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State Board of Agriculture Research and Education
NDSU
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a public health nurse who serves on the Western Morton County Aging in Community Steering Committee. Aging in Community is a program for older adults that offers multiple services in Glen Ullin and Hebron ND. Services include assistance with caregiver support, Bone Builders exercise classes, Stepping On classes for fall prevention, Medicare Part D enrollment, and cooking/ nutrition classes in conjunction with NDSU Extension and many events to keep older adults in the community engaged and socializing. This program is in Glen Ullin and Hebron, ND which are rural farming communities. We see many needs in this area for community members who are over the age of 60. These needs include transportation to health care in Bismarck ND, social interaction especially since the pandemic, health concerns from physical fitness to nutrition, food insecurity, and assistance to remain in their homes in good health.

Western Plains Public Health provides a home visiting service on a weekly basis in this area and the needs of our clients are getting more complex. The Aging in Community program helps to extend our reach by providing resources and education to help these older adults stay in their homes.

Please consider additional operating support for NDSU Extension. As North Dakota ranks first in the nation in proportion of older adults living at home, additional operating would help sustain this program and allow for it to be replicated in other rural areas of the state.

Respectfully submitted,


Jodie Fetsch RN

Director of Nursing

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