

SOUTH BENTON FOOD PANTRY

Heritage Hall Community Resource Center
648 Orchard Street, PO Box 396, Monroe, OR 97456

Co-Chairs and members of the Committee, I am Delia Hammond, a resident of Monroe, OR and a volunteer in the community. I am here today to request \$142,000 from the Lottery Bond Fund.

In 2013 South Benton Food Pantry began an extraordinary 9 year fundraising effort to purchase an iconic building that had been the historic hub of Monroe. \$250,000 was eventually raised through numerous grants and private donations and in November 2022, South Benton Food Pantry became the owner of Heritage Hall which will remain the hub of Monroe as a Community Resource Center.

Diverse and necessary programs will operate from the Center all designed to help provide, what we would consider as *large city resources to a small, rural, under-resourced town*. The Center will serve a greater population of over 3,000 people. Programs will include:

- Meals on Wheels for our increasing senior population
- A satellite office of Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence (CARD-V)
- Community Services Consortium providing utility and rent assistance
- OSU Extension Services will provide nutrition education classes
- Art in the Park: a summer art education program for children
- Musical concerts and the performing arts
- Community meals and other effort to help address food insecurity
- Many other educational and support programs covering a wide range of interests and needs

All these programs have one main goal: *To strive to build and maintain a healthy rural community.*

However, the building is 113 years old. It was purchased for a fraction of the real market value but it needs to be renovated to make the building safe and energy efficient. This includes:

- Insulation in exterior walls
- Replacement of single pane windows
- Removal of knob and tube wiring
- Electrical rewiring
- New HVAC system to replace old oil furnace
- Licensed commercial kitchen
- New flooring in the dining room
- New exterior paint

Timing for the completion of the renovations is critical as the existing Food Pantry building is going to be demolished and rebuilt. During that period of time, the Food Pantry needs to continue to operate and will be moved into Heritage Hall.

We have secured \$120,000 from private donations but an additional \$142,000 is needed in order to complete the renovation project. Thank you for your consideration and for this opportunity to speak.



Delia J Hammond