

## Dear Friends and Neighbors;

Several weeks ago, we were blissfully unaware of COVID-19 and what was to come. We are now thrown into a world of social distancing and non-contact, higher unemployment and economic uncertainty, not to mention new daily challenges.

One thing that has not changed is the needs and welfare of the homebound of Amherst County. These are the people who rely on meals and wellness check-ins from Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels. And while we continue to provide these services to our clients, Blue Ledge has made changes to incorporate safe measures for everyone: those who prepare meals, volunteer drivers, and clients. Everyone is working together and meal delivery to our clients is continuing!

Our clients are so appreciative that volunteers keep arriving – the organization has not suspended or canceled delivery during the pandemic. The food vendors, churches, and volunteers have taken extra safety measures and have continued their mission since this service is so vital. Volunteer drivers miss the close contact and lengthy chats they would have otherwise enjoyed with the clients. They cannot wait to resume this once it is safe to do so!

We all pray for a speedy return to normalcy in our lives and in the community. Nobody knows how long this will take. Meanwhile, we still need to provide for those in need. We have lost some of our volunteers who deliver meals due to their ages, poor health, and concern for their welfare. At the same time, we have had several new volunteers come forward to help fill the void created by the pandemic. Several of our vendors have expressed concerns over whether they will be able to continue providing the needed number of meals, especially the churches. We are working with each of them to find ways to continue supplying the meals for our clients.

We plan to continue meeting the needs of our clients while maintaining the safety of all involved. We rely heavily on donations and the support of the community. We receive no federal funds and are an entirely volunteer organization. In this time of economic uncertainty, it is understandable that some of our donors may not be able to be as generous as they have been. To that end we send this plea to the community to help us in any way possible so we can continue to serve the homebound of Amherst County. You can visit our website at blueledge.org or mail a donation to PO Box 1332, Amherst VA 24521.

Thank you for continuing to support our endeavors.

Serving the community, one meal at a time!

Blue Ledge Meals on Wheels • PO Box 1332 • Amherst, VA 24521



## **CHURCHES**

Amherst Baptist Church
Amherst Presbyterian Church
Central Baptist Church
Clifford Baptist Church
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Emmanuel United Methodist Church
Midway Baptist Church
Mt. Olive Baptist Church
St. Francis of Assisi Parrish

## **VENDORS**

Amherst Corner Restaurant
Edith's Rt. 60 Diner
Fairmont Crossing
Mac's General Store
Subway Amherst
Subway Apple Market
Sweet Briar College
Winton