Monroe County – The Greenville Kitchen Project and more!

A project idea that began two years ago has gone from concept to reality for the Monroe County Council on Aging.

The Council obtained a United States Department of Agriculture Rural Business Development Grant of $53,000 to restore the Greenville School kitchen for expanding their "Farm to Senior Center" program.

In addition, the Monroe Farm Market Inc., was awarded $50,000 by the US Department of Agriculture to use the kitchen two days per week. They will provide locally grown farm foods to area schools, beginning with the 2017 coming school year.

The Monroe County Council on Aging is eagerly putting the finishing touches on the kitchen, in preparation for West Virginia and FDA inspections. "While we have kitchen facilities for the preparation of meals for seniors, this kitchen is specially designed to process and package fresh West Virginia garden grown fruits and vegetables," said Burl Smith, Executive Director, MCCOA. "It is extremely gratifying to know that the kitchen will have a significant impact for so many members of the community."

Everyone involved in this project has been completely committed to seeing it come to life. Composed of both senior center members and volunteers, the "Greenville Gals" are excited to finalize project details. Their efforts will put into place a facility that is in line with MCCOA's "Seniors Helping Seniors" volunteer program, which brings fresh garden produce into the center for free distribution. In addition, MCCOA is looking to secure grant funding for a "High Tunnel" greenhouse to extend the growing season on their Greenville property for increased production. This in turn will complement the "Farm to Senior Center Nutrition" project. Once funding for this project is obtained, the focus will be creating a cost-effective model to reach Senior nutrition goals through an effective farm cooperative.

"Feeding our families
and yours"
Monroe Farm Market Inc.