



DUNNELLON

Community Services

July 27th, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor Bill White

Council Members: Valerie Hanchar, Anita Williams, Jan Cabbage, Louise Kenny

Dear Mayor and Council,

Dunnellon Community Services, Inc. is requesting that the City of Dunnellon consider supporting the efforts of our public organization with a financial grant of \$12,000.00 in the 2023 budget. These funds will be a small portion of the expenses related to providing services to our community.

We look forward to working with you and your team to address the many issues that face the future of our city as well as addressing the many issues that are confronting our society. DCS is a 501(C)3 Public Non Profit as designated by the IRS. Our mission is simple and focused: Unifying and empowering our community and people of good will to meet the spiritual, physical, medical, material and educational needs of people in Dunnellon!

DCS has developed and is operating these programs for the community:

1. Food Pantry: We have an affiliation with the group "His Compassion" in Ocala and we pick up a truck load of food every Friday for distribution to our local citizens.
2. The first Monday of every Month we have the Food for Friends program where we give away take out boxes of food from 9 to 11am with no limit to who we serve.
3. Last year, Blue Cove Remembers 9/11, we invited the whole Dunnellon Community and had free food. Non-profit organizations were the only ones that were able set up a booth. This year we will honor the first responders. There will be no free food. This year's program includes non-profit organizations and businesses.
4. We have a special free lunch to honor our first responders, police and firemen each September/October and we invite the entire community and all non-profits. Last year the event was **Blue Cove Remembers** of September 11 were the focus.
5. DCS is developing a plan for volunteers to provide after school mentoring programs for students.
6. We provide free medical, dental and legal services thru our relationship with FreeD.O.M. Clinics. These clinics are supported by the UF School of Dentistry grad students and volunteer doctors.
7. During 2022 we have be developing, fundraising and coordinating the launch of a free mobile medical van that can go to the areas of greatest need that are unable to afford these services.
8. In the next few months we will launch a social services referral network that can coordinate with the City, churches, county, etc. and be a central hub to guide people in need of help.
9. In the near future we want to work on housing programs to help with this issue.

We look forward to supporting your efforts on behalf of Dunnellon.

Warm Regards,

Patrick Sheppard, CEO
Fr. Paul Hamilton, COB

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