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September 8th, 2015

Dear Chairman McMahan and Mr. Wooten:

Thank you so much for allocating The Community Table \$15,000 in the 2015/16 budget. Please know that we are grateful for the county's support, and much of our other grant funding depends on it. Many foundations today are reluctant to fund organizations who cannot demonstrate strong support from their county leaders.

On 8/21 we learned that our allocated funds were given to MANNA Food Bank as a line of credit on our behalf. While much of the funds will be spent with MANNA, we are requesting that the funds be redistributed directly to The Community Table for discretionary spending to meet the reality of our needs so as to continue feeding the most vulnerable citizens of Jackson County with efficiency and integrity.

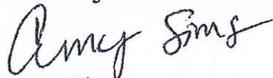
During last year's budget meeting it was proposed that in the future half of our funds be allocated to MANNA. However, we presented the problem that poses to us to Mr. Wooten in an e-mail in March of this year, as well as in our 2015/16 funding proposal. Last year we were also directed to complete a financial review with a CPA in order to remain eligible for county funding beginning with the current budget cycle. We met this requirement, and we have demonstrated strong financial accountability and sound stewardship of our resources. Having this document has allowed us to successfully apply for other funding that was previously unavailable to us. Most of this funding is only for food or food service equipment. We will continue to complete an independent review with a CPA each year.

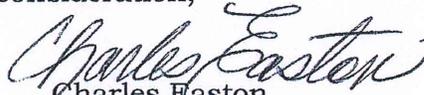
The Community Table is proud to be a partner agency of MANNA Food Bank, and they provide resources even beyond food. However, we simply cannot receive all of the healthy foods that we need for our soup kitchen and food pantry programs solely through MANNA. For example, as of 9/8 MANNA only had 8 cases of assorted meats available for all 276 of their partner agencies from which to order for the next delivery. After researching our best options for product availability and prices, in July we opened an account with Reinhart Foodservice, and as of today we have spent \$3,366.42 with them already, primarily as a source for our dinner program. For our food pantry program, we sometimes must buy in bulk from Sam's Club to get us through between our twice monthly deliveries from MANNA. We also included in our 2015/16 funding proposal assistance with our utility bills, which run over \$10,000 each year. It takes a lot of juice to keep 11 freezers, 7 refrigerators, 2 stoves, and a 3,000 square foot building running! However, we did not request any county funding for payroll for our 2 full-time employees. This line item comes from unrestricted donations and fundraising events.

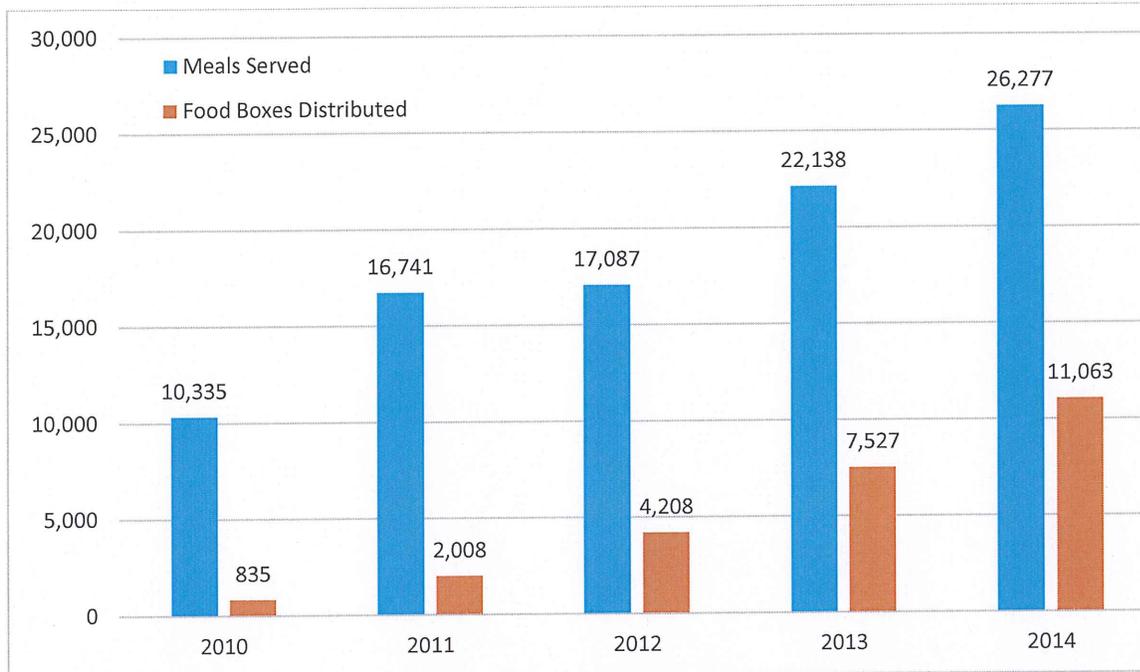
In 2014 we served 26,277 meals and distributed 11,063 boxes of groceries for respective increases of 19% and 47% over the previous year. January 1-August 31 of this year we have already served 18,561 meals and distributed 8,510 boxes of groceries, putting us on track for yet another record-breaking year. Just in August we served 76 new households, and 40% of those served through our food pantry were children.

We have included an additional document which demonstrates how important our work is to the health and well-being of our community, and we are happy to furnish any other information at your request. We will also have additional supporting documents at the meeting on 9/15. It is our hope that our county's leaders will continue to see the great value in the vital services that we provide and will appreciate our need for some flexibility within our budget.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration,


Amy Sims
Executive Director


Charles Easton
Board Chair



- **2010** 10,335 Meals and 835 Boxes
- **2011** 16,741 Meals and 2,008 Boxes
- **2012** 17,087 Meals and 4,208 Boxes
- **2013** 22,138 Meals and 7,527 Boxes (30% and 80% increases respectively)
- **2014** 26,277 Meals and 11,063 Boxes and 722 New Households (19% and 47% increases respectively)
- Daily Meal Average by Year:
 - 2012 = 99.5
 - 2013 = 107.25
 - 2014 = 131