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SENIOR RESOURCE ASSOCIATION RECEIVES \$2,500 FROM MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA TO SUPPORT CLIENTS AND THEIR PETS

Much-Needed Funding Helps Keep Indian River County Seniors and Their Pets Together

Vero Beach, FL June 20, 2017 – Senior Resource Association (SRA) is proud to announce that it has received a \$2,500 grant from Meals on Wheels America to support its client pet support program. Funding will be used to provide pet food, supplies and care for pets of the organization’s area clients – all of which can be financially and physically burdensome.

“This grant will allow us to continue supporting animal companionship for our senior clients. Feeding our beloved pets can be costly, but worth the unconditional love they give in return. Pets are often the only companionship our homebound seniors experience,” said Senior Resource Association CEO and President, Karen Deigl.

Last year, in addition to delivering 60,000 hot, nutritious meals to homebound seniors throughout Indian River County, Senior Resource Association also delivered 1,500 pounds of pet meals. Funding from the Meals on Wheels Loves Pets program not only allows SRA to continue providing clients’ pets with food, it will also provide cat litter, flea and tick prevention, and emergency grooming and veterinary services on a more consistent basis. The goal is to keep Meals on Wheels clients and their pets together in their home as long as safely possible.

In total, Meals on Wheels America has granted \$300,000 to 193 local Meals on Wheels programs through the Meals on Wheels Loves Pets initiative this year. Funding is made possible in part through a donation from Banfield Charitable Trust (BCT). To date, the grant program has distributed more than \$2.4 million in funding and pet food donations.

“While the benefits of companionship are clear, taking care of a pet can be financially and physically challenging for seniors,” said Meals on Wheels America President and CEO Ellie Hollander. “Meals on Wheels Loves Pets helps local Meals on Wheels providers alleviate this hardship and at the same time reduce the negative effects of isolation.”

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About Senior Resource Association

Senior Resource Association (SRA) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and the Lead Agency on Aging in Indian River County. For nearly 40 years SRA has been recognized as a valuable resource for seniors and their families in the community. SRA provides programs and services that support and advocate for independence and dignity of older adults, including Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Care, Information Referral, and Transportation services. To learn more, visit www.SeniorResourceAssociation.org.

About Meals on Wheels America

Meals on Wheels America is the oldest and largest national organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. This network exists in virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million staff and volunteers, delivers the nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that enable America's seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity. By providing funding, leadership, education, research and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time. For more information, or to find a Meals on Wheels provider near you, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org.