

February 2,2023

Justification of Request/Public Benefit

Seniors in Westminster SC have no place to call home. We have been trying for over two years to remedy that situation.

We were deeded the previous pool building after our city pool was closed. We have worked on the building with donations, donated labor and have been able to get the building to all that can be done by non professionals, now need the professionals to complete the job. We don't have the funds.

Westminster has a population of Seniors that need a place to meet during the day and that place needs to meet the needs of the Seniors in our area. We have Seniors in their 70's, 80's and 90's. Our group comes from several different areas around us. They come because we offer them a place that meet their needs. Many are on walkers, canes and are just not able to walk into a facility such as the Y offers. They can't ride stationary bikes, many can't walk long distances without help. With our group, we used to see a lot of loneliness and depression from isolation and being at home all day.

We currently meet in the Son of the American Legion, post 107. They have allowed us to use their facility for over two years, free of charge while while we renovate our old pool building. We can't meet during the day because the Legion Building is used by the Legion for meetings and etc. We can't plan for speakers because the Legion might be in use. We need to have speakers come from all around the area and speak to our Seniors concerning things that affect their lives.

We will have a building of just over twelve hundred square feet when the current building (pool building) is completed. Our group has grown from nine seniors at our first meeting to over fifty. We want an extension added to allow us to service all our Seniors. If we can secure the funds for an extension, we will add an additional twelve hundred square feet. We would be able to offer so many programs. Chair exercises, which would be great for our special needs Seniors.

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Westminster has very little areas or facilities where a larger group of fifty or more can meet. Our extension would offer a place that would allow a larger group to meet. It would also allow us to charge for outside groups to meet and pay a reasonable fee and those fees would allow us funds to meet our budget.

We are grateful for the YMCA and think it is a blessing for Oconee County, our Seniors have no way to get to the Y if they wanted to utilize the programs there. There is no bus or transportation to get them to Seneca. Many have lost their ability to drive a car and they can get to the facility in Westminster , some are picked up and driven by other seniors that live near. Many who can walk, get to our facility by walking in pairs.

This is such a dream for our Seniors that frankly have few dreams left.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our vision with you. PLEASE consider our request for funds for our building. If you aren't able to grant our request for full funds, we would put whatever you decide to grant us to such good use for our most deserving and wonderful Seniors.

Judy Caywood, Director
Westminster Senior Outreach