July 15, 2014

Attention Joanne Marsden, Administrator of the Telemachus & Irene DeMoulas Family Foundation:

The Middlesex Canal Association was started in 1962 as a teaching tool to tell people of all ages the story of the Middlesex Canal (1803-1853) and to preserve those portions still visible. Our Canal was dug by hand when George Washington was in his second term of his presidency. At that time it was considered to be the greatest work of its kind. It operated for 50 years and played a major role in the development of Boston and the Merrimack corridor from Lowell to Charlestown. Today we have approximately 10 miles of canal remaining which we use for parks and walking trails.

We have a good educational program for both adults and children. Recently we had ~ 160 third graders, parents and teachers over a period of several days. When they leave they know how a lock operates, how an aqueduct works, and engineering concepts. A student recently said to me “This is the best field trip I have ever had”. It put a smile on our faces.

We have operated a free museum in the Faulkner Mill in North Billerica since July 2001. To escape being a renter, we have wanted our own place for some time. We were recently given an old brick cloth warehouse by Pace Industries which we plan to develop into our permanent new museum. This building needs considerable renovation and of course the money to accomplish that.

There are three Market Baskets in Billerica. You can be said to control the dinner table of this Town because of your fair pricing and good variety. We support you. We now need your help. We hope you can rise above the current turmoil in your company because we need your help now.

We began a Fundraising campaign in June of this year. We have had good interest and just a few days ago a commitment of $100,000.00. Last week we had an architect and a structural engineer visit the building and expect a plan of operation to begin.

Can you match the one hundred thousand dollar commitment? We would be pleased to discuss this further and schedule a private tour of our museum at a time suitable to you.

Sincerely,

Betty M. Bigwood, Lead Director of Fundraising

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