

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phelps County Bank

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Headline: Phelps County Bank Donates \$10,000 to new Senior Center

Phelps Connections for Seniors is \$10,000 closer to its goal of opening a new senior center in Rolla. Their 20,000+ square foot facility will include dining facilities, a multipurpose area, offices, a thrift store and more. Located in the former Highway 72 Event Center, volunteers plan to renovate the parking lot, create a drop off point under a front canopy, update the façade, and other improvements.

“We’ll serve lunch Monday through Friday, continue the home food deliveries, and offer educational, social and health care programs,” says Joanne Zap, Vice President of the Phelps Connections for Seniors. “The ABLE Commission and Rolla Nutrition Site will move into our new space. Currently, the Nutrition Site purchases about 65,000 meals each year to be delivered into the homes of local seniors.”

To date, the group has received \$103,136.42 in donations, \$450,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act administered through Phelps County, and a verbal commitment for \$400,000 from State funds for a total of \$953,136.42. They have applied for \$500,000 through the Neighborhood Assistance Program and \$800,000 through a Community Development Block Grant. If these are approved, the group will have \$2,253,136.42 raised for this \$2.5 million dollar project.

“We’ll need about \$250,000 to finish the project,” Zap adds. “And we would love to begin offering services from this location in the fall of 2023.”

Volunteers want this new facility to be a gathering place. “Our goal is to be a site that has something going on every day...lunch and activities,” says Greg Stratman, President of the Phelps Connections for Seniors. “Folks should feel comfortable here, even if it’s just to enjoy a cup of coffee and some conversation.”

“A new senior center will be a tremendous asset for our community,” says Jessica Beucler, Chief Risk Officer and an Employee-Owner at Phelps County Bank. “Once the doors open, it will improve the quality of life for so many people. We are excited to make this donation and we encourage our neighbors to be generous and support this great cause.”

To make a donation, visit the Phelps Connections for Seniors website at: <https://phelpsseniors.org/giving>.



Photo Caption: Phelps County Bank donated \$10,000 to the new Phelps County Senior Center. If the final \$250,000 is raised, this location could begin offering services in the fall of 2023. Pictured here are: Greg Stratman, Joanne Zap, Jessica Beucler, and Carol Green.