

JANUARY 1, 2021

TO:

**FROM: NORTHERN LEHIGH PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION T/A NORTHERN LEHIGH COMMUNITY CENTER
P.O. BOX 333
SLATINGTON, PA 18080**

CONTACT: NLCOMMUNITYCENTER@GMAIL.COM President Paul Gass - 610-767-7964

RE: 16,000 SQUARE FOOT BUILDING AND 3 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED AT 563-565 W. CHURCH STREET, SLATINGTON, PA 18080

SYNOPSIS OF PROJECT HISTORY

*In 1997, a concerned group of citizens, hoping to improve the Northern Lehigh Area, formulated an idea to buy land and construct a recreation/community center and offer educational and fitness programs.

*A 501 (c) (3) classification and logo were obtained. A board of directors and mission statement were created. A website (WWW.NLCOMMUNITYCENTER.COM) was established and fundraising began.

* After raising \$736,000. through state grants and citizen contributions, we purchased land, demolished existing buildings on the land, installed infrastructure for drainage, secured a 50- year lease for adjacent property, and began construction of Phase 1, the building shell. To continue with the construction, we investigated and applied for additional grants and contributions, but due to circumstances beyond our control, these funds never materialized. Currently we are debt-free.

* A Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority was formed with the advice of our then State Representative, Julie Harhart, to include the three municipalities of the Northern Lehigh School District residents and have more avenues available to obtain funding to finish the construction of the building.

* Covid-19 seriously jeopardized fundraising, and one of the 3 participating municipalities, Walnutport Borough, voted to not help support the Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority. With that said, the Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority's board voted to not include taking on the Northern Lehigh Community Center's building project as one of their tasks. The NLRA has solicited funds this past December from the public to continue their recreational and educational programs and fulfill their budget deficit they face.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

*Since the NLPA relinquished the programs to the NLRA, our income stream has been severely curtailed. We no longer have the funds to pay our insurance and real estate taxes. We need help to generate \$1.5 million to finish the existing Phase 1. Phase 2 would consist of the construction of the gymnasium at a much lower cost. Substantial donors could have their names placed on the outside of the building.

*We could gift the building to be used for the positive benefit of our community—such as the school for a life-long learning center, borough or township for a recreation/educational center.

*We could sell the building and land and give the proceeds to the NLRA to continue running the programs.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE USE THE CONTACT INFO ABOVE.