

**ADRC OF DUNN COUNTY  
60 PLUS NUTRITION  
PROGRAM RECEIVES  
\$2,500.00 FROM MEALS ON  
WHEELS AMERICA TO  
SUPPORT CLIENT PET  
PROGRAM**

*Much-Needed Funding Helps  
Keep Dunn County Seniors and  
Their Pets Together*

Knowing that seniors with pets are 36% less likely to report loneliness and have 21% fewer doctor visits\* Dunn County 60 Plus Nutrition is proud to announce that it has received a

grant from Meals on Wheels America to continue its client pet support program. Funding will be used to provide food, supplies and care for program participants with pets – all of which can be financially and physically burdensome.

“We are all pet owners and lovers in the ADRC and understand the importance of ownership and keeping pets and seniors happy, healthy and safe in their own homes.” Bobbette Tunnyhill Nutrition Program Coordinator.

In total, Meals on Wheels America has granted \$300,000 to 162 local Meals on Wheels programs through the *Meals on Wheels Loves Pets* initiative this year. Funding is made possible in part through a donation from Banfield Charitable Trust (BCT), who in October of 2015, handed over all funding and grants administration responsibilities for their popular Pet Assistance Grant Program to Meals on Wheels America. To date, the grant program has distributed more than \$2.1 million in funding and pet food donations to over 300 local Meals on Wheels programs across the nation.

If you are 60 and older, have a fur or feather baby and your income is under \$1,832.00 a month please give us a call or come fill out an application.

“The *Meals on Wheels Loves Pets* initiative is just another way that Meals on Wheels can deliver so much more than just a meal,” said Meals on Wheels America President and CEO Ellie Hollander. “Through grant funding, educational opportunities and in-kind donations for our member programs, we hope to grow current pet programs and help those looking to start new ones.”

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\*Sources: Stanley, I. H., Conwell, Y., Bowen, C., & Van Orden, K. A. (2014). Pet Ownership may Attenuate Loneliness Among Older Adult Primary Care Patients Who Live Alone. *Aging & Mental Health, 18*(3), 394–399. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13607863.2013.837147>; Siegel, J.M. (1990). Stressful life events and use of physician services among the elderly: The moderating role of pet ownership. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 58*, 1081-1086.