



the cooperage project

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Open Doors, Access for All: Cooperage & Stoneworks Entrance and Walkway Improvements

The Cooperage Project is seeking \$150,000 to improve physical accessibility and safety at our two community hubs, which we now own in perpetuity: *The Cooperage*, our main space for multigenerational public programming, and *Stoneworks*, our dedicated youth center located directly behind The Cooperage. Gifted to us by our founder in 2024, these historic buildings anchor our long-term commitment to Honesdale and Wayne County, and the planned upgrades will create safer, more welcoming, and fully accessible entry points for community members of all ages and abilities.

We are partnering with Woodland Design, a professional landscape architecture firm, to develop an integrated plan that addresses accessibility, stormwater management, and modest landscape enhancements while respecting our historic brick buildings and Main Street setting.

Why This Project Is Needed

In 2025, we launched “Senior Gatherings,” a free, social, educational, and entertainment-centered program for older adults held on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons year-round. Demand has been strong, and we now regularly welcome older adults using wheelchairs, canes, and walkers. Over the past year, we’ve seen many of them struggle to cross the gravel “pocket park,” navigate icy and uneven surfaces, and safely reach our doors—especially during long, snowy NEPA winters.

At the same time, youth and families encounter significant barriers at Stoneworks, which currently has no ADA-accessible entrance and requires negotiating unstable stone steps and an unpaved, overgrown approach. These conditions are at odds with our mission and with the kind of dignified welcome our community deserves.

Key Capital Improvements

1. Paved “Pocket Park” Driveway (*Cooperage* Front Entrance)
 - Replace the existing 80-foot by 20-foot loose gravel driveway in front of *The Cooperage* with a poured concrete surface.
 - Provide a smooth, stable path from the sidewalk to our red front doors, improving access for people using wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and strollers.
 - Allow for efficient plowing and snow-blowing, reducing the icy ruts and hidden rocks that currently create slipping and tripping hazards for visitors and vendors.
2. Rebuilt Alleyway Sidewalk (*Cooperage–Stoneworks* Connection)
 - Remove and repave approximately 150 feet of alleyway sidewalk running from Main Street along the south side of *The Cooperage*, past our ADA side entrance, and back to *Stoneworks*.
 - Eliminate uneven, deteriorating sections and create a continuous, clearly defined pedestrian route that safely links both buildings to Main Street.
 - Incorporate grading and drainage improvements to address regular pooling and flooding in the alley and around the Stoneworks entrance, which now leads to ice buildup in cold weather.

3. **New ADA Ramp and Entrance at *Stoneworks Youth Center***
 - Replace the current three awkward stone steps and unpaved, rutted approach with a code-compliant ADA ramp and accessible doorway.
 - Remove wobbly stones and overgrown brush so youth, caregivers, and staff can enter safely in all seasons.
 - Make *Stoneworks* fully accessible for youth and families using wheelchairs or other mobility devices, ensuring equitable access to all programs.

4. **Drainage and Landscape Enhancements**
 - Regrade and improve surface materials near entrances to keep stormwater away from doors and walking paths, reducing icing and long-term damage to the buildings.
 - Clean up and simplify the landscaping at the *Stoneworks* entrance, creating a neat, welcoming, and easy-to-maintain gateway.
 - Add benches, planters, and greenery to *The Cooperage* pocket park so the newly paved area functions as a small neighborhood gathering space where visitors can sit, wait, and connect.

Current Access Challenges

Stoneworks is not ADA accessible; all visitors must navigate three unstable stone steps and an uneven, unpaved path surrounded by overgrowth, which is particularly hazardous in rain, snow, and ice.

The Cooperage is technically ADA accessible only via a side-door entrance; most visitors approach the red front doors by crossing the 80-foot gravel pocket park, which is difficult for mobility devices and extremely hard to clear safely in winter.

Vehicles unloading for the winter farmers market and other programs must traverse icy gravel, making it risky to move products, equipment, and supplies.

Funding Plan and Community Impact

The anticipated total project budget is \$150,000. AllOne Charities has offered generous support through a collaborative funding model, pledging \$75,000 in project funding once we secure \$75,000 in other public and philanthropic support. To unlock AllOne's \$75,000 commitment, we must first raise the full \$75,000 match—meaning every contribution toward this initial goal directly doubles its impact for our community.

Once completed, these improvements will:

- Provide truly accessible, dignified entrances to both *The Cooperage* and *Stoneworks*.
- Reduce potential for slips, trips, and falls for older adults, families with young children, and people with disabilities, including those attending our biweekly Senior Gatherings.
- Support year-round community programs and our Main Street Farmers Market by making arrival, unloading, and circulation safer and more efficient.
- Transform our front and side outdoor areas into welcoming, functional public spaces that embody our vision of a vibrant, inclusive community center where everyone can enter, participate, and belong.

Donor Benefits

The Cooperage Project is exploring options to offer naming rights to donors at specific levels. These would be inscribed in the pavement walkway. If this is a benefit that interests you, please make us aware as we finalize plans to realize our vision.

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For more information, please contact Arrah Fisher, Executive Director
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Side path and entrance to Stoneworks Youth Center, showing the uneven, unpaved approach that will be rebuilt and made ADA accessible:



The Cooperage entrance and "Pocket Park" in icy winter conditions despite treatment:



Photo from a recent Senior Gathering:

