



Caney Fork Community Development Council
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March 26, 2024

To the Jackson County Commissioners,

The Caney Fork Community Center prides itself for being one of the few community buildings in Jackson County that is self sufficient. We host a monthly pot luck supper, have a food pantry that is stocked and available for any of our neighbors at any time, host a Food Box giveaway every other week, host paint parties, host a Halloween Trunk or Treat (250+ people), and our center is rented out to private individuals for family reunions/birthday parties/etc.

We are 100% responsible for our operating costs, building maintenance, lawn maintenance, and our events/services. Before Covid (2020) our annual operating costs were around \$3,000, last year it was \$4,100, and this year our expenses are projected to be around \$5,550. Unfortunately, our funds are running extremely low and for the 1st time since our center opened in 1956, we risk having to close our doors.

We host a yearly BBQ Fundraiser every June, which brings in \$2,000-3,000 in sales; we normally place in the top percentile at the annual WNC Communities Award program in November (for our commitment and dedication to our community), which brings in \$500-1,000; we receive a yearly \$1,500 stipend from Jackson County. All of those funds normally cover all of our electric bills, internet bill, lawn maintenance, and some of our services/ events. But unfortunately, it doesn't leave much room in the budget for building maintenance & improvements and all of our services/ events. We are asking this fine board of Jackson County Commissioners for a little help. We would greatly appreciate any help you are able to give. We are thinking in order to make sure that our power bill is paid, we have adequate supplies for the BBQ, and some building improvements (instant hot water heater, possible new flooring in the main room due to water damage, and possibly exterior building paint) we are asking if there is anyway the Jackson County Commissioners could donate \$6,000 to our community center? Again, we normally never ask for the County to step in and help us, but we really are in need of a helping hand.

We are getting ready to host a Poor Man's Supper to help benefit the community center on April 13, 2024 from 2-5 PM and each of you are welcome to come visit and speak with us, check our center out, and interact with the wonderful people of Caney Fork. If y'all are unable to attend the supper and you have any questions please feel free to let us know.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kristin Stevens

President

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