

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**Community Leaders Deliver Meals to Fort Bend County Seniors to Celebrate 17<sup>th</sup> Annual March for Meals**

ROSENBERG, Texas (March 21, 2019) – Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels (FBS) participated in the 17th annual March for Meals – a month-long, nationwide campaign with Meal on Wheels programs celebrating the passage in 1965 of the Older Americans Act. On Thursday, March 21, 2019, local community leaders joined Fort Bend Seniors to participate in Community Champions Day, delivering meals to homebound seniors throughout Fort Bend County.

After learning about the array of FBS programs and the demographics of the seniors served through the programs, elected officials and police chiefs gathered in the FBS Meals on Wheels distribution kitchen to gather the day's meals to deliver to seniors on a local route in Rosenberg, Richmond, Stafford, or Sugar Land.

“The services we provide are a lifeline to seniors in Fort Bend and Waller counties, and the need is rapidly increasing,” said Manuela Arroyos, Chief Executive Officer of FBS. “By bringing officials into the community, they were able to see firsthand the difference a hot meal and a friendly visit can make for area seniors. We also showed them just how many seniors in our local community are unable to afford food and are at risk of hunger.”

Community Champions that delivered meals to constituents in their precincts included Fort Bend County Commissioner Ken DeMerchant (Pct. 4), Fort Bend County District Attorney Brian Middleton, Judge Juli Mathew (Fort Bend County Court at Law #3), Judge Toni Wallace (Fort Bend County Court at Law #4), Fort Bend County Constable Mike Beard (Pct. 1), Rosenberg Chief of Police Jonathan White, and Stafford Assistant Chief of Police Glynell Horn, Jr. Additional community champions joined them, including Nick Ours from Congressman Pete Olson's office; Commissioner DeMerchant's Chief of Staff Ahmad Alaswad; First Assistant to DA Middleton, Ibrahim Khawaja, as well as FBS Board Members.

The annual March for Meals campaign is initiated and sponsored by Meal on Wheels America to raise awareness of the struggles faced by our senior neighbors and to encourage action on the part of local communities. Senior nutrition programs across the United States, like Fort Bend Seniors, seek to raise awareness of the growing need for services and the need for increased funding for the Older Americans Act, which fails to keep pace with the demand.

“With 12,000 Americans turning 60 each day, now is the time to invest in these vital programs so that we can provide every senior in need with the nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that will enable them

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to live healthier and independent in their own homes,” Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America said.

Individuals or groups that are interested in supporting Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels by volunteering or donating funds can visit [www.fortbendseniors.org](http://www.fortbendseniors.org) or contact FBS at 281-633-7049.

About Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels

Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels, a United Way Agency, is committed to helping seniors remain independent by enhancing their quality of life through services and resources. FBS provides hot, home-delivered meals to more than 1,500 senior citizens daily, many who live alone and cannot prepare their own meals. In addition, FBS offers older adults meals from 12 congregate sites – or community centers, transportation to and from the centers, health screenings and recreational activities.

Fort Bend Seniors is qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code as a non-profit corporation, and as such contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent as allowed by law. For more information about Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels, visit [www.fortbendseniors.org](http://www.fortbendseniors.org).