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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Detroit Holiday Meals on Wheels and DTE Care Force Bring Bright Smiles with Warm Hearts for Christmas**

*Detroit Area Agency on Aging "Holiday Meals on Wheels" Partners with DTE Energy Foundation to Bring Together more than 500 Volunteers to Help Homebound Seniors*

Detroit, Michigan (December 20, 2016) – Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) is proud to announce that for the seventh year in a row, the DTE Energy Foundation will be providing 5,500 meals to homebound seniors and disabled adults on Christmas.

DTE Energy Foundation has generously donated \$35,000 to DAAA's Holiday Meals on Wheels program. Homebound seniors and disabled adults living in Detroit, Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park, and the five Grosse Pointes will receive a hot nutritious meal, a small gift with a holiday greeting card and a friendly visit from volunteers.

"Too many seniors and disabled adults in our communities are struggling with hunger and live in isolation. We value and appreciate DTE's support and their dedicated employee volunteers – we wouldn't be able to provide the Christmas meals without them" said Paul Bridgewater, Detroit Area Agency on Aging, president and chief executive officer.

All of the meals will be packed at Valley Services, a national food services company, in its USDA-certified kitchen. **On Thursday, December 22** starting at 8 a.m., DTE employees and their families will pack the cold portion of the meals and **on Christmas day, Sunday, December 25**, starting at 6 a.m., they will pack the hot portion of the meal. The meals will be distributed to ten community sites plus two Detroit DTE Service Centers for door-to-door delivery starting at 8:30 a.m.

"For the seventh year in a row, the DTE Energy Foundation is pleased to support the Detroit Holiday Meals on Wheels program," said Faye Nelson, vice president, DTE Energy; and board chair and president of the DTE Energy Foundation. "I am so proud of the hundreds of DTE employees - and their families – who are volunteering their time and energy to pack and deliver meals at Christmas time, showing their deep commitment to making the season bright in the communities where we live and serve."

While the daily Meals on Wheels program is federally funded, the Holiday Meals on Wheels program is not, therefore DAAA depends on the community and private funds for support. This Christmas, meal deliveries are made possible by the contributions and

volunteers of the DTE Energy Foundation and the Detroit Area Agency on Aging, therefore, ***“Hunger Takes No Holiday.”***

### **About Detroit Area Agency on Aging**

*DAAA is a private, non-profit agency that serves older persons age 60 years and over, adults with disabilities and caregivers in the City of Detroit, the five Grosse Pointes, Hamtramck, Harper Woods and Highland Park. DAAA serves over 136,000 older adults age 60 and older and caregivers annually.*

*For more information, please call (313) 446-4444 or visit <http://www.DetroitSeniorSolution.org>*

### **About DTE Energy Foundation**

*The DTE Energy Foundation is the philanthropic arm of DTE Energy, continuing the legacy of community support and involvement of its electric and natural gas utilities, which serve 2.2 million electric customers in Southeast Michigan and 1.2 million natural gas customers in Michigan. In 2015, the DTE Energy Foundation provided \$15 million in grant support to nonprofits throughout the company’s service territories. As one of Michigan’s leading corporate citizens, DTE Energy is a force for growth and prosperity in the 260 Michigan communities it serves in a variety of ways, including philanthropy, volunteerism and economic progress. <http://www.dteenergy.com/foundation>.*

**(Editors’ Note: Media have the opportunity to visit the Valley Services kitchen and the DTE distribution sites as well go on a meal delivery for interviews and images.)**

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