

Hi Amy,

Many thanks to you and the rest of the staff and board at the Barry Community Foundation for considering our Delton ROCKS fund as a potential recipient of a donation at the Virtual 400 Club Celebration on October 29th. Our fund which includes our biggest outreach, The Shack, would be ever so appreciative of whatever financial help we receive.

Our fundraising efforts have definitely been affected by this year's pandemic. Even though we were closed from mid-March through June and even though we are blessed to be able to use our building rent-free, we still had to continue to pay for the utilities and other overhead for our building in Delton. We attempted to have a community "Take-Out" breakfast in September but the turnout was far less than what it has been in the past. I don't blame our community. These are such tough times financially and also in regards to socializing safely. In past years, we have had Community Bingos, but this type of activity was definitely not going to be possible this year. We have tried to get creative. We have a couple of supportive community members who have taken on purchasing common items we continually need to keep The Shack up and running a.k.a. office supplies, paper towels, garbage bags, markers, duct tape, poster board, batteries, air freshener, plastic baggies, toilet paper, etc.

We believe we would be a wonderful recipient. Besides the supplies we go through and the consistent payment of overhead, we have had to change our procedures for shopping at The Shack as well. We have to limit the amount of shoppers in the building and need an extra volunteer (outside?) to regulate that. We have been brainstorming and are attempting to purchase signage to allow people to be able to stay in their vehicles vs wait outside in line in the elements.

Regardless of our success or lack there of bringing in monetary gifts, we continually bring in huge gifts of so many other types. The volume of clothing donations is nothing short of miraculous. The number of volunteers that give hours upon hours of their time and gifts to make this beautiful outreach run is phenomenal. We have a local coffee shop

donate coffee each and every week to our volunteers. We have a few supporters who work at Perrigo and donate OTC medicines which are quite expensive and are so appreciated by our shoppers. We have one volunteer who comes in and vacuums each week, another that cleans and sanitizes everything else. We have another who takes a hamper of clothes home occasionally to wash or mend if the items are super nice but just need a little TLC. We have two ladies who are night owls and come in sometimes for 4-5 hours in the middle of the night to sort and hang up our sometimes overwhelming amount of donations. We are very blessed with donations of many kinds.....just not monetarily as of late.

We feel that we are definitely filling a need in our small community and beyond. We have people from all over the county shop, donate and volunteer at The Shack. We would be grateful to receive any monetary donation and we would do our very best to use it to continue to pay blessings forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Forsyth
with The Shack