

The Community Center Faces a Challenge

(Story words: board, renovation, insulation, research)

Anne looked at her balance sheet and sighed. She could not see how the community center could afford all the repairs that were needed.

The furnace was on its last legs. The roof had begun to leak last winter. If this were not enough, the cement walkway was crumbling. In fact, just three weeks ago, an elderly woman coming to play bridge with other seniors stumbled on the front stoop and fell. Thankfully, she had not been badly hurt.

Anne had been the director of the center for ten years and ran the center well on a tight budget. That evening she had a board meeting, and she presented these challenges to the board members. She was glad to share all these concerns and get them off her chest.

One board member, Fran, had a new way of looking at the problem. She said, “Anne, you have done a fantastic job with general maintenance of the center—but these costs are beyond general maintenance. We need to ask the county council for help to renovate the center so that it can continue to serve the community as it always has.”

Other board members agreed with Fran. Malcolm said, “A new roof, with new insulation, and a new furnace will be expensive, but we can show the county how much can be saved in energy costs once we have a renovated space. Before we try to convince the council members, though, we need to do our research.”

Another board member, Felicity, offered to help Malcolm with preparing a budget for renovation and a model of future cost savings.

At the end of the meeting, Anne said, “I have to say that before this meeting I felt quite overwhelmed and even hopeless when considering these challenges, but I can

now see that we can begin to tackle these problems, and I am excited to get started.”