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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF SENIOR HUNGER BY DELIVERING MEALS ON WHEELS

**Worcester, MA (March 2019)** – Local elected officials will be delivering meals on Wheels with Elder Services of Worcester Area’s (ESWA) Meals on Wheels Program in honor of the 2019 March for Meals.

“This month, ESWA’s Meals on Wheels program has enlisted local elected officials to deliver meals, speak out for seniors and raise awareness for the power of Meals on Wheels,” said Jim Burns, ESWA’s Nutrition Program Director. “We are very excited to have 10 towns participating, including the city of Worcester. Some of our special guests include: **Congressman Jim McGovern, Worcester City Manager Ed Augustus, Senator Michael Moore, and State Representative Jim O’Day.**”

Other elected officials participating in the campaign include: **State Representative Donnie Berthiaume of Barre; State Representative Kimberly Ferguson of Holden; State Representative Paul Frost of Millbury; State Representative Daniel Donahue of Worcester; State Representative David Muradian of Grafton, State Representative David LeBoeuf of Leicester; State Representative Hannah Kane of Shrewsbury; Auburn Town Manager Julie Jacobson; Select person Carol Riches of Paxton; Selectperson Kaye Peltier of Millbury; and Worcester City Councilors Sean Rose, and Sarai Rivera.**

“Everyday we deliver an average of 1375 meals to homebound older adults in 15 communities. In many cases, their Meals on Wheels Driver is the only person that a client sees in a day. This year’s March for Meals campaign celebrates the importance of the work we do serving our communities most vulnerable citizens,” said Jim Burns.

The annual March for Meals commemorates the historic day in March 1972 when President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. Since 2002, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country have joined forces for the annual awareness campaign to celebrate this successful public-private partnership and garner the support needed to fill the gap between the seniors served and those still in need.

“We commend all of our 2019 Community Champions for stepping up in support of Meals on Wheels,” said Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America. “With 12,000 Americans turning 60 each day, now is the time to invest in these vital programs so that we can provide every senior in need with the nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that will enable them to live healthier and independent in their own homes.”

For more information on how you can volunteer, contribute or speak out for the seniors in the greater Worcester area this March, visit [www.eswa.org](http://www.eswa.org).

### **About Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc.:**

*Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc. helps elders, younger disabled individuals, their families and caregivers obtain essential services so that the elder or disabled individual can remain at home with dignity and independence for as long as possible. Building on more than three decades of experience, Elder Services of Worcester Area, Inc. is an expert in community based, long term care. The non-profit agency serves elders and families in the towns Auburn, Barre, Boylston, Grafton, Hardwick, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, New Braintree, Oakham, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, West Boylston, Worcester. In addition to those listed below, the Protective Services Department covers Northborough, Marlboro, Southborough, Westboro and Hudson. Donations can be made online at [www.eswa.org](http://www.eswa.org)*

### **About Meals On Wheels Association of America:**

*The Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) is the oldest and largest national organization in the United States representing those programs that provide meals to people in need. MOWAA’s mission is to end senior hunger by 2020. To obtain more information about MOWAA or to locate a local Meals On Wheels program, visit the MOWAA website at [www.mowaa.org](http://www.mowaa.org)*

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