

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-January 29, 2026**

**Young at Heart Resources Announces Update on Cameron Lunch Club Operations**

Young at Heart Resources (YAHR) serves as the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the Northwest 18 counties of Missouri. Our agency receives funding through the Older Americans Act (OAA) to help support essential services that improve the quality of life for older adults in our communities. OAA funding is used to provide *partial* support for a wide range of services, including:

- Congregate meals
- Home-delivered meals through senior centers and other contractors
- Transportation
- Family caregiver support services
- Healthy aging programs
- Outreach and advocacy
- Ombudsman services
- Legal services
- Benefits Counseling

These services, including those offered through the Cameron Lunch Club, rely on a combination of OAA funds, local funding, donations, grants, and community support. OAA funds are intended to supplement, not fully cover, the cost of operating these programs. Young at Heart Resources, senior centers, and other contractors are responsible for securing additional funding to sustain these vital services.

With heavy hearts, the Young at Heart Resources Board of Directors has voted that the Cameron Lunch Club will remain closed from February 27, 2026, through at least June 30, 2027, or until a comprehensive business plan is completed and sustainable funding is identified. Meal service at the Cameron Lunch Club is costly, and participation contributions have been minimal to none. Combined with increasing food, staffing, and operational expenses, this has made it financially unsustainable to continue operations at this time without additional stable funding.

Although meal service operations are suspended during this time, we remain committed to the future of the Cameron Lunch Club. We will continue to accept donations, which will be placed in a special account dedicated solely to the Cameron Lunch Club to support its long-term sustainability and potential reopening.

Young at Heart Resources remains deeply committed to serving older adults across our region.

We appreciate the continued support, understanding, and generosity of our communities as we work toward stable, sustainable solutions that allow us to continue providing essential services now and into the future