



To Judge Ray West and the Brown County Commissioners:

I began my duties as Executive Director of Good Samaritan Ministries on August 1, 2016. The past year has been one of the most rewarding in my life, but the learning curve has been very steep. My predecessor who possessed a wealth of knowledge about the operation had departed three months prior to my arrival. I did not have her as a mentor to assist in this transition.

The Brown County Commissioners Court was my first official public meeting. I still remember how nervous I was as I presented our request for funding for 2017 for our Direct Aid budget. You commissioners were very gracious and made me feel at ease. Due to my lack of working knowledge, I was unaware of the timetable for the County budget process. I was also unaware that it was my responsibility to stay in contact with the Court regarding the status of our request nor did I realize that the County's budget year runs from October to October.

I take full responsibility for failing to learn the County's budget process. This lack of knowledge became obvious when I came before you in July to request funds for 2018. Due to my lack of understanding of this process, Good Samaritan had never requested in writing our funds for 2017. We have since received our allotment for 2017, and those funds are already at work in our Direct Aid program that provides assistance for rent, utilities, medical/dental and miscellaneous services such as birth certificates and ID's. In fact, we have spent \$47,602.71 during the period of October 1, 2016 through August 31, 2017.

When I learned that our request for funding had been cut by 67%, I was shocked. I know that the County like all governing bodies must be frugal whenever possible to provide services for the citizens of Brown County. Good Samaritan Ministries does provide some of those services as we assist the county in providing indigent care. I am hopeful that you will find a way to restore funding for the 2018 budget year.

My goal is to become better informed about all aspects of my job including working with many different groups in their budget processes. I invite each of you to come tour our facilities to see how our partnership is benefiting our friends and neighbors in Brown County.

September 5, 2017
(Exhibit #4)