

Pet Food Program

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Brief Description:

Homebound seniors need the affection of their furry friends but are sometimes unable to feed them or get them shots, or even have them groomed. Pets have shown to make life changing differences in the lives of people. If we help keep the pet healthy, we are helping keep the client healthy.

This submission was selected as part of a national challenge issued to leaders in all communities seeking new "best practices" and "best possibilities" for the future of nutrition and aging.

Meals On Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County has a Companion Pet Program. We deliver, through the help of volunteers, approximately one ton of pet food a month to 200 animals. Pet food drives are done by local companies, animal shelters, and help from 4-H, Boy and Girl Scouts, and also the dog scouts. We have partnered with veterinarians and Banfield over the entire county who have offered their help with: exams, vaccinations, spay/neuter, dental cleaning, micro chipping, in home bath/groom and nail clipping, clinic bath/groom, and euthanasia. They have also gone to our clients home to extract teeth and help with births.

We also have partnered with local dog and cat rescues and made adoptions. One client who lost her spouse and only child in the same year got one of these puppies. Because of this union, her depression is lifting, her circulation has improved (through walks), and she has lost 10 pounds! The biggest difference - the smile on her face and the happy home give to a pet.