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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Manistee County Council on Aging (MCCOA) is both thankful and proud of over 50 years' service to our community's seniors, promoting quality of life programs and services vital to the independence of those of us in our golden years.

The wide variety of offerings at the Wagoner Community Center range from exercise and wellness to arts and craft classes; from assistance with government programs and home maintenance to the lending library branch, bingo and cards; from dancing and concerts to presentations and lectures. One of the core services so relied upon in our community is focused on nutrition, from the food bank to meals served at the center and for delivery throughout Manistee County.

As our visitors and others in the community know, the MCCOA's move in recent years to the Wagoner Community Center near the Fifth Avenue Beach presented opportunities to develop even more programs, but only after a successful fund-raising campaign brought the building's physical plant to sustainable condition, something that we continue to address.

At this time - and with thanks to funds provided by grants, donors and partially from voter-approved millage - the board of directors finalized and approved plans to improve the rudimentary kitchen facilities to commercial standards. The goal of this is not just to expand the availability of nutrition programs to our Manistee County seniors, though that itself is an important goal. A commercial kitchen also supports the MCCOA's mission through revenue from venue rentals, and even with the opportunity to offer cooking, nutrition, and safe food service classes and demonstrations.

The reason for this letter? While the budgeted funds for the renovations and prior gifts of appliances and equipment are sufficient to the work underway, there's more work on the horizon, such as improved heating and cooling in the building, some much-needed decorating updates, upgrading spaces for more relevant uses, and so on. Raising some funds to defray these costs allows the center to dedicate its ongoing revenues directly to the services and programs so vital to the health and well-being of our seniors. Please reach out to friends and neighbors for help. Contributions from friends of the MCCOA are tax-deductible.

It is an honor and a privilege to support the healthy living of our community's seniors. Your help is both a blessing and a gift.

Most humble and sincere regards,  
The MCCOA Board of Directors and Executive Team