



Staff, Participants, Volunteers, Friends, and Supporters of Friendship Meals and Meals on Wheels,

It is my duty to inform you of the potential for disruption in Everfull's services in our ten-county service area (Chautauqua, Cowley, Elk, Greenwood, Harper, Kingman, McPherson, Sumner, Reno and Rice counties). Unfortunately, Everfull's programs in these counties are facing severe funding shortages that, as of today, have no clear resolution. **If no meaningful change in the status quo occurs, the termination of services, by July 1, 2025, in these ten counties is the likely scenario.**

For some time, the capability and ability of the organization to conduct our mission has been under threat. Reductions in state and federal support, decreasing donations, increased costs, operational and administrative challenges, and the COVID-19 pandemic (and its resulting inflation) are all challenges we face. Everfull was near total collapse in March of 2023 and bringing the organization back to a functional state has been a long, strenuous, expensive prospect, requiring us to reinvent how we run and address long broken systems. **Your partnerships allowed us to weather the rough seas of the past. Your support has been our lifeline, and we need it now, more than ever.**

I often say we are a restaurant chain that tries to run as a not-for-profit. We are subject to all the challenges restaurants are facing (food costs, supply chain cost increases, and wage adjustments to still be competitive, etc.). On top of that, we must face unique issues facing non-profit organizations. The fallacy is that we as an organization can continue servicing the ten counties in the same way, with the same quality, using the same budget. We cannot. Most do not understand that no site we run is profitable. **Losses are subsidized by state and federal funds, and, according to our current loss projections, the funds currently allocated will not cover that loss.**

In the past two years, the South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging and the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging have offered support as Everfull has tackled our challenges. We see the results of this work as a clear path forward for sustainability has appeared in Butler, Harvey, and Sedgwick counties. A similar path has not appeared with South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging. Time and money are what are needed to solve this problem. **All reserves have been spent to cover the current year's loss while we bought ourselves and funders time to solve this. Now, we are almost out of time.**

The South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging has been a great partner and continues to advocate for us with the State of Kansas. While advocacy is ongoing, progress has been slow since the problem was brought to the attention of our funders. **As of this letter, there is no clear path forward.** Within one month, termination of services in the remaining ten-county area is the most likely outcome. As such, the board of directors of Everfull and I concluded that all members of our communities who care about our organization's mission must act now to make sure Everfull's Friendship Meals and Meals on Wheels survive.

This is our organization's SOS.

So, how can you help? Your support and partnership are critical at this moment. Donations continue to

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everfull.org

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be accepted at all locations where our programs currently run. As an organization with a 501(c)(3) status, donations are tax-deductible. **Please donate if you can and advocate for your family and friends who can donate to do so. Amounts large and small are needed to solve this problem.**

Unfortunately, if no funding commitment from South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging, the State of Kansas, or a large groundswell in community financial support is apparent by May 31, we will be forced to take immediate action to make sure the organization does not collapse. Service disruption will occur in the ten-county area. **Put bluntly, it is likely that employees will be laid off, services will reduce or cease, sites will close, and participants will not be served.**

On May 22, our staff were given information about what current losses are being experienced by each site. Communities in the ten counties must step up to cover at least half of the current loss, at minimum. This is the amount Everfull needs to raise to offset it to allow the program to continue uninterrupted. Without changes to funding from the state of Kansas or South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging, losses must be covered, or services will end.

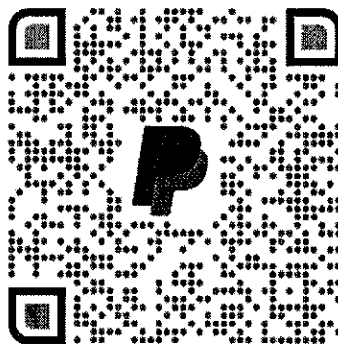
The Board of Directors and I hope that, like the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging, the South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging, and the state of Kansas can bridge the gap by providing us with adequate funds to pay for our current year programming. **We cannot do this on our own - our future is in the hands of our communities, the South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging and the state of Kansas.**

I steadfastly believe that, with you, our partners, our communities, the South Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging, and the State of Kansas standing with us, we can overcome this moment and use the time before our next fiscal year to achieve sustainable operations to support our most vulnerable seniors for a long time to come. **Join us in saving Meals on Wheels and Friendship Meals in your communities.**

With respect,

Charles Johnston, Executive Director
Everfull

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**** Staff, participant, community, agency, and media inquiries should be directed to me at either charlesj@everfull.org or by calling 620-960-5784. I will try to respond to each request in the order received. ****

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