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## **HAYC3, faced with unprecedented financial challenge, reaches out to community for support**

**Hoosick Falls, New York**—Hoosick Armory, Youth Center, and Community Coalition (HAYC3) never envisioned it would be where it is today, but, according to a letter from the HAYC3 Board Members to the community and beyond, “HAYC3 is facing an unprecedented financial challenge that is forcing us to make decisions we never imagined we would face just a year ago. If HAYC3 intends to survive this difficult time and continue our invaluable services to the community of Hoosick Falls, especially for our youth and their families, and continue to house several key businesses within the Armory, we’re going to need a significant financial boost—and now!”

The letter goes on to outline how HAYC3 got to this point, what it is doing about it, and how the community benefits from supporting HAYC3. The complete letter appears on its website at [HAYC3.org/emergency-appeal](http://HAYC3.org/emergency-appeal), but some key items include: how HAYC3 has annually tightened its budget; reduced its staff by 50 percent; dealt with the physical demands of the 130-year-old Armory, and unplanned expenses and continuing damage as a result of extensive flooding in July 2017; and had a reduction in grant and other funding much like many non-profits and charities.

HAYC3, in its appeal letter, has set three ambitious goals—two of which are immediate: 1) To get an infusion of \$25,000 by January 1, 2019, to offset deficits as outlined, and 2) To raise an additional \$35,000 by April 1, 2019, to keep on top of higher heating costs during the winter months and maintain its after-school and vacation camps, and other community events, while also having fewer fundraising opportunities. The longer-term goal, with the help of community leaders and supporters, is to restructure and revitalize HAYC3 in ways that allow the organization to raise \$75,000 or higher annually to remain sustainable and to bring new and different kinds of programming to the community and tenancy to the Armory.

HAYC3’s letter goes on to talk about its many successes over the years—successes ranging from the work required to get the Armory up to code and renovate spaces for small businesses, events, and an art gallery, to the creation of a certified community kitchen, while also managing an affordable after-school program currently serving 24 children and full-day vacation camps serving 20-25 children, organizing a myriad of annual programs/events, and helping to raise more than \$1.5 million for community organizations.

**How can everyone help?** HAYC3 asks those individuals and corporations who believe in non-profit missions like HAYC3's to make a donation now, because every amount helps in this crucial moment. HAYC3 also encourages people to join the conversation with them, so ideas can be developed to grow HAYC3's pool of donors/supporters, expand its leadership and volunteer network, and position it differently going forward.

HAYC3 knows it's not the only organization feeling a pinch right now and it can't predict what of its services and programs can be saved in 2019, but it adds, "We promise we want to save them all." If you are unfamiliar with all HAYC3 offers, take a moment to check out HAYC3.org and read the full appeal letter at HAYC3.org/emergency-appeal. The HAYC3 Board is "open and committed to reimagining and restructuring how HAYC3 and the Armory function in order to keep providing the services and programs the community values most."

"Community is at the heart of HAYC3, and it does 'take a village' to keep HAYC3's mission alive." Contributions are encouraged at any level and can be made online with a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account at **HAYC3.org/donate**. If sending a check is preferred, it should be made payable to *HAYC3* and sent to HAYC3, PO Box 492, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090. All donations are tax-deductible.

**HAYC3's mission:** *HAYC3 (Hoosick Armory, Youth Center, and Community Coalition) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster the well-being of our community. This is accomplished through a variety of initiatives including: Rural revival, arts, wellness, youth and community programs; small business incubation; community events and outreach; and community partnerships.*