



A CALL TO ACTION

Dear Community Members:

PVEMS (Penns Valley Emergency Medical Services), a non-profit company providing immediate, life-saving medical services to the citizens of our community, is in desperate need of your help. For the first time in decades, PVEMS, like many other rural-based EMS providers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, are coming face-to-face with a financial crisis that eliminates their ability to provide vital medical treatment during an unexpected life emergency such as deadly automobile accidents, machinery-related injuries, heart failures, respiratory issues, debilitating falls, and sports-related incidents at our children's schools.

This is a serious problem that we as a community must face together, for if we do not, our localized emergency care services will cease to exist as early as 2019. This means that should the day ever come where a family member needs immediate, life-saving medical care – help may be delayed, or worse, too late.¹

The Problem:

Over the past four years, PVEMS closed their fiscal year with a significant financial deficit:

2016	2015	2014	2013
\$-139,619	\$-99,033	\$-112,238	\$-97,243

This deficit is directly correlated with a number of significant factors, some of which include: a rapid decrease in medical volunteers, an increase in the daily operating expenses of ambulance services, and a highly regulated healthcare system which permits EMS agencies to collect payment for their services *only* in the event that a patient is transported to a medical facility. This means, that should a patient accept treatment but decline subsequent transportation, EMS is not compensated for services rendered; *i.e.* EMS is not paid for their services and therefore cannot offset the expense of continuing to provide emergency medical care. Additionally, even if a patient requires transportation to a medical facility, EMS will only be compensated for transporting the victim from the site of their injury to the medical facility responsible for their additional treatment. This does not include the expense of having an emergency staff ready and on hand to receive calls for assistance, the expense of traveling to the site of your emergency or their return trip to PVEMS headquarters after delivering the patient to his or her treating physician.

¹ By law, each municipality is **required** to provide emergency medical care services to its residents. However, the care need not be provided by a "localized" response unit, instead, our municipalities may contract with another agency located even farther away than PVEMS headquarters. Currently, all of the Penns Valley Municipalities utilize PVEMS as their designated emergency care provider. However, should PVEMS cease to exist; the collective Municipalities will be forced to contract with emergency services located further away from our homes, and as a result, even further away from the site of your medical emergency.

Penns Valley EMS

Serving our community one call at a time

Although these State regulations governing the limited means by which an Emergency Service Provider may generate revenue are in place for good reason, their effect on rural communities like Penns Valley creates the very situation PVEMS finds itself in; the income generated from transportation of patients to medical facilities is simply not enough to sustain the cost of being ready to respond to every day, serious medical emergencies.

What is PVEMS Doing About It?

In addition to the extensive internal reorganization and financial adjustments that have been made over the past year, the PVEMS Board of Directors is embarking on a Capital Campaign during the 2018 fiscal year. This campaign will focus on three goals:

- (1) Establish a volunteer based PVEMS Auxiliary Association dedicated to creating, organizing, and hosting community fundraising events for the benefit of the Penns Valley Community and PVEMS in order to bridge the gap between PVEMS's limited transportation income and current operating expenses;
- (2) Create public awareness concerning the importance of localized emergency care as well as the overall financial cost associated with this valuable resource; and
- (3) Provide monthly community updates concerning PVEMS fundraising activities and total contributions received from both municipality and citizen donations.



The PVEMS Board of Directors has high hopes for success in this endeavor, but we recognize that to succeed in keeping our emergency services locally accessible to the greater Penns Valley Community, we will need your help to effectuate this change.

How Can You Help?

You do not need a background in emergency services in order to get involved in our PVEMS Auxiliary efforts. Instead, PVEMS is simply looking for energetic citizens who are motivated by working for a cause much greater than themselves. Some of the fundraising activities being discussed so far include a memorialized brick fundraiser, quarterly health focused outreach events such as "Cooking from Farm to Table," "Painting with Friends," and "Garden Canning," co-sponsored live music events at local Penns Valley establishments, and a community wide 5K at a local recreational facility or park.

If you are interested in contributing to the volunteer efforts of PVEMS or PVEMS Auxiliary, please contact the PVEMS Chief, Jason Brooks, or the PVEMS Office Manager, Laura Snook, at (814)-422-8015, pvemsmanager@gmail.com, or find us on our Penns Valley EMS - Station 28 Facebook page!

Sincerely,
Your PVEMS Board of Directors