



Contact: Benzie County Council on Aging, Inc.  
Name: Douglas Durand  
Title: Executive Director  
Phone: 231.525.0600  
Email: [durandd@benziecoa.org](mailto:durandd@benziecoa.org)

## **BENZIE COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING RECEIVES \$1,200 FOR PARTICIPATION IN MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA'S 2016 MARCH FOR MEALS**

*Funding for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Awareness Campaign Made Possible by Subaru's Share the Love Event*

**Honor, Michigan, July 6, 2016** – Benzie County Council on Aging is proud to announce that it has received a \$1,200 grant award from Meals on Wheels America for its participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Meals campaign. This past March was Benzie County Council on Aging's 2nd year participating in the national Meals on Wheels awareness campaign designed to celebrate the proven collaboration of local community organizations, businesses, all levels of government and compassionate individuals to ensure that our seniors are not forgotten.

Douglas Durand, Benzie County Council on Aging Executive Director stated, "By participating in the March for Meals Campaign, I feel we have fostered a stronger sense of awareness among the community and businesses regarding senior nutritional needs, home delivered meals and the multiple services Benzie County Council on Aging provides to the seniors of Benzie County."

Throughout the month of March, we challenged ourselves to find more local Community Leaders to help us deliver meals. Our efforts were rewarded! We more than doubled our Community Leaders from six last year to fourteen this year. For our fundraiser, we had six local restaurants; Dinghy's, Geno's Sports Bar, Stormcloud Brewing Company, Papa J's, Jodie's Tangled Antlers & Hungry Tummy promote our Home Delivered Meals Program. Each restaurant set aside on average a 4-5 hour block of time and donated a percentage of their sales. A total of \$1,223 was raised by these restaurants. New this year was the Benzie County Proclamation which proclaimed March 2016 as March for Meals Month signed by Commissioner Board Chair, Roger Griner.

Nearly \$400,000 has been granted to 265 local Meals on Wheels programs and one Meals on Wheels America-affiliated State Association based on their March for Meals efforts. This year's grants were made possible through the generosity of Subaru of America, Inc. and its eighth annual [Share the Love Event](#). During the event held from November 19, 2015 through January 2, 2016, \$250 was donated to a customer's choice of a national or hometown charity for every new Subaru vehicle purchased or leased. Meals on Wheels America has been a participating national charity since the event's inception in 2008.

"The March for Meals grant program is our way of recognizing Meals on Wheels America Members for their efforts to raise awareness and much-needed support for the critical service they provide their communities," said Meals on Wheels America President and CEO Ellie Hollander. "Together, we can change the way this country cares for its seniors."

The annual March for Meals campaign is an effort led by Meals on Wheels America to present opportunities for volunteers, businesses and governments to support seniors in a variety of ways that make communities stronger, safer and healthier. For more information, visit [marchformeals.com](http://marchformeals.com).

**About Meals on Wheels America**

Meals on Wheels America is the oldest and largest national organization supporting the more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country that are dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. This network exists in 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](http://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org).