



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston's new program, AniMeals on Wheels, helps seniors who share their meal with their pets.

Houston, TX (01/18/07) – It has become a trend; seniors who receive Meals on Wheels assistance because they don't have adequate access to proper nutrition, sharing their delivered meals with their pets, leading to a loss to the senior's nutrition and negative health effects for the pet. To help decrease the burden that seniors feel when it comes to feeding themselves and their pet companion, Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston has initiated the new AniMeals on Wheels program.

For homebound seniors in the Meals on Wheels program, the companionship of a pet is essential to their health and happiness. However, the cost and ability to acquire food for their best friends is an impractical task. Rather than allow their pet to starve, seniors share their meal; most often the protein portion, with their dog or cat. "We have become increasingly concerned about our seniors," states David Roberts, IM Director of Senior Nutrition. "We understand their instinct to care for their pets but know that the nutrition we provide is essential for the senior's well-being. We believe this program will produce a positive effect for Houston area seniors."

AniMeals on Wheels - provides donated pet food to the pet companions of Houston area Meals on Wheels recipients. AniMeals on Wheels is solely reliant on volunteers to; donate pet food to the IM office, 3217 Montrose blvd., Houston, TX 77006, and deliver the donated food to the senior's homes.

To Help - you can sign up for a route, donate dog or cat food at the IM offices, or conduct a pet food drive in your community.

Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston - is a community service of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston and is supported in part by the Harris County Area Agency on Aging. Meals on Wheels supports seniors who are homebound with mobility challenges. Currently, IM serves more than 3,400 seniors; however, 1,000 more are on a waiting list. Meals cost only \$5 per day; \$1200 can feed one senior for an entire year.

Editors Note: If you would like more information, or to schedule interviews with any IM staff, clients or volunteers, please contact Lou Keels – 713.533.4973, 832.483.6202 or lkeels@imgh.org.

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