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Restoring Access, Honoring Our Mission

June 2025

Dear «Letter_First»,

At the Bradford County Historical Society, we are blessed to hear the words “I wish my hometown had something like this” from visitors who travel from across the country - and sometimes the world - to explore our museum and research library. Time and again, we are reminded that what we have here is rare: a treasure trove of local history, beautifully preserved and generously shared. That legacy exists because of you.

Your support in 2024 made a remarkable difference. Thanks to your generosity, we successfully completed two major projects: the replacement of critical heating and air conditioning systems throughout the building, and the launch of our microfilm digitization efforts. These improvements have created a safer environment for our collections and have expanded access for researchers near and far. You helped preserve Bradford County history and opened new doors to the past.

Now in 2025, we face one of our most urgent and essential challenges yet: replacing our aging elevator.

This elevator is more than a convenience - it is a crucial way many of our visitors access the upper levels of our museum. It is how researchers reach the third-floor archives. It is how staff safely move fragile exhibits and educational materials between floors. And right now, it is at risk of failing permanently.

The elevator's manufacturer is no longer in business, making replacement parts virtually impossible to find. We have applied for grants and explored every avenue, but we need your help to move forward. The estimated cost for replacement in 2024 was \$93,000, and is likely higher now. Without it, large parts of our museum and research facility could become inaccessible to those who need them most.

This year's Annual Appeal goal is \$180,000, and the elevator project is at its heart. Your support will not only help us provide full access to our building - it will ensure that our museum remains a place where everyone can explore, learn, and connect with the past.

Will you partner with us to keep our doors - and all three floors - open to the public? You can donate online at bradfordhistory.com/support, or by completing and returning the enclosed form with your contribution. Every gift makes a difference. Donors of \$5,000 or more will be permanently recognized on our Annual Appeal plaque. All donors will be honored in our annual magazine and will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

Thank you for believing in our mission. With your continued support, we can ensure that Bradford County's history remains accessible, inspiring, and alive for generations to come.

With sincere gratitude,

J. Kelsey Jones, President

Matthew T. Carl, Executive Director