

## **BLIZZARD BOXES ARE READY FOR DELIVERY**



***Staff from the CCAA, Inc. and Wal-Mart Distribution Center #6027 created an assembly line and packaged over 1,000 Blizzard Boxes.***

Blizzard Boxes for the 2010-2011 winter season are being delivered now to Clearfield County Meals on Wheels & More recipients. Blizzard Boxes are small boxes containing an assortment of non-perishable foods that are equal in nourishment to two traditional hot meals on wheels. Blizzard Boxes are funded entirely with local contributions, usually packed by volunteers, and then delivered prior to bad weather by the Meals on Wheels & More staff.

“Every year, something changes,” noted Sue Kordish, Licensed Nutritionist/Dietitian for the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging (CCAA). The container may vary in size or even be a bag; the food items differ based on what food items can be found at the best price and in the amounts needed. The faces of the volunteers change, and the location where the boxes are packed moves from time to time.

“Last year, a wonderful opportunity emerged for us to upgrade the technology and community involvement,” Kordish explained. The agency had responded to an offer from Wal\*Mart Distribution Center 6027 to set up the packaging process at their warehouse location and use volunteers from their staff to assemble and pack the boxes. “When the offer came to work with them again this year, we jumped at the chance.”

Food items, boxes, hand sanitizer and so forth were purchased over the summer and then delivered to the distribution center. This year’s food items include, for the very first time, a Hormel Compleat roast beef dinner and Borden’s liquid, shelf-stable milk. “I am very pleased with both of these products. They definitely add quality to the meals,” said Mrs. Kordish.

On October 20, over 1000 Blizzard Boxes were assembled. The next day, they were dropped off at the receiving dock of the Meal Production and Distribution Facility in Technology Park. Throughout the following week, they will be dove-tailed in with the delivery of regular Meals on Wheels & More routes until all consumers have their back-up supply safely tucked away.

This is the 28<sup>th</sup> year that Blizzard Boxes have been used in Clearfield County. Kordish underscores that it is enthusiastic support from Wal\*Mart Distribution Center, and other individuals and organizations in past years, which has enabled the agency to continue to provide more and better service to the residents of Clearfield County. While small variations of the concept may have existed in various areas of the country for years, the formal program actually began in Clearfield County in 1983 by the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. The Clearfield Rotary club was the original organizational partner with the CCAA in the program. They provided support countywide initially, and as the program grew in subsequent years, the Curwensville and DuBois Rotary Clubs joined the effort, spreading the load of support for the program. Since several Rotary Clubs participate, the Rotary Wheel is placed on the label of the box along with the CCAA and Wal\*Mart logos.

For more information about the Blizzard Box project, Meals on Wheels & More, and other services provided by the Agency, call 814-765-2696.