

For Immediate Release  
December 3, 2007

Contact: Robert Smith  
Director of Public Relations  
Visiting Nurse Association  
214-689-2609

## **MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS BRAVE THE CHILL TO GET THANKSGIVING MEALS DELIVERED**

The Visiting Nurse Association's Meals on Wheels program delivered a special Thanksgiving meal to more than 3,200 homebound frail elderly, sick, and disabled residents of Dallas County on a cold, blustery November 22.

There were additional challenges this year, besides the low temperatures, because Thanksgiving meal preparation began at 4 a.m. in VNA's temporary Meals on Wheels kitchen in Irving. The meals were then trucked over to the parking lot of the Comerica Bank service building in Dallas, where volunteers started arriving at 8:30 a.m. to pickup the Thanksgiving meals for delivery on 322 routes.

"Thousands of homebound elderly, sick, and disabled individuals were counting on Meals on Wheels volunteers to bring them a hot Thanksgiving meal, a few kind words, and the wish for a happy Thanksgiving," stated Robert Carpenter, VNA president and chief executive officer. "We did not want to disappoint them," he added.

The Comerica site where volunteers gathered is adjacent to where construction has begun on the new VNA center and Meals on Wheels kitchen at 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. The new building will replace VNA's headquarters that was destroyed by fire in 2005. Construction is expected to be completed in March 2008.

Preparation has now started on organizing VNA Meals on Wheels deliveries for Christmas morning. Information about volunteering to deliver Christmas Meals on Wheels can be obtained by contacting Betsy Cox, VNA Director of Volunteers, at 214-689-2210 or [coxbe@vnatexas.org](mailto:coxbe@vnatexas.org).

(more)



**Robert Carpenter (left), VNA president and CEO, with Paul Zobisch, publisher of "Generations" at the Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels site.**



**Meals on Wheels volunteers huddle against cold wind and low temperatures Thanksgiving morning. More than 700 volunteers helped get 3,200 Meals on Wheels delivered for the Visiting Nurse Association.**

###