

Do You Know Warren Simpson?

Maybe not. But the head of Rotary International does—on a first-name basis. During a recent trip to Maine he presented Warren with one of Rotary's most prestigious awards.



Wilf Wilkinson (l) with Warren Simpson

Not that long ago, nearly everyone who grew up in South Portland would have recognized his name, for Warren was a very prominent citizen. Could be you have met him before. If you were ever at the Millcreek True Value Hardware store, you almost certainly did. He owned and operated that business for half a century!

Then too, you may have met him at the Rotary's annual Christmas Tree Sale as he hefted your purchase to your car roof and helped you tie it down for the trip home. He worked at that event "for years and years and years."

Maybe you bumped into him at a Mason's function or a Shriner's parade. You see, he's also a 33rd degree Mason, a member of Shriners, and past Grand Commander of the Knights Templar. Warren, at one time, was a very busy man.

The Rotary, the Masons, the Knights Templar—they all take up a great deal of time and energy when you're involved at the level Warren was. As Grand Commander, he traveled around the country. He's not one to toot his own horn; yet as he talks of those busy, event-filled days, you can hear the obvious pride he takes in a job well-done.

But, Warren doesn't travel much anymore. Nor can he toss a Christmas tree onto the roof of your car. The snow and ice keep him inside most of the winter. So, he's not as visible around town as he once was. In fact, he tells us, **"Some days, my Meals on Wheels driver is the only person I see."**

Imagine, then, what would happen if his Meals on Wheels driver didn't come by each day. Who would be checking up on Warren to make sure this 91-year-old treasure is still O.K.?

Our dedicated, volunteer drivers bring 800 meals a day to people like Warren, helping them live independently in their own homes. They deliver much more than a meal.

Yet funding for Meals on Wheels remains tight.

The State provides only 5% of our cost for this extraordinary program. With its current deficit we can't count on anything additional from there. As for Federal sources....well, I'll just say we've been "flat-funded" for the past three years, all the while providing more and more meals! In fact, we're serving 439 more people than we were three years ago.

That's why we need you to respond today. Think about Warren and the hundreds of others like him. If you were to send in \$100, that would allow us to continue to provide someone like Warren with another full two months of Meals on Wheels. What a wonderful gift that would be!

When you understand that a nutritious, balanced meal can be delivered piping hot for as little as \$6.40 each, how can one not respond to that need!

If you can send more than \$100, then do; but please know we're in need of donations of all sizes.

Thank you,



Laurence Gross
Executive Director

P.S. You may have received a request from us in October. If you made a gift at that time, we sincerely thank you and assure you we've already made good use of it. We still need to raise an additional \$23,000 to meet our Annual Fund goal this year. Please help.