

Southern Madison County Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.

P.O. Box 453

Federal ID. #22-2753658

Hamilton, NY 13346

December, 2021

Dear Friends of Southern Madison County Volunteer Ambulance Corps,

Greetings from 86 Lebanon Street! We write to thank you for your past support for SOMAC. Whether you were a Colgate student volunteer or are a current resident of Hamilton or Lebanon, each of you has played a critical role in our history as a successful small town ambulance corps. As we all know, SOMAC is woven into the fabric of the community, and you are part of that fabric. Thank you!

SOMAC was founded in 1986 after the local ambulance service closed its doors. Local community members and businesses came together to form a not-for-profit, all-volunteer ambulance service. In 2008, with volunteerism declining, it was decided to add career personnel to the staff. The addition of payroll expenses put SOMAC in an unsustainable cash flow situation. A change was required as billing for services no longer covered the cost of providing ambulance service to the local area and the Town of Lebanon and the Town of Hamilton stepped up to cover operating shortfalls allowing SOMAC to continue to provide the best possible care to the communities we serve. We are proud that SOMAC has been able to continue functioning throughout the pandemic, adhering to all safety guidelines for our staff and patients.

SOMAC was in desperate need of new ambulances before the pandemic. All three of our units had over 100,000 miles. As a fleet ages, maintenance costs increase, and units are out of service for repairs more often. Ambulances are highly specialized hand-built vehicles and at one time this year all three of our late model units were in the shop, leaving a four-hour gap without service. Luckily there were no medical emergencies, and our “fly car” was available had there been. But we took action in July 2021; through loans and use of reserves we purchased a new Demers F21P-3581 from North Eastern Rescue for \$230,800.

We seek to raise \$230,000 to repay the loan and replenish our capital reserve. We were in the midst of a proactive capital campaign when the pandemic hit, which puts us now in a reactive campaign to get our financial house back in order. We hope you will step up and join the SOMAC family supporting this campaign.

In addition to providing health services for our community, SOMAC provides invaluable experiential learning for Colgate students who in turn provide hundreds of volunteer hours critical to the viability of the organization. Here are comments from two of our student volunteers:

My time at SOMAC has been some of the most influential, life changing, and educational moments at Colgate. Volunteering for SOMAC and now being a co-leader has changed my perspective on medicine and EMS agencies as a whole. I

joined SOMAC as a student observer my freshman year and never thought it would be the place where I spend over 20 hours a week, feel most comfortable, and call my second home. SOMAC is an incredible

opportunity for Colgate students to get involved in the healthcare field while still making a difference in the community they live in. -Becca Overton '22

During the training process I knew that the upperclassmen and professional staff had my back because they consistently gave me constructive feedback and guided me through training and certification. I think it is awesome that SOMAC allows Colgate students to get hands-on experience in the back of the rig and care for real patients in the community. Initially when I joined SOMAC, I was focused on the healthcare experience aspect but I quickly learned from hanging around the station that SOMAC is much more than that.

- Noah Van Atta '22

The success of this campaign will depend upon the generosity of local residents, SOMAC Colgate alumni and our key institutional partners. Thank you for giving this request your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Kyle Sylvester Director of Operations

PS: Come visit! Stop by the station for a tour of the newly renovated bunkhouse and a closer look at the new ambulance. Visit our website for pictures:

www.somacambulance.org

(please remove and enclose with check)

Contributions can also be made online at: www.somacambulance.org

Southern Madison County Ambulance Corps

P.O. Box 543 Hamilton, NY 13346

\$50 ____ \$100 ____ \$250 ____ \$500 ____ \$1,000 ____ Other: ____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____