

CAP's Meals on Wheels in running to win Toyota van

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A Longview nonprofit agency could win a free Toyota van for its Meals on Wheels program if it receives the most votes on Toyota's Facebook page Wednesday, July 13.

Earlier this year, Toyota announced that it would give away 100 Toyota vehicles to nonprofits across the nation. Lower Columbia CAP was one of 500 nonprofits selected to compete for them, according to a CAP press release.

Since May, five different nonprofit groups a day have competed for a vehicle. The group that receives the most votes on Toyota's Facebook page that day wins the van, and the four other nonprofits each receive \$1,000 to help their programs.

Wednesday only, Facebook users can go to [Facebook.com/Toyota](https://www.facebook.com/Toyota) and cast their vote for CAP's Meals on Wheels program, which has been delivering hot and frozen meals since 1979 to homebound seniors and people with disabilities. CAP's website at www.lowercolumbiacap.org has a direct link to the Facebook page. If people click on it before Wednesday, Facebook will send a reminder to vote on that day.

Although CAP is competing against nonprofits in larger metropolitan areas, CAP has a shot, said Tammy Davies, CAP's Senior Services program manager.

"It's much easier to mobilize a small community than a large metropolitan area," she said.

Last year, CAP volunteers and staff delivered 43,000 meals. Each month, they drive an average of 2,200 miles.

The van also would deliver meals from CAP's central kitchen to the Senior Community Lunch sites. In 2010, CAP served more than 18,000 hot meals at its nine such sites, Davies said.

When not being used for senior nutrition, the Toyota van would take seniors to medical and dental appointments, sometimes as far away as Seattle and Portland. CAP's Senior Rides program clocks about 4,000 miles each month.

"We are asking people not just to vote on July 13, but to ask their friends and families to vote, and help us get the word out," Davies said.

For more information about the Toyota 100 Cars for Good or for CAP's senior services, go to www.lowercolumbiacap.org, or call 360-425-3430, extension 240.