prepare meals for him on weekends, but they have demanding careers that take up their days. It gives them peace of mind to know that Monday through Friday their father receives a warm, nutritious meal and a friendly safety check every day. They especially appreciate that safety check.

One day last summer, the Meals on Wheels volunteers did not find Carl in his favorite spot at the kitchen table. They checked the living room and he wasn’t there either. When they called out his name, they heard his weak voice say, “Help me!”

He had fallen in his bedroom and was unable to get up. The volunteers called 911 and stayed with Carl until help arrived and he was taken to the hospital. Carl made a speedy recovery and was back in his own home the very next day, sitting at his kitchen table, listening to the radio and waiting for his friends from Meals on Wheels.”

If you have time to share over weekday noon hours, Meals on Wheels would love to hear from you. Call them at 920-451-7011.