

The Center of Anna Maria Island
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3/9/2018

Honorable Commissioner Stephen R Jonsson,

Please consider this request for funding in transportation which the Center of Anna Maria needs for 2 passenger vans from Cox Chevrolet. Approximate cost is \$50,000 for 2 vehicles.

The passenger vans will be used to transport children and seniors for our programming. Currently our afterschool and summer programming is in dire need of reliable vehicles. Anna Maria Elementary does not have on site afterschool care (I think the only in the County), and many Island families and working parents rely on the Center for that need. On any given day, our old rust bucket van makes 2 to 4 separate trips in order to pick up all the kids. During season, those trips could take 30-45 minutes leaving children waiting outside in the elements and losing valuable instructional time. Additionally, our Senior Adventure program uses the van for close local day trips and various learning activities. Again, because of the capacity and road worthiness, we are limited in providing the best service to our seniors and children.

At one point we had 2 nice vans. Those were acquired through a 2014-2015 DOT grant. However, we had to return those vans to the DOT in September and have been left with only one vehicle to transport 40-50 children and seniors daily.

I know at one time this request was in the budget on a list for excess funds and on the consent agenda. Please see if there is any way or any fund that could grant this request.

The Center of Anna Maria is a 501c3 non-profit with a Gold Seal from GuideStar which tracks non-profits, and has some of the most transparent financials of any organization in Manatee County, see the website at <http://centerami.org/about/center-financials/>

Thank you for your consideration

David Zaccagnino, Chairman of the Board