



**GRATIOT
EMERGENCY
SERVICES
AUTHORITY**

130 W. Center St. Ithaca, MI 48847
Ph. (989)-875-3968

October 1, 2025

Dear Business, Agriculture, and Organization Partners,

We are excited to announce a new fundraising project to replace our aging Medical First Response Vehicle.

Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with members of the Howes family, who have long ties not only with the Ithaca community but with the Ithaca fire department, as six members of their family have served as members of the department spanning three generations. They expressed their wish to donate money to the Gratiot Emergency Services Authority for any project we felt was a priority. They came with the idea of engaging the community in a fundraising effort with a generous offer to match any donations dollar by dollar up to \$50,000.

Our project, Rescue Medical Project, is an effort to replace the current twenty-one-year-old Rescue Vehicle and our twenty-two-year-old Equipment Van with a larger multi-purpose rescue vehicle, or what we in the fire service call a Squad. This unit will not only carry all our Medical Equipment but will also carry our Jaws of Life, Grain Rescue equipment, and all our emergency roadway traffic management equipment, which are now carried in two different vehicles. This multi-purpose vehicle, replacing two vehicles in our fleet, will lower our annual maintenance costs. The total estimated cost of the vehicle is \$185,000.

In the process of communicating with long-time family friends and contacts within the greater Ithaca area, the family connected with Kevin Collison, President/CEO of Commercial Bank. After communication with Kevin on his idea to raise money for our project, Commercial Bank offered to help sponsor our project with the first donation in the amount \$10,000 toward the fundraising effort.

The Gratiot Emergency Services Authority provides Fire and medical First Response services to the City of Ithaca and a portion of Arcada, Emerson, Fulton, Lafayette, North Star, Newark, and New Haven townships. *"Our goal is to provide a high-quality professional Fire-Rescue service working within the limits of our available resources. It involves a team approach with our elected officials, fire board members, fire department management, mutual aid partners, and the citizens we serve."* As a valued member of the community, we want to thank you for your continued support in our efforts to obtain our goal.

We ask that you consider a donation to the Gratiot Emergency Services Authority Rescue Medical Project. In this mailing, there is a document with additional project information and donation details. If

you have any questions regarding the project or the fundraising efforts, please feel free to contact me at dnelson@gratiotesa.com or 989-763-3347.

Sincerely

David B. Nelson III
Fire Chief-CAO