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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CLAYTON COUNTY AGING PROGRAM JOINS IN MONTH-LONG MARCH FOR MEALS
CELEBRATION WITH COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE**

SUPPORT WILL HELP TO FIGHT SENIOR HUNGER AND ISOLATION IN CLAYTON COUNTY

(Jonesboro, GA- March 4, 2019)– The Clayton County Senior Services Aging Program recently announced that it will be participating in the 17th annual March For Meals Campaign – a month-long, nationwide celebration of Meal on Wheels and the seniors who rely on the vital nutrition service to remain healthy and independent in their homes. As studies have shown, a home-delivered meal program can feed a senior for an entire year for about the same cost as one day’s stay in a hospital.

“The month of March is a fitting time to not only celebrate the successful history of Meals on Wheels but also bring us together to support a solution that will strengthen communities into the future,” said Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America. “With 12,000 Americans turning 60 each day, now is the time to invest in these vital programs so that we can provide every senior in need with nutritious meals, friendly visits and safety checks that will enable them to live healthier and independent in their own homes.”

Clayton County March For Meals celebrations will include various activities throughout the month including a proclamation presentation by Chairman Turner at the Tuesday evening, March 5, 2019, BOC Business Meeting in honor of March For Meals Month and the various community partners that are showing their support of the initiative and the meal program. The week of March 18 - 22 has been designated as National Community Champions Week by the national Meals on Wheels chapter. Local advocates across the country are pitching-in and showing their support for Meals on Wheels. Clayton County Commissioners and BOC staff, County Fire & Emergency Services, the Clayton County Sheriff Office, the Dept. of Community Supervision, Clayton County Police Department, Senior Services staff and other Meals on Wheels advocates such as JenCare, South Atlanta Magazine, and Southern Regional Medical Center have all made contributions towards the week of special meal deliveries.

Additionally, employees who show their Clayton County identification will receive a free non-alcoholic beverage with the purchase of a meal from 2019 March For Meals partners- The Olive Garden on Mt. Zion Road in Morrow and Hookin Bull BBQ on spur Hwy138 in Jonesboro. Each location will place a special March For Meals donation container in their dining establishment in support of helping to feed a Clayton County senior. To wrap up the month’s activities the Olive Garden will also host a special luncheon for Meals on Wheels clients residing at a local senior living community.

For more information on how you can volunteer, contribute or advocate on behalf of the seniors in Clayton County contact the Aging Office at 770-603-4050.

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