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Inglis takes hot meals to constituents

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Rep. Bob Inglis stood with a Mobile Meals delivery in hand, knocking loudly to drown out the tiny dog yapping around his feet.

"Publisher's Clearing House," Inglis said with a laugh as a woman peered through the door at him.

"Haven't I heard you on the radio?" said Garnita Mocomson, 66. "Aren't you that radio guy?"

"No," Inglis said, handing her the meal. "I'm that congressman guy."

Inglis visited about 10 homes Tuesday on his assigned delivery route for Mobile Meals. He said he volunteered to deliver meals after seeing a notice in the Herald-Journal that the group was short on drivers.

"Mobile Meals is one of the most impressive charitable organizations I know about," Inglis said.

"They are short of drivers to the point they had to go all the way to Washington, D.C., to find one. I hope my doing this will encourage drivers to come forward and help get meals out."

Jayne McQueen, president of the nonprofit, said it takes 150 volunteers to provide meals for the some 1,800 seniors and home-bound individuals they service.

"We have 22 spots that aren't filled right now, and we really need substitutes for around the holidays to serve meals also," McQueen said. "I'm deeply touched and grateful to Bob because he's been a wonderful friend to this ministry and Spartanburg."

Inglis said drivers often end up getting more out of the experience than the people who receive the food.

"It's such a neat thing to see the relationships that develop between drivers and the folks getting meals," Inglis said. "That contact might be the only live contact these people have."

At Inglis' second stop, Elsie Freeman was well into the conversation before she realized he wasn't one of the normal drivers.

"Who are you?" Freeman asked.

"I'm Representative Bob Inglis, your congressman," Inglis explained with a smile.

"I didn't know that," Freeman said. "Bless your heart."

Freeman told Inglis she wouldn't be able to remain in her home without Mobile Meals.

"Mobile Meals is wonderful," Freeman said. "I don't know what I'd do without them, and they do so much more than just bring me food."

Freeman said she loves all the drivers that deliver to her.

"They know me well enough they just come right in and put my milk in the fridge," Freeman said. "I get lonesome by myself, so I get to visit."

Inglis said the experience of delivering meals was a rewarding one.

"It's wonderful to see how the folks who are served relate to the Mobile Meal volunteers," Inglis said. "The fact that people in Spartanburg are so generous to support Mobile Meals with their money and time is amazing. The funds and meals are available, and we just need people to deliver them."

For information on how to volunteer for the organization, call 573-7684.

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