

## **Englewood, Florida Meals on Wheels Grant Report**

Englewood, Florida is a small community located on Florida's west coast between Sarasota to the north and Fort Myers to the south. While the winter season sees a huge influx of snowbirds from the cooler climates of the north, many of the full-time residents of Englewood are elderly retired individuals of moderate income.

Englewood Meals on Wheels (MoW) is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization that relies solely on donations and client payments. Since its inception in 1968, MoW has delivered and served meals to people who are unable to prepare meals for themselves, regardless of their financial circumstances. The program is geared toward the elderly and those who are ill, even temporarily. The MoW program has enabled many to remain in their own homes. Every meal is prepared in the MoW kitchen and is delivered hot, Monday through Saturday, including holidays. Currently the oldest MoW client is 103.

In September of 2022, the AASBCR® Board approved a grant request from MoW to help them continue to provide meals to people at a reasonable or no cost. Shortly after that grant was approved, Hurricane Ian wreaked havoc on Florida's Gulf coast and did extensive damage to the Englewood community. While the MoW building suffered minor damage, due to 9 days without electricity, all of their frozen food was lost. With this in mind, the AASBCR® board added an additional sum to the MoW grant to help cover the cost of the ruined food.

(Editor's Note: I live in Rotonda West, Florida, a community next door to Englewood. I can attest to the horrific damage caused by Hurricane Ian and how impactful the AASBCR® grants were to this community. The grant to MoW enabled that organization to replenish their supplies and continue providing meals to the needy. The AASBCR® grants to World Central Kitchen and Samaritan's Purse (discussed in the December 2022 "Letter from the President") were invaluable in providing relief to the communities and residents impacted by the hurricane. I want to extend my personal thank you to each and every member of AASBCR® who made those generous grants possible. Dale Jensen, VP-Communications)



While the check looked small, the amount was not. Accepting the grant check on behalf of Englewood MoW were (left to right) Terri Lawson, Volunteer and Delivery Coordinator, Chris Gauthier, Treasurer, and Tom Kizi, Director. The guy in the red shirt is your AASBCR® representative, Dale Jensen.

Prepared meals ready to be packaged and delivered to clients

