

THE COMMUNITY

Dish



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Client Spotlight: Meet Shirley

By Leah Creek, Mobile Meals Accounts
Receivable Specialist

Recently, we spoke with Mobile Meals client Shirley Wozniak, a lifelong Toledo resident. Shirley graduated from Rogers High School, attended BGSU for business, and later earned her bachelor's in business from The University of Toledo in 1966. She worked in accounting at Owens-Illinois, which helped pay her tuition, and later at Pilkington in credit and building products. Shirley also briefly taught accounting at Heidelberg University while earning her master's degree, the same year her youngest graduated from Penn State. She juggled work, family, and evening classes for adult learners.

Shirley is the proud mother of three children. Her sons, Matthew and William (Billy), have both forged successful careers as professional musicians, while her daughter, Mary Jo, holds a degree in structural engineering and continues to live and work in Toledo.

In her spare time, Shirley turns to reading and writing poetry. The best part of the day is from noon until early evening, because that's when she feels most productive. She is currently transcribing more than 100 original poems she's written since 1960 and hopes to publish her collection by the end of the year.



Shirley

Shirley is still very independent, but she's a little less mobile during her recovery from knee surgery. She's unable to get out to the grocery store and is happy to have a service like Mobile Meals. Her family is happy that she's getting a variety of nutritious meals, and her daughter often drops by with any extras like her favorite snacks, fresh fruit, and cheese. When we asked her for any advice she may have for anyone who has been on the fence about seeking out our services, she simply said, *"Be humble enough to recognize you need assistance to keep yourself going. You meet a lot of great people every week, the meals are great, and the camaraderie and friendship you share with the delivery drivers bring joy."*

We thoroughly enjoyed our conversation with Shirley and are delighted to hear that our meal service offers her both essential nutrition and meaningful companionship.

Our Mission Every Meal Matters

By Alison Foreman, CEO



At Mobile Meals of Toledo, our mission is to serve seniors first. It reminds me of Mark, whose life has been greatly impacted by the generosity of this community.

Mark, 62, has encountered significant health obstacles over the years. Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes as an infant, he required eye surgeries that left him with poor vision and unable to drive. Without a driver's license, accessing food became a real challenge. Matters worsened when he learned his kidneys were failing. Facing the possibility of dialysis, Mark realized he had to be especially vigilant about his diet.

Because of his health issues, Mark received help in the form of home-delivered meals. After he began getting medically-tailored meals for renal disease, Mark's health saw dramatic improvement. His kidney function rose from 23% to 61%, allowing him to avoid dialysis. This is a clear testament to the transformative effect of medically-tailored meals. *"I'm really grateful for the meals and the people who deliver,"* he shares.

Mark's story powerfully illustrates the difference we can make together. The meals we provide do more than nourish; they help seniors stay healthy, remain independent, and avoid expensive medical care. For people like Mark, every meal is a lifeline, delivering essential nutrition and hope. As demand for our service rises, we are reminded that every meal truly matters. Thanks to your support, we are able to serve everyone in need, even as 1 in 3 Meals on Wheels programs nationwide have waiting lists.

Together, we're making a real difference in the lives and health of our senior community members. Your support is vital to everything we do. Thank you for supporting Mobile Meals.

mobilemeals.org/donate

Volunteers Plant the Seeds of Kindness



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



We believe our volunteers are the heart of Mobile Meals, and this Volunteer Appreciation Month, we turned that gratitude into a true celebration. Team members surprised volunteers with delicious snacks at meal pick-up sites, and our annual Volunteer Appreciation Party buzzed with excitement and laughter. This year's celebration is one of our most memorable and best attended in recent years.



Mayor Kapszukiewicz
and Mobile Meals CEO,
Alison Foreman

Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz served as the guest speaker, and the event followed an Earth Day theme, "Volunteers Plant the Seeds of Kindness." The Mayor spoke about Toledo's Re-Tree Toledo initiative, which aims to improve air quality, create cooler streets, enhance public health, and reduce energy costs throughout the community.

We were thrilled to present several Volunteer Service Awards this year, including special recognition for five exceptional volunteers

From Our Kitchen Sunshine and Fresh Offerings

By Chef Linda, Kitchen Director



Summertime in the kitchen is always something to look forward to. With the summer holidays approaching and our team enjoying well-deserved rest and relaxation, the season brings a vibrant sense of energy and renewal as well as much-needed sunshine!

Our menu is embracing the flavors of summer with a fresh seasonal update. We're moving away from hearty soups and winter casseroles toward lighter, more vibrant dishes. Clients can look forward to new offerings like our chicken gyro with cool cucumber sauce, sun-dried tomato pesto chicken pasta, and by popular demand, our big dinner salads, featuring crisp lettuces and a tempting array of chef-inspired toppings. Seasonal fruits such as peaches, watermelon, and plums are also making a welcome return to our menu.

We are experiencing exciting growth in our kitchen, with expansion opportunities on the horizon. As our team grows, we are delighted to welcome Nicole Diebert as our new Food Production Manager. Nicole brings extensive experience in large-scale food production, spanning both hot and cold meal preparation. We are eager to incorporate her fresh ideas and expertise into our menu and daily operations.



SUN-DRIED TOMATO
PESTO CHICKEN PASTA

Try this at home! To
download Chef Linda's
recipe, scan the
QR code below.



who dedicated more than 20 years of their time to Mobile Meals. We also celebrated three Spirit Award honorees whose warmth, generosity, and commitment made a meaningful difference in our clients' lives.



Blake receives his Spirit Award from Matt Leuck, Volunteer Manager



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON BECOMING A VOLUNTEER.



Mobile Meals is honored to have been selected as the recipient of **The Blade's 2026 Reader's Choice Award for "Best Place to Volunteer."** This recognition reflects the dedication and compassion of our incredible volunteers, who make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve every day. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who voted for us. **Together, we continue to build a stronger, more caring community.**



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DINNERS FOR DAD

This Father's Day, we celebrate all fathers and grandfathers. For many of the dads we serve, this holiday is spent alone, without the company

of family or friends. To brighten their day, our kitchen is preparing a delicious meal and dessert to make them feel special.

Honor your father or a father figure by contributing to Dinners for Dad. Every donation directly supports our home-delivered meal program.

To make a difference, visit mobilemeals.org/dad, scan the QR Code, or use the enclosed envelope to donate. Your support helps us continue our mission to enrich the lives of the seniors we serve, turning ordinary days into unforgettable moments. **Warm wishes to all dads this Father's Day!**

