

‘Drinking from a well that was dug by someone else ...’



This is the philosophy that drives Lucy and Robert Cook to give back to the community they recognize has supported them for decades.

“We’re all drinking from a well that was dug by someone else,” says Lucy. “That’s why we feel so strongly about supporting an organization we know will be here to serve others long after we’re gone.”

As members of Meals on Wheels’ *Steward’s Society* the Cooks love knowing their gift will feed one person in this community forever.

“It’s very powerful to know that when you give a gift, this is what the gift represents,” says Robert. “This community has been very supportive of us, of Lucy when she opened Magnolia Foods, of me in my work. I grew up here. I love the idea that with this gift we will be feeding someone forever.”

While the Cooks are looking well into the future by supporting the Steward’s Society, they’re not just waiting for that time in the future to help. Lucy started delivering meals several times a month in 2015. When the pandemic hit, she graciously offered her time multiple days per week, substituting and filling gaps on every route in town. Best calculations suggest that Lucy has *personally* delivered over 5,000 meals for Meals on Wheels!

Lucy fondly remembers her mother delivering Meals on Wheels when she was growing up. “Mom and her best friend delivered meals every week,” she said with a laugh. “I could always tell when I got in the car after school that it had been a Meals on Wheels day! I could easily picture them out each week having fun, but it didn’t occur to me until much later what a huge impact they were making on the people they served.” It’s a memory she’s also providing for their sons, John and Thomas, who often help Lucy deliver when they’re home from school.

Lucy has many favorite people on her routes, but she laughingly says, “Sometimes I will see someone and think, ‘In 50 years I hope I am feeding someone like her through this gift!’”

Meals on Wheels *Steward’s Society*

10,000 people a day are turning 65 in the United States. As our nation continues to age, there is an ever increasing need for in-home services. In order to meet the local need, **Meals on Wheels of Greater Lynchburg established the Steward’s Society for bequest gifts and major gifts.**

A gift of \$26,000 to Meals on Wheels’ Steward’s Society will provide meals in perpetuity for one of our neighbors in need.

Gifts may be made in a lump sum, or pledged over multiple years. Choose from a variety of simple, flexible, and effective ways to support Meals on Wheels of Greater Lynchburg.

Healthy meals and a connection to the community allow our neighbors to remain somewhat independent at home, reducing costs for the entire community.

For more information, contact Kris Shabestar

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