
November 12, 2020



Dear Neighbor,

We are fortunate to live in Hood River County where people look out for each other and stand ready to lend a hand. Whatever the need, Hood River County residents repeatedly step up to make sure their neighbors have the care they need.

One of the places our community comes together is at the Hood River Valley Adult Center (now referred to as The Center). The Center was built through community donations, opened to the public in 1994, and is a gathering place for everyone! In addition to activities for seniors and nutritious lunches served every weekday, The Center is regularly used by many local groups including: Boy Scout Troop 282, a church congregation, Rotary, Soroptimist and Performances at Adult Center Theatre (PACT). Plus, The Center serves as an emergency shelter!

“The Center is critical to the safety and security of Hood River County’s disaster planning and response. The services they provide are invaluable; ensuring the needs of our most vulnerable residents are met during crises from natural disasters to the current COVID-19 pandemic.” -Sheriff Matt English

Over the past 26 years, The Center has seen much use. Originally built on a shoestring budget, the entire building now needs to be brought up to modern safety standards, including COVID-19 related enhancements. Simply put, **The Center can no longer handle the loving demands put on it by Hood River County residents.**

In early 2020, plans were underway to begin a Capital Funds Campaign in response to the needs at The Center. When COVID-19 hit, The Center was closed to the public and we all retreated to our homes in an effort to keep ourselves and others safe. Over the summer, the Capital Funds Campaign committee began meeting again via Zoom to form a new and socially distanced fundraising effort. Meanwhile, Meals on Wheels prepared in the kitchen at The Center have continued without interruption throughout the pandemic.

You can help by donating to the Capital Funds Campaign today.

**Through matching grants,
your donation will be doubled!
For every \$1 you give, we get \$2!
www.hrvac.org/donate**

OR

**Mail your tax-deductible donation to Hood River Valley Adult Center,
2010 Sterling Place, Hood River, OR 97031**

Here’s the short list of needed renovations at The Center:

- Install an automatic sliding front door for ease and safety of entrance and exit
- Replace flooring with a safe, non-slip material for walkers and wheelchairs
- Remodel restrooms to be touch free and 100% accessible for all
- Finish the second-floor space for use as offices and meeting rooms
- Install an elevator for access to the second floor
- Remodel the first-floor lobby, meeting rooms and dining room
- Install a COVID-19 air purification and circulation filter to the new HVAC system
- Total renovation of the kitchen

Of all these projects, the kitchen renovation is the most important! Food insecurity affects many of our senior citizens. The Center is committed to continuing the Meals on Wheels program for the 200+ seniors who regularly receive a hot meal. However, the current condition of The Center’s kitchen makes it unsafe for those who prepare these meals. Space is tight, appliances are failing and the kitchen is not up to code. Community demand continues to increase, and this program has simply outgrown the kitchen at The Center. **It needs to be replaced!**

“Meals on Wheels means everything. Especially when you’re 92, blind, can’t cook or drive. It has allowed me to stay independent in my home a little longer. Meals on Wheels is truly a God send!”

- Gerry Cooper, Hood River County Meals on Wheels client

Many more of our senior citizens are now staying home due to COVID-19 and rely on the Meals on Wheels program. Others drive by The Center to pick up a hot meal. The demand for meals has increased significantly over the past four years and continues to grow through our current pandemic. An additional increase of 25% is anticipated as winter approaches. Meals are also needed for local families battling COVID-19 while quarantining in their homes. The demand for Meals on Wheels in Hood River County has never been greater.

“Meals on Wheels equals life! It’s everything and I appreciate it so much. To have someone checking up on me, I look forward to it. It boosts my energy tremendously. You got our hearts!!”

- Roy Williams, Hood River County Meals on Wheels client



The estimated cost of the kitchen remodel is \$495,000. But, thanks to matching grants, the Capital Funds Campaign needs to raise just 50% of this amount. The Center already has reserved funds and donations totaling \$80,000. Your gift will enable us to reach our initial goal of a complete kitchen remodel. Excess funds for the remaining remodeling projects at The Center will begin after the kitchen is completed, in an order deemed necessary by the Board.

Hundreds of residents in Hood River County depend on Meals on Wheels. Can we depend on you to help us continue providing hot meals to our valued neighbors during these trying times?

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Thank you for your generosity,

Amy Mallett

Executive Director, Hood River Valley Adult Center

Gary Young

for the Board of Directors, Hood River Valley Adult Center

Hood River Valley Adult Center Capital Funds Drive Committee members:

Frank Akin

Margo Dameier

Fred Duckwall, Chairperson

George Johnson

Amy Mallett

David Meriwether

Bill Nielsen

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