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## The MIFA Minute | March 18, 2021

1 message

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**MIFA (Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association)** <director@mifa.org>

Reply-To: director@mifa.org

To: "Edward T. Ordman" <edward@ordman.net>

Thu, Mar 18, 2021 at 10:35 AM

# The MIFA Minute



### **Featured Face of MIFA: Bob McBride**

"I appreciate the vision of MIFA and their supporters of faith who desire to serve our fellowman by meeting the basic needs of many of the disadvantaged in our community."

*See more Faces of MIFA at [community.mifa.org](http://community.mifa.org).*

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### **Staff Perspectives on Service**

A few of our staff members spoke with Forever Ready Productions recently to create [this video](#), which was presented at our All-Employee Meeting earlier this month. Take a moment to hear staff in different areas reflect on our service during the pandemic.

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### **An Update on the Eviction Crisis**

You may have seen the news this week that a local U.S. district judge [sided with landlords](#) who asserted in a September lawsuit that the CDC's eviction ban was unlawful. The Tennessee Supreme Court [followed the ruling](#) with a notice confirming that the eviction ban is lifted in 22 West Tennessee counties, including Shelby County.

We knew the end of the eviction moratorium would come eventually, and that it would affect our most economically vulnerable neighbors whose communities [have also been most affected by COVID-19](#).

While we still can't foresee the impact this decision might have on our community, we are encouraged that so many community partners have already convened to create the COVID-19 Emergency Rental & Utility Assistance Program with recent stimulus funds. In addition to providing rent and utility relief for individuals, this partnership is working with landlords to arrange payments on behalf of multiple

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tenants, providing relief for landlords and eviction protection for tenants during the assistance period.

MIFA will continue to work with our community partners to address the needs of our neighbors as they evolve. Thank you for your interest in this important issue and for your ongoing support of our work.

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### **Connecting Meals on Wheels clients with COVID vaccine opportunities**

Here is an update on our efforts to connect our Meals on Wheels clients with opportunities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Last month, we mailed surveys to 2,000 Meals on Wheels clients to gauge their interest in receiving COVID vaccines, and we have received nearly 700 responses so far. While more than half of congregate meal recipients report that they have already received the vaccine, over 60% of home-delivered recipients still need it.

The surveys for homebound clients also included questions about transportation and mobility. About 60% of those clients have expressed a need for transportation to vaccination sites or to receive the vaccine in their homes, which we believe our community partners will be able to provide.

We are grateful for the partnerships that have made this opportunity possible, and we will continue to update you on our progress.

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### **Farewell to Senior Companion**

The Senior Companion program has been a beloved MIFA program since 1985. During this time, we have had the privilege of sponsoring hundreds of companions, and our community has benefited from the thousands of hours of service that those companions provided.

Despite these community benefits, the program has not been without its challenges. After careful consideration of financial trends, compliance requirements, and ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining new companions, we have come to the difficult decision to end the Senior Companion program on June 30.

Senior Companion is an AmeriCorps Seniors program, and we are hopeful that another local agency will be interested in continuing this service in Memphis.

Please take a moment to celebrate this special program and the staff members, Alecia Williams and Emmabeth Weaver, whose hard work and capable leadership have kept our seniors engaged and thriving, even in this difficult pandemic year. We are grateful for the many years Senior Companion has spent at MIFA. See some highlights in the photos below!

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### **Spread the word**

You can help promote MIFA's mission by sharing what we do. Follow us on social media and tell your friends to do the same. Help us share our stories with our community.



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**MIFA Joins Programs  
Nationwide in  
Celebrating March for  
Meals**



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MEALS ON WHEELS™

On March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. For nearly 50 years, these critical programs – commonly referred to as Meals on Wheels – have delivered more than just nutritious meals to homebound seniors in virtually every community across the country. And, the dedicated staff and volunteers who deliver these meals each week provide a vital lifeline and connection to the community, which are sometimes all it takes to keep our senior neighbors at home, where they want to be.

Meals on Wheels programs have come together each March since 2002 to celebrate this proven collaboration of local community organizations, businesses, all levels of government and compassionate individuals to ensure that our seniors are not forgotten. By volunteering, donating or speaking out, you help to ensure the seniors in your neighborhood can live more healthy, happy, and independent lives at home, where they want to be.

(From [Meals on Wheels America](#))

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**Our vision:** Uniting the community through service.

**Our mission:** Supporting the independence of vulnerable seniors and families in crisis through high-impact programs.

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