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KENOSHA AREA FAMILY AND AGING SERVICES (KAFASI) RECEIVES \$2500 FROM MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA TO SUPPORT CLIENTS AND THEIR PETS

Much-Needed Funding Helps Keep Kenosha Seniors and Their Pets Together

Kenosha WI, July 30, 2018 – KAFASI is proud to announce that it has received a \$2500 grant from Meals on Wheels America to support its client pet support program. Funding will be used to provide food, supplies and care for the pets of area clients, which can often be a financial and physical challenge for clients to do so on their own.

“Having a purpose gives life meaning and what better purpose is there in life than to feel needed?” shared KAFASI Executive Director Katie Oatsvall, when asked about Animeals. “Pets provide companionship, unconditional love and purpose to our seniors. Our ability to deliver food, toys and help provide care has been such an amazing enhancement to a legacy program. These funds will allow us to ensure more pets and their owners are eating healthy and connected to resources in our community.”

In total, Meals on Wheels America has granted over \$200,000 to nearly 100 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 the former Banfield Charitable Trust. To date, the grant program has distributed more than \$2.4 million in funding and pet food donations.

“While pets are invaluable companions to homebound seniors, positively impacting their health and well-being, they can also be a challenge to care for alone,” said Meals on Wheels America President and CEO Ellie Hollander. “The *Meals on Wheels Loves Pets* program enables KAFASI to provide pet food and other necessary services to ease some of that burden and make it possible for local seniors and their beloved pets to stay together.”

In 2017, KAFASI and Kenosha Forgotten Friends partnered to develop Animeals. In 2017, volunteers delivered donated pet food to 69 low-income clients, 53 cats and 46 dogs with a total of 99 pets.

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About KAFASI

KAFASI's mission is to support healthy aging, strong families and a connected community. Aging Services provide nutritious meals, affordable transportation, respite for caregivers, memory programming, and solutions to loneliness for homebound people. Family Services support parents of all ages and address the needs of families with children at risk of abuse and neglect.

About Meals on Wheels America

Meals on Wheels America is the leadership organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. This network serves virtually every community in America and, along with more than two million staff and volunteers, delivers the nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that enable America's seniors to live nourished lives with independence and dignity. By providing funding, leadership, education, research and advocacy support, Meals on Wheels America empowers its local member programs to strengthen their communities, one senior at a time. For more information, or to find a Meals on Wheels provider near you, visit www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org.