



P.O. Box 642 • Owatonna, MN 55060  
507-455-2995 • email: [info@owatonnafoundation.org](mailto:info@owatonnafoundation.org)  
[www.owatonnafoundation.org](http://www.owatonnafoundation.org)

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March 19, 2021

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of Owatonna Foundation, we support inclusion of Community Pathways of Steele County in any state finance proposal and their funding request for \$1,000,000 dollars for the “Building New Pathways” expansion. We fully endorse their decision and plan to double their size from 6,000 square feet to 12,000 square feet and increase their community impact by 50%. We understand that this expansion will help to ensure that Community Pathways will have new and innovative opportunities for helping our neighbors in need. The new equipment and larger facility will ensure they no longer have to turn food donations away because of a lack of space or refrigeration.

The Owatonna Foundation is excited to have Community Pathways increase their capacity at their proposed expanded location on Oakdale Street in Owatonna. The plan for a larger community food shelf and warehouse will provide a one stop shop for our neighbors to receive critical services in a location that conveniently provides what they need, when they need it.

The Owatonna Foundation has proudly partnered with Community Pathways in the past, offering grant assistance on other worthy projects, and we look forward to partnering with them on this expansion project as well. Their staff and volunteers are second to none and they will ensure that the project is successfully completed. Their respect, enthusiasm for, and love of their clients makes them a priceless community resource.

We anticipate our community needs to grow as we face the slow economic recovery due to the public health crisis of COVID-19. Your investment in our community would be much appreciated and we look forward to seeing this important community resource’s project come to fruition to better serve our Steele County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Dennis'.

Dennis J. Meillier, President

**HOME  
FEDERAL**

1015 West Frontage Road  
Suite 100  
Owatonna, MN 55060-5508

[507] 413-6420 main  
[507] 413-6440 fax  
www.justcallhome.com

## Letter of Support

March 1, 2021

Community Pathways  
155 Oakdale St  
Owatonna MN 55060

To whom it may concern,

I am thankful for the opportunity to write a Letter of Support for Community Pathway's initiative to add on to their building. Being a volunteer at unloading the trucks and also a witness to the increased need for food availability to those in our area, I recommend this addition. When we unload the trucks each time, it is such a puzzle to try to fit the various types of food products into such a limited space. I imagine that also, after trucks are unloaded, there is quite a lot of re-moving food around to try to continue to make room and rotate food appropriately. A larger warehouse area will allow for more organization, better flow and efficiency and also increased availability of food for those we serve. The staff at Community Pathways are professional, skilled, caring and hard-working people who are making the lives better for an ever growing list of clients.

Sincerely,



Brad Vettrus  
Market President- Home Federal Savings Bank



March 17, 2021

Greetings!

Thank you for your work representing the people of southeastern Minnesota. We are grateful for your commitment to better the lives of all who live here.

I am writing on behalf of Trinity Lutheran Church of Owatonna to strongly recommend the inclusion of **Community Pathways of Steele County** in any state finance proposal and their funding request for \$1,000,000 dollars for the "Building New Pathways" expansion.

**We fully support** their decision, and the plan to double their size from 6,000 to 12,000 square feet and increase their impact by 50%. The new equipment and larger facility will ensure they no longer have to turn food donations away because of lack of space or refrigeration.

Individuals and families regularly contact the church, seeking assistance with groceries and other vital household goods. This need has grown deeper and more desperate in the past two years. I regularly refer these individuals to Community Pathways and am looking forward to their expanded capacity to fill the growing need.

Trinity Lutheran Church is excited to have Community Pathways increase their capacity at their proposed expanded location on Oakdale Street in Owatonna. The plan for a larger community food shelf & warehouse will provide a vital one-stop-shop for our neighbors to receive critical services in a location that meets them where they are.

We anticipate our community needs to grow as we face the slow economic recovery due to the public health crisis of COVID-19. We look forward to the future partnership between Trinity Lutheran Church of Owatonna and Community Pathways of Steele County to lift up our communities to meet their basic needs.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In Christ,

Rev. Todd Buegler  
Senior Pastor



# OWATONNA AREA

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

March 30, 2021

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism of Owatonna, we recommend inclusion of Community Pathways of Steele County in any state finance proposal and their funding request for \$1,000,000 dollars for the “Building New Pathways” expansion. We fully support their decision and plan to double their size from 6,000 to 12,000 and increase their impact by 50%. The new equipment and larger facility will ensure they no longer have to turn food donations away because of lack of space or refrigeration.

The Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism is excited to have Community Pathways increase their capacity at their proposed expanded location on Oakdale Street in Owatonna. The plan for a larger community food shelf & warehouse will provide a one stop shop for our neighbors to receive critical services in a location that meets them where they are.

We anticipate our community needs to grow as we face the slow economic recovery due to the public health crisis of COVID-19. We look forward to the future partnership between the Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism in Owatonna and Community Pathways of Steele County to lift up our communities to meet their basic needs.

Sincerely,

Brad Meier

President and CEO

Owatonna Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism