



CATAWBA COUNTY

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LOCAL VOLUNTEER WINS NATIONAL MEALS ON WHEELS VIDEO CONTEST

Winnie Hovey, a Catawba County Meals on Wheels volunteer, has won the American Volunteer contest sponsored by the Meals on Wheels Association of America.

Hovey is a 92-year-old Hickory resident who has been volunteering with the local Meals on Wheels organization for approximately 30 years. She is the oldest volunteer with the program, which is operated by Senior Nutrition Services of Catawba County Social Services.

She was nominated for the award by Vickie Redden, Catawba County Meals on Wheels volunteer coordinator. The nominations from Meals on Wheels organizations across the country were submitted by uploading a video about the volunteer to Facebook. Then Facebook members were asked to vote for their choice. The video about Hovey, which was recorded and edited by Margaret Allen, public information officer for Catawba County Social Services, showed Hovey delivering a meal to a local Meals on Wheels recipient. Her video received the most votes in the nation.



Winnie Hovey of Hickory holds a typical Meals on Wheels meal. The 92-year-old has volunteered with the program for approximately 30 years.

Hovey received a plaque honoring her as the 2011 Jody Tepedino Nicholo Award winner. The Catawba County Meals on Wheels program received a check for \$1,000, which will be used to continue this vital program.

Meals on Wheels provides a nutritious lunch to persons 60 or older who are homebound and cannot prepare a meal for themselves. It receives federal, state and local funds, but relies heavily on local donations. The meals are delivered by local volunteers, who typically give one hour a month to deliver the meals to 10-15 people.

“We are pleased to accept this award from the Meals on Wheels Association of America,” said Jan Shaffer, supervisor of the county’s Senior Nutrition Services. “We hope Mrs. Hovey’s story will inspire others to volunteer to help their fellow-citizens. We especially want to thank the many friends, relatives and fellow church members who voted for Mrs. Hovey in this contest. It is obvious she has touched a lot of lives.”

For more information about the Meals on Wheels program, and other Senior Nutrition Services in Catawba County, call Jan Shaffer at 828-695-5617. Businesses, churches and other organizations are also encouraged to form teams to deliver Meals on Wheels.

Donations may be made to this program by making out a check to Catawba County Social Services and writing “Meals on Wheels” in the memo line. Checks should be mailed to Catawba County Senior Nutrition Services, P.O. Box 207, Newton, NC 28658. You may also donate securely online by going to www.catawbacountync.gov/dss and clicking on the “Donate Now” button.

You may view the winning video on the county’s YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMAFxA5TDM8>