

## Mary Taylor – Meals on Wheels recipient



Mary is an 80 year old Meals on Wheels client who lives alone in the house she's lived in for almost 40 years. For most of her life she was a chef, cooking meals for others until she started getting arthritis in her leg. Her arthritis moved to other parts of her body and as she aged, her eyesight began to deteriorate. Although she loved cooking, she couldn't do it anymore, even for herself. She started getting Meals on Wheels several years ago and loves it. "I know I don't have to worry about that one meal. I can't walk very well and it's hard for me to stand at the stove for a long time, so the meal deliveries are a blessing," Mary said.

The majority of Taylor's family lives in Lafayette, Louisiana so she only has the people in her neighborhood, along with her MOW driver to check on her. "Betty is simply wonderful, she always comes in and talks with me. Sometimes I get lonely and it's nice to have a visitor. Most importantly she delivers my meal hot."

Taylor had one daughter but she died in 2006 of sclerosis of the liver, so now she lives alone. "I feel safe alone, but it's tough trying to pay all of the bills".

During these hard times Taylor contacts a social worker at a local charity for rental and utility assistance just to make ends meet, but that does not damper her spirits.