



Meals on Wheels

of West Los Angeles
University Religious Conference

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY RELIGIOUS CONFERENCE

FROM: MEALS ON WHEELS OF WEST LOS ANGELES

May 21, 1985

Meals on Wheels of West Los Angeles continues to represent the URC's concern for the elderly and ill in our community. In our 8th year of providing for a simple yet vital human need, we create a framework which brings people together. For the frail and elderly we bring not only a hot nourishing noon meal and cold supper but also an alternative to the view of the world pictured on the evening news. In place of fear and violence we deliver compassion. Meals on Wheels also enables people to express their natural love and concern for each other. More than 130 volunteers encounter not only people in need of help but also others like themselves who find they cannot simply ignore those in need.

A Client Questionnaire completed in February reveals more than food preferences (these often cancel each other out - e.g. "like the roast beef" - "hate the roast beef"). These are typical comments:

"Thank you for responding to my need. The deliverers are a delight and always on the positive side of life, they bring me posies, too!"

"You are doing a very worthy thing and it is greatly appreciated. The volunteers are all wonderful ladies (one gentleman was here one day.)"

"I am ever so grateful for MOW. I could not manage in my apartment if it was not for them."

This questionnaire was developed and tabulated with the help of a MOW recipient who now serves on the Board of Directors. He adds a new perspective to our decision making process. All aspects of the MOW program are overseen by volunteers who in addition to serving on the Board deliver meals to up to 60 clients per day and assume responsibility for various parts of the office work.

Long range goals have a high priority in our fast changing society. On April 24 Margaret Hooley, President of the MOW Board, hosted a luncheon for directors and key board members from MOW programs in Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica, Culver City, Hollywood and Beverly Hills. In addition to becoming acquainted with each other we were able to share insights and ideas for the future. A March meeting with Carol Wood, Assistant Director of Senior Citizen Affairs for Los Angeles County, provided opportunity to learn about new government funding for home delivered meals and gave rise to plans for a county wide conference for providers of home delivered meals in the fall.

The UCLA Hospital kitchen continues to prepare and package nutritious meals at a nominal cost and the URC gives low cost office space, nonprofit status, insurance and a supportive environment. Please also remember our continuing need for clients, contributions and volunteers. We look forward to celebrating another year of working together in service to our community.