

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## 1. What is the role of the Deerfield Community Center?

To provide safe and enriching programs to area residents of all ages.

## 2. What is the benefit to the community to build new rather than update the current facility?

- Updates would not allow us to meet certain objectives, such as having outdoor space that is accessible, a fully accessible entryway, and having the ability to operate multiple in-door activities at one time.
- Updates to the wiring and meal preparation areas are costly. The landlord has worked to resolve flooding issues that have caused health concerns for staff and our participants.
- Health and safety are priorities for the Center.

## 3. Who will own the building and property?

Deerfield Community Center, Inc. will own the building and property. The property is generously being donated by the Don and Joann Tierney and Tom and Sue Nelson families.

### What DCC users say:

*"It is great... when we support our community, families and kids. It benefits everyone."*

*"I see a community that cares for its own. This has given me a lot of pride, to say, 'I'm from Deerfield'."*

*"As a charter member of the first board (we) only served the youth...I now come (to serve) the senior programs. Only a pipe dream 32 years ago! This is such a blessing for our community."*

*"I greatly enjoy bringing in items for the food pantry."*

#### **4. Why can't we move some programs to another building?**

Both the youth and senior programs, as well as the food pantry, need access to a kitchen. It is not cost effective or safe for meal preparation to divide these programs.

Currently, we offer sports, fundraising events and other community programs at multiple facilities. Although the community has been a tremendous support, the benefits of a new facility are:

- donated monies would not have to be used to pay others for facility usage
- programs and events could easily be scheduled by staff and volunteers
- staff and volunteers would not have to commute to multiple sites, haul equipment, and contact the various entities for scheduling. This would save the Center time, money, and energy.
- we would have the benefits of having our own space thus decreasing the complexities of scheduling around area sports programs.

There are times when existing programs must be canceled due to conflicting scheduling needs at DCC. When this occurs, we are not always able to find an alternate facility. Additionally, the Center currently pays for facility use outside of the Center.

#### **5. How will we cover the ongoing expenses especially in a larger facility? Will a loan be necessary?**

We will explore all suitable options (grants, donations, and low-interest loans). We will save money, in that we will not be paying other facilities for their use. Also, we will be able to rent out the new facility for reunions, weddings, etc, which will generate income.

*"I believe it does take a community to effectively raise children. And the Center provides important benefits and opportunities that would otherwise not be available."*

*"The toddler playgroup gave me the opportunity to meet a wonderful group of parents. Some of which have become good friends for myself as well as my child."*

*"I was invited by friends who have attended for a long time. My husband recently went to an assisted living facility and I needed an outlet."*

Currently, 70% of our budget is community donations. The remaining portion is covered by grants from Dane County, United Way, Village and Township of Deerfield, and Jack Taylor Foundation.

We do not anticipate an increase in program fees. These fees are tied only to the direct program costs. Overhead costs for these programs are covered by grants, donations, and other unrestricted funds.

#### **6. Who will use this new building and for what types of programs?**

The facility will primarily be utilized for the many programs DCC offers. It will also be available for the community and surrounding areas as a rental space for weddings, reunions, graduations, business meetings and the like. Our hope is that the entire community finds value in this investment. It is not just a building. It is a place to come together as family, friends and community.

#### **7. Who will be responsible for the maintenance, upkeep, and custodial care?**

DCC has enjoyed a wonderful partnership with the Thompson Correctional System. They offer excellent custodial services at a very low cost. Volunteers also give of their time and talents to provide the necessary maintenance and upkeep. It is our intention to continue these partnerships.

#### **8. Okay, so you've convinced me you need a change. Why not use one of the vacant buildings that already exist?**

DCC has researched many locations. Liberty Commons (old elementary school), Cuda Café and

*"(My son) was a little lonely at home, as it was just Mom and him. He has continued to come down almost every day for three years."*

*"Offered an outlet for the kids to participate in local events, socialize outside the school, meet new people and offer leadership."*

*"It gave me a 'change of view' and new friends when I needed them."*

*"I once worked at the food bank. Now I simply enjoy the senior programs."*

*"Good friends, good cards, great people!!!"*

Deerfield Hardware's previous location on Lake Street, to name a few. These locations did not offer the space indoor or out that would allow us to have all needs met in one location.

We had hoped to build in Firemen's Park and much time and money was spent on this location. However, due to infrastructure and land acquisition costs, it was not feasible.

When the Tierney/Nelson land became an option, we did not move without research. Yes, the land seemed an answer to prayer, but was it really? Did it offer a good location? Would we be able to do the necessary things to make the project a success or would there be restrictions?

After careful consideration, we do believe that this generous donation will be a great location where DCC can still be accessible to all our residents. Located on the edge of the town and village, it offers convenience to all. Located close to the schools, the children will not have as far to walk. Upon completion of the project, sidewalks will be in place.

### **9. There are many worth-while organizations asking for donations. Why should I give to the Deerfield Community Center?**

You will see your monies at work right here in your own community. You will see it in every face of every resident, because DCC offers programs for birth through seniors.

You will know that you are helping your neighbors in need when you donate to the food pantry.

You can be entertained and watch the youth grow physically and mentally as you watch them play

*"Our family has been involved through coaching, as well as the various youth programs. We have also served on committees."*

*"My children participate in sports and camp... summer programs and swimming lessons."*

*"My kids were very active in youth soccer and basketball programs. I have fond memories of my kids playing."*

*"Allowed me to meet people in the community as well as interact with parents who have children the same age as mine. This provided social time for my child"*

sports. You can participate yourself when you join the adult league for kickball and pickleball!

You will have peace of mind knowing your child has learned safety at the Bike Rodeo and your babysitter has had the opportunity to complete the Red Cross Babysitting course. Peace of mind knowing that the teens have a safe place to meet with their friends on Friday and Saturday nights.

You will see it in the face of our senior residents when they have enjoyed a meal with friends and a rousing hand of cards!

To ensure all donations are being used appropriately and to their maximum benefit, we have an annual audit from a third-party provider. Also, our campaign budget is only 2.275% of our goal. That is phenomenal when compared to two leading organizations. The Salvation Army is considered low at 9%, with United Way coming in at 15%. We accomplish this only through the continued volunteer-support of our community members!

## **10. What else should I know?**

Any person can be a resident in a community. But it is through connections, supporting our neighbors and caring for one another that we become true community members.

The Deerfield Community Center started in 1977 as a grass-roots effort by local children, parents and business owners to create a safe place for the kids to call their own. Today it is that, and so much more! It is a place for every community member to call his/her own. There is a place for you. Let us help you get connected!

*"I have met so many wonderful people. I feel a home-like feeling at the Center..."*

*"The Center has provided the organizational framework for charitable outreach for me, and athletic and recreational opportunities for my son. It is easily accessible, highly visible, user friendly, and convenient."*

*"The Deerfield Community Center opened my mind and my heart."*

*"It has allowed me to get to know and enjoy a whole new group of friends."*

*"One day a week of good fun."*