

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Meals That Connect**

***Meals That Connect Adjusts To Meet Latest Coronavirus Safety Needs For Seniors; Anticipates Increase In Demand Throughout County To Homebound Seniors; Annual Fundraiser Canceled***

**SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – Meals That Connect – Senior Nutrition Program of SLO County makes significant changes to meal delivery in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. MTC provides over 180,000 free meals to county seniors annually. Seniors in need and demand for food is expected to increase, putting added strain on the non-profit, while delivering food to this high-risk group becomes increasingly complex.**

**Dining sites, where about 40% of our meals are served, will no longer serve community meals. Instead, seniors who normally come for a hot meal will be given a take home meal in order to minimize potential community spread.**

**"Though seniors benefit greatly from sharing a meal with friends, we have made the difficult decision to discontinue having our elderly dine together. Sending meals home is the only safe approach. Right now it's critical that we minimize the virus' spread to the senior population," stated Director Elias Nimeh.**

**Volunteers who personally deliver meals for the homebound are now trained in how to safely hand off food while keeping a safe distance. Weighing client's need for human contact and interaction against the risks associated with exposure, MTC is working under the direct guidance of the County Health Department.**

**Additionally, the non-profit, at a time of anticipated increase in demand, has canceled its primary fundraiser, Night of a Million Meals, which was scheduled for May 9, 2020. "At a time when we need funding the greatest, this is a tough blow," explains Nimeh, "This is about safety for the most vulnerable in our community, first and foremost. Protecting our seniors is what we do."**

**Meals That Connect is a nonprofit organization that provides seniors 60 years of age and over with free hot meals throughout SLO County. Daily noontime meals are served to 1,800 seniors at ten locations in the county and delivered to seniors who are homebound.**

**Donations can be made on our website [mealsthatconnect.org](http://mealsthatconnect.org) or by calling 805-541-3312.**

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**Meals That Connect is a nonprofit organization serving daily nutritious meals to seniors in San Luis Obispo County. The organization was founded in 1974 and incorporated as a nonprofit in 1991. In addition to serving noontime meals in ten community service centers around the county, Meals That Connect delivers meals to homebound seniors. The connections made at the community service centers decrease isolation and improve socialization among the senior community. For more information on Meals That Connect, please visit [www.mealsthatconnect.org](http://www.mealsthatconnect.org).**