

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE



PROCLAMATION

21ST ANNUAL CHARLOTTESVILLE MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH – MARCH 2023

WHEREAS on March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law an amendment to the Older Americans Act of 1965 that established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older; and

WHEREAS Meals on Wheels America established the March for Meals campaign in March 2002 to recognize the importance of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs, both congregate and home-delivered, and to raise awareness about the escalating problem of senior hunger in America; and

WHEREAS the 2023 observance of March for Meals celebrates the 21st year in our city of providing an opportunity to support Meals on Wheels programs that deliver vital and critical services by donating, volunteering and raising awareness about hunger and isolation; and

WHEREAS the Meals on Wheels program has served the Charlottesville/Albemarle community admirably for 45 years, serving 325 homebound citizens and delivering 70,620 home-delivered meals in 2022; and

WHEREAS volunteers for Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle are the backbone of the program and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also caring concern and attention to their welfare; and

WHEREAS Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle provides nutritious meals to homebound citizens throughout the city and county that help them maintain their health and independence, preventing unnecessary falls, hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization; and

WHEREAS Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle provides a powerful opportunity for social connection for our homebound neighbors to help combat the negative health effects and economic consequences of loneliness and isolation; and

WHEREAS Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/Albemarle deserves recognition for the heroic contributions and essential services they have provided amid the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to provide to local communities, our State and our Nation long after it is over.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Charlottesville City Council hereby proclaims March 2023 as the 21st Annual March for Meals Month in Charlottesville and urge every citizen to take this month to honor our Meals on Wheels programs, the seniors they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national 2023 March for Meals can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

Signed and sealed this 6th day of March 2023.

J. Lloyd Snook, III, Mayor

Attest:

Kyna Thomas, Clerk of Council