



*where history lives*



# Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

# AROUND THE VILLAGE

The Board of Trustees of the Troy Historical Society (THS) and staff of the Troy Historic Village (Village) present this Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30th, 2025 (FYE2025). We are pleased to report that **28,860 people visited Troy Historic Village or attended Troy Historic Village programs this past fiscal year!** That total includes an increase in school and field trip attendees, hosting both the State of the City Address and the Michigan Local History Conference, and record-breaking Troy Traffic Jam attendance. Our challenge moving forward is finding a balance for mission-based programming and community events within our staffing and volunteer capacity.

## STAFF AND BOARD SUPPORT

Owned by the City of Troy and operated by the Troy Historical Society, the Troy Historic Village employed 3 full-time and 14 part-time staff members representing a little over **9 full-time equivalents** in FYE 2025. As new employees have brought a range of experience and ideas, the goal has been to refine the quality of our programming while stretching marketing opportunities to reach more people. We have already seen this pay off in our summer and fall attendance! In FYE 2025 the Troy Historic Village continued to contract regularly with a Graphic Designer, Blacksmith, and Watercolor Artist, and added a Photographer for programmatic support. We will continue to seek out additional partnerships to expand programing.

During FYE2025 the Board continued their work to revise, update, and improve policies and procedures. Though still unable to afford employer provided medical benefits, THS has developed a more comprehensive paid time-off structure including a THS Disability Policy with Aflac through VSG to ensure stable income for employees. Staff are able to purchase additional benefits out of pocket through VSG. Following a comprehensive review of the THS Bylaws, **THS members voted to approve updated Bylaws at the September 17th Annual Meeting.** Work continues on updating the Village Safety Policy and in 2026 THS will review and update the Employee Manual, Volunteer Manual, and work with the City of Troy on renewing the Operations Agreement.



### **Troy Historical Society Board as of November 25, 2025**

Ken Heck, <i>President</i>	Howard Adams
Kevin Enright, <i>Vice President</i>	Garrick Allison
Ken Meskin, <i>Treasurer</i>	Barbara Chambers
Cindy Stewart, <i>Secretary</i>	Jeni Carino
	Jagdish Karira
	Sue Lavender
	Kevin Lindsey
	Michael Nowosatko
	JoAnn Preston

# AROUND THE VILLAGE

## SCHOOL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Village hosted 10,455 students, 2,043 chaperones, and 513 teachers during the 2024-2025 school year. Field Trips are the core of Village programming and are reflected in staffing, scheduling, and budgeting priorities. The year included programs like Cabin Life, 1880's School, Old Time Toys, Tin Punch, and Candle Making which utilized Village buildings while hitting K-5th grade state educational standards. Some of our older elementary students experienced the Communication, Primary Sources, or 20th Century Commerce programs. Two premier programs, Indigenous Voices and Civil War Days, are reserved for 5th graders and 8th graders respectively. We develop these programs in conjunction with Troy Schools but reached another 24 school districts and 37 private schools across 4 counties in FYE 2025!



## PUBLIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Village Staff continued to work on creating new visitor experiences and expanding Village operating hours. In the summer of 2024, the *How Does Your Garden Grow?* exhibit explored Troy's changing landscape while taking the opportunity to highlight the Troy Garden Club's work in the present Village landscape. Our new Open Late programs extended regular visiting hours to 7pm on select nights with interactive historic interpretation from our education staff. After trying out a few Open Late programs in the late summer and fall of 2024, staff committed to being Open Late every Thursday night through the summer of 2025. Staff used this time to do chores around the buildings and explore various aspects of pioneer life from doing laundry to gardening and cooking to expand their direct knowledge of history and interact with guests.

Regular monthly Thursday Tea programs with history talks, Preservation Conversations focused on historic preservation, Constitution Café's with lively discussion, and Cheddar Preschool Story Hour for our youngest Villagers again created year-round structure for Village educational programs for all ages. In addition, Village staff added tours and programs throughout each programming quarter that utilized staff expertise and Village resources for a range of interests. From the summer Radio Show to Victorian Christmas, Beyond the Book, and the all-new History Tea Tour, these programs engaged visitors of all ages. Again this past year, staff also enjoyed putting on Trick-or-Treat, Cocoa and Crafts with Santa, and the Spring Egg Hunt for children around the Village buildings and grounds. These events build our Troy community through quality family programming while introducing guests to the Village.



The Village works to keep traditional trades alive through classes, workshops, and hands-on experiences. In FYE2025 our Watercolor Artist and Metalsmith offered **49 different classes** for beginners through experts. Artists were hired to teach additional trades and skills like pine needle basketweaving or leatherworking. In the fall, the Village also hosted several artists and tradespeople at the Handcrafted: Traditional Trades Fair. And in the winter, Village staff held a Crafty Day in the winter where kids and adults could make rag dolls and toys, print posters on a historic proof press, or give spinning and knitting a try. THS and Village staff value making activities like these accessible to all ages and abilities. **In total, 15,849 people of all ages joined us for this wide range of programs, activities, and events in FYE 2025.**

*"We are committed to building up the community through education and experiences."*

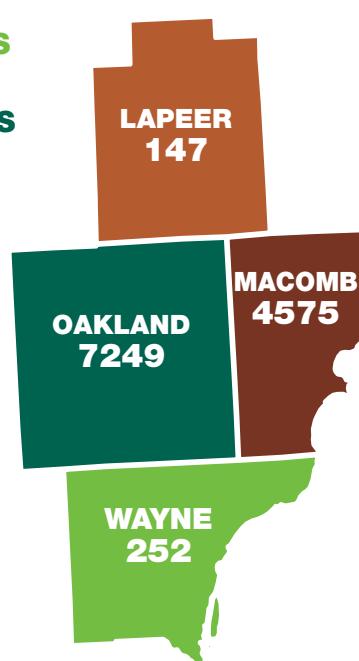
~Jen Peters, Executive Director

## Field Trips

<b>4</b>	<b>TOTAL COUNTIES REACHED</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>TOTAL DISTRICTS REACHED</b>
<b>113</b>	<b>TOTAL SCHOOLS REACHED</b>

**13,011** TOTAL STUDENTS,  
TEACHERS, CHAPERONES

**79** LIFE ENRICHMENT  
**169** SCOUT GROUPS  
**212** HOMESCHOOLS  
**284** CAMPS  
**2415** PRIVATE SCHOOLS  
**9808** PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## Members

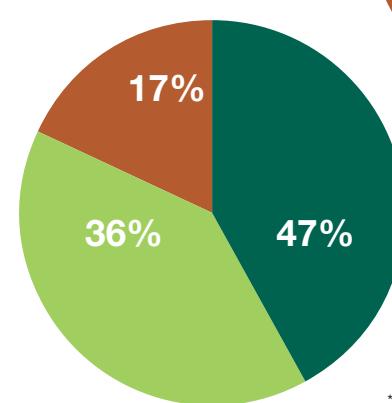
<b>4</b>	<b>BENEFACTORS</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>PATRONS</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>LIFETIME</b>
<b>109</b>	<b>HOUSEHOLD</b>
<b>144</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL</b>
<b>302</b>	<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS</b>
<b>183</b>	<b>INDIVIDUAL DONORS</b>

## Program Participation

<b>188</b>	<b>ENJOYED A GUIDED TOUR</b>	
<b>640</b>	<b>EXPERIENCED A WORKSHOP OR CLASS</b>	
<b>831</b>	<b>JOINED US FOR FREE OPEN HOUSE DAYS</b>	
<b>1098</b>	<b>DROPPED IN FOR A VISIT TO THE VILLAGE</b>	
<b>1298</b>	<b>LISTENED TO A LECTURE OR PROGRAM</b>	
<b>2130</b>	<b>ENJOYED THE VILLAGE DURING A PRIVATE RENTAL</b>	
<b>2389</b>	<b>CAME TO A VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENT</b>	
<b>7265</b>	<b>PARTICIPATED IN OFFSITE PROGRAMS</b>	

## Financials\*

SOURCE OF REVENUE	
32%	Programs & Admissions
15%	Memberships & Donations
14%	Sponsorships & Fundraising
29%	Grants & Government
6%	Rentals, Stores & Other
4%	Endowment



## FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

<b>42%</b>	<b>Programs</b>
<b>40%</b>	<b>Administrative</b>
<b>18%</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>

\*Audited Financial Statements from FY 2024/2025

# BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS

## BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SPONSORS 2024-2025

### EDUCATION SPONSORS

Kirco  
Columbia Center  
City of Troy

### PROGRAM AND EXHIBIT SPONSORS

Oakmont Senior Communities  
Troy Women's Association

Genisys Credit Union  
Troy Garden Club  
Tim Hortons – Troy Oakland  
County

Troy Community Foundation  
100 Women Who Care - Troy

## TROY TRAFFIC JAM 2024

### Presenting Sponsor

Kirco

### Proud Host Venue

Columbia Center

### Tech Talks Sponsor

Gallagher Global Brokerage

### Entertainment Sponsor

Horizon Bank

### Pedal Car Sponsor

Nostalgic Motoring, Ltd.

### Media Sponsor

HOUR Media

### Gold Sponsors

City of Troy  
Troy Downtown Development  
Authority

### T & I Credit Union

Community Choice Credit Union

The Kingsley

OHM Advisors

Lincoln of Troy

NAPA Auto Care Northern Detroit

BDG

GM Club Apparel

Platinum Garage Car Care

Elevation Spinal Care

Chrome Sponsors

Morgan Stanley

B & B Collision

Dean Sellers Ford

### In-Kind Donations

Nowicki Autosport  
Detroit Auto Show  
Troy Auto Transport  
Detroit Historical Society  
Pasteiner's Auto Zone  
Junior League of Detroit  
Sedona Taphouse  
Fogo de Chão  
Stoney River  
Sanctuary Lake Golf Course  
Sylvan Glen Golf Course  
Charles Riley

## SCARECROW ROW 2024

A.J. Desmond & Sons  
Funeral Home  
Allison Family Foundation  
Ancor Automotive  
Ann Percy - State Farm  
Insurance  
BB's of Troy  
Benito's Pizza of Troy  
Big Beaver United  
Methodist Church  
Billings Lawn Equipment  
Breakaway Deli  
Buffalo Wild Wings Arena  
C&G Newspapers / Troy  
Times  
Cintas Fire Protection  
City BBQ  
City of Cars  
Congregation Shir Tikvah  
Dean Sellers Ford  
DHL Express  
Emagine Entertainment  
Fogo de Chao

Friends of the Troy Public  
Library  
Genisys Credit Union  
Green Lantern Pizza  
HealthMarkets - TROY  
Hindu Community  
Relations Council  
In Memory of Ward  
Randol Jr.\*  
Irma's Family Farm Fresh  
Vegetables  
J-RO School of Music  
Jonny Cakes Cafe  
Karen Greenwood -  
Coldwell Banker Realty  
Kemp Klein Law Firm  
Lake Michigan Credit  
Union  
Lardner the Gardener  
LHOP Training Company  
Lincoln of Troy  
Macomb Party Rental  
Services

Madany Dental  
Mathangi Dance Company  
Minuteman Press of  
Rochester Hills  
Mr Kabob Xpress  
MSU Management  
Education Center  
Neil King Physical Therapy  
New Century Realtors  
Northminster Presbyterian  
Church  
Oakmont Senior  
Communities  
Papa Romano's\*  
Peacock's Poultry Farm  
Professional Pool Care  
Re-Source Partners  
Real Estate One, Troy -  
Max Brook  
Rehmann  
Rexpointe Kennels Inc.  
San Marino Club  
Signs & More

Stage Nature Center\*  
Susheilla Mehta -  
Berkshire Hathaway  
Home Services, Kee  
Realty  
T & I Credit Union  
Tableau by Mondrian  
Telly's Greenhouse and  
Garden Center  
The Oakland Press  
The Paintin' Lady, LLC  
The Quell Group  
Thrive Chiropractic of Troy  
Michigan  
Trevarrow Ace Hardware  
Tri-County Equipment  
Troy Auto & Truck Center  
Troy Auto Care  
Troy Auto Care II  
Troy Chamber of  
Commerce  
Troy City Clerk's Office  
Troy Dental Studio

Troy Education  
Association  
Troy Fire Department\*  
Troy Garden Club  
Troy Historic Village\*  
Troy Jewelers  
Troy Police Department\*  
Troy Public Library  
Troy Racquet Club  
Troy Recreation  
Department  
Troy Rotary Club  
Troy Youth Soccer League  
Troy-Metro Agency  
Universal Ambulance  
Service\*  
Wakefield Law, PC

\*Sponsored

## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT 2024-2025

ALCO Printing

Signs and More

Trevarrow Hardware

Troy Garden Club

## FOUNDATIONS AND GRANTS

THE  
KRESGE  
FOUNDATION



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES



Phillip & Elizabeth Filmer Memorial  
Charitable Trust



# FINANCIALS

## FINANCE

THS successfully completed its fourteenth year operating the Village through a renewable management agreement with the City of Troy. The current agreement will end in 2026. With a strong lineup of field trips and programs in addition to rental income, fundraising, continued grant and donor support, and operational funding from the City of Troy we continued to grow. **THS ended the year in a strong financial position with total Net Assets of \$596,940.** After another year of finishing in the black, THS continued to retain a small cash reserve which ensured cash flow throughout the fiscal and programming year.

## ENDOWMENTS

The THS Endowment was monitored by the Finance Committee and remained strong after another healthy year for the stock market. This endowment serves as stable revenue for Village operations and a safety net for unforeseen budget shortfalls.

**As of June 30, 2025, the THS endowment fund value was \$463,107; \$22,000 was disbursed to Village operations during the fiscal year.**

The Troy Community Foundation continued to grow and market their endowments which enabled THS to apply for another grant and disbursement for the benefit of the Village in FYE2025. **As of June 30, 2025, the Troy Historic Village endowment fund managed by the Troy Community Foundation was valued at \$36,815.**

## Financial Snapshot

### Revenue

Field Trips, Programs, & Admissions	\$199,884
Memberships & Private Donations	\$90,801
Rentals, Village Store, & Other	\$39,288
Fundraising & Sponsorships	\$87,636
Grants	\$54,978
City of Troy Operations Support	\$125,000
Endowment Distribution	\$22,000

### Expenses

Salaries and Related Fees	\$418,188
Artists and Professional Fees	\$70,043
Program Expenses	\$39,322
Fundraising Expenses	\$30,418
Administrative & Overhead Expenses	\$43,360



# FINANCIALS

## GRANTS

The following grants were awarded in FYE2025:

- ✓ The **Michigan Arts and Culture Council** in partnership with the **National Endowment for the Arts** awarded a total of \$23,400 to THS including \$17,500 for Operations, \$900 for Professional Development, and \$5,000 for the Civil War Days program.
- ✓ **Kresge Foundation** allocated \$5,000 from a three-year grant of \$15,000 to support programs at the Village that contribute to the Troy community's quality of life.
- ✓ The **Troy Rotary Club** awarded a \$2,625 grant to support field trip experiences for a Troy Elementary School. This grant enabled five grade levels to experience either programs at the Village or in their own classroom.
- ✓ **Troy Women Who Care** awarded a \$3,800 donation towards the 2025 Indigenous Voices program for Troy 5th grade students.
- ✓ **The Allison Family Foundation** matched \$4,265 for the 2025 Spring Appeal.
- ✓ **The Troy Community Foundation** awarded \$1,000 towards the Underground Railroad 2025 Summer Exhibit and related programming which was free to the public.
- ✓ The Michigan Department of Natural Resources awarded up to \$12,513 towards Telling Troy Stories, an **American250MI Project** that will take place in 2026.
- ✓ The **Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Development** awarded a \$399,770 Community Museum Grant for the Village West End Project to be spent between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2029.
- ✓ The **City of Troy** appropriated \$125,000 to support general operations in the Village. This is in addition to work completed through the Public Works Department to maintain and upgrade Village buildings and grounds.



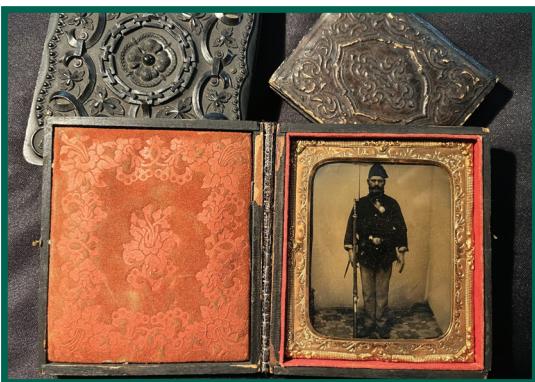
# COLLECTIONS

## Staff Curator, Elizabeth Thornburg, and volunteers worked on the following projects during FYE2025:

- ✓ Research into Johnson Niles' land ownership and official records
- ✓ Research into the Parsonage and Church for building books and tours
- ✓ Research into the Caswell family and house for building books and tours
- ✓ Research into Meadowbrook Daycare at 6995 Livernois Road
- ✓ Research and images provided for Victorian Christmas mini exhibit
- ✓ Moving collections materials from Parsonage Basement to appropriate collections spaces
- ✓ Caswell House interpretation updates
- ✓ Images provided for Troy's 70th anniversary
- ✓ Research and images for City of Troy's State of the City address and mini exhibit
- ✓ Collaborating on potential long-term loan with Meadowbrook Hall in December 2025
- ✓ Research and images for several Village Press articles

## The following items were accessioned into the Collection:

- ✓ Photographs of Troy United Methodist Church, Colerain School; City Pamphlets & envelopes; Fire Department badge belonging to Frank Costello - Jeff Trost
- ✓ 2 Reversible Liturgical Stoles and 1 Academic hood - LaVere Webster
- ✓ Troy Firefighters Women's Auxiliary Scrapbooks, Photo albums, & Clippings - Beverly Wiles
- ✓ Book, Cornwall Watercolors - Douglas Thornburg
- ✓ Korean War era US Navy Uniform including 2 Hats, 2 Navy Tops, 1 Pair of Pants, 1 set of Service Tags, 1 Belt, 1 Necktie - Robert Moseley
- ✓ 22 Tintype Images in Leather or Gutta Percha Cases c. 1850s-1860's, Tintype of Two Men in "Zouave" Uniforms, Civil War button, 2 Tintype Case Frames, 1 Crucifix from Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak - Joey Colby
- ✓ 2010 Troy City Directory, 1968 Detroit Edison House Numbering Map - Carol McWilliam



- ✓ Royal Oak Tribune Photographs, Press Releases & Newspaper Clippings - Royal Oak Historical Society
- ✓ 5 Troy's Sesquicentennial Button Badges, 1 UAW badge - Mary Gnyp
- ✓ Fan Pattern Quilt c. 1944-1945 made in Lapeer County - Pat Malone
- ✓ Ac-cent brand Mono Sodium Glutamate Tin - Tracy Novak
- ✓ Signed copy of Curtis Chin's Biography "Everything I learned in a Chinese Restaurant" - Jen Peters
- ✓ 3 Athens High School Yearbooks, 5 Smith Middle School Yearbooks, 1 Baker Junior High Yearbook, Troy Athens Flyers & Bulletins, 2 Troy High School Student Handbooks, Niles Elementary School Class Photo, 2 Athens Reunion Booklets, Troy Alumni Directory, Troy Youth Awards News Clippings, 26" model 'Troy School District' School Bus built by George Villneff, 1970-71 "The Crusader" Newspaper from Troy High School, Troy Times and Pontiac Press Articles - Peggy Villneff Youngs
- ✓ Lunch pail c. early 20th Century - Pat Guibord
- ✓ 1966-1967 Troy High Gladiator yearbooks from Stephen Lee - Kristina Lee
- ✓ 2 bed jackets c. mid 20th century - Robert Renshaw
- ✓ 2 photos enlargements of Troy Corners, Saint Lawrence Seaway Stamps, and first day stamp addressed to Mr. Sherwood Shaver - Rick Shaver
- ✓ 10 Volumes of Enumerators records, Bonds, and Oaths c. 1880-1930; Record of Troy School Districts 1924-1925, 6 Tax Assessment Rolls of Troy Township 1848, 1856, 1858, 1864, 1865, 1866; Chattel Mortgage Index; Dog Tax Records c. 1900-1902; Treasurers Records c. 1911-1927; Justices Docket; 5 special tax assessment rolls 1960s-1970s - Transfer from City
- ✓ Stereoscope Card of St. Dennis, Print of Cornwall, Postcards, Grandmother's Tea Tin, Souvenir Vase from Detroit, Photograph of Troy Corners c.1976 - Troy Historical Society purchase

## The following items were accepted into the THS Education collection:

- ✓ Various Sized Crocks - Estate of Judy Cornelier
- ✓ Reproduction Swingarm Candle Holder - Coleen King
- ✓ 2 Iron Weights, 1 Yankee Screwdriver and an Eggbeater Drill - Carol McWilliam

## Deaccessions:

- ✓ 82.3.11 Bell Howell Cassette Player/Recorder deaccessioned due to damage
- ✓ 2008.21.1 Bamboo multi-layer table deaccessioned due to deterioration

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Volunteer hours and 8 volunteers were utilized by Collections in FYE2025

# BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



Village Staff continued the process of researching and refining the interpretation around the Village while thinking about accessibility and experience in FYE 2025. At the start of the fiscal year, the Village contracted Four Seasons Hardwood Flooring to refinish the Poppleton School floors. As part of the project, the school desks were removed and refinished by volunteers. The desks were then reinstalled in a layout that created an accessible center aisle. Now students in wheelchairs can fully engage in school programs behind an accessible desk. THS also successfully upgraded the Church AV system with a new 85" TV screen hidden inside a volunteer-built cabinet and an audio system with hearing assistance capabilities. On the

other side of the Village, Wi-Fi was added to the Niles-Barnard House for programming and rental needs that also enables THS to hold hybrid board meetings.

As interpretation updates wrapped up in the Parsonage, Village Staff turned to the Caswell House to more fully tell the story of 1860s life in Troy Township. Staff will work to incorporate Solomon Caswell's cobbler trade among other domestic activities as work continues into FYE 2026. Around the Village, Volunteers built and installed a new sign for the Niles-Barnard House that incorporated a farmhouse bell to improve visibility of the building. They also worked on organizing and cleaning the Niles-Barnard basement and parsonage basement for better storage and workspace.

Minor repairs around the Village in FYE 2025 included ramp masonry work by National Restoration and Church roof patches completed by Schena Roofing (both contracted by the City). THS contracted Veteran Chimney Sweep to repair the chimney cap on the Wagon Shop. City DPW completed other small repairs around the Village including reframing the Wagon Shop door, fixing damage to the Church door, and grounds upkeep beyond weekly lawn care. In preparation for the State of the City Address, City Staff, Village Staff, and volunteers all pitched in to make sure the Village was looking and working its best!



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Rentals including Weddings, Graduations, Family Celebrations, and Business Meetings

# COLLABORATIONS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Village hosted several high-level events, individuals, and media outlets during the FYE 2025! Through each of these engagements, the Village continued to reach additional audiences which THS and Village Staff hope to continue growing through FYE 2026.

The 2024 Troy Traffic Jam benefitted from excellent weather and an outstanding line-up of cars and activities to bring nearly 7,000 visitors to the corner of Big Beaver and Livernois on the first Sunday in August. Though not on the Village grounds, this event is organized by THS and supports the educational programs at the Village while showcasing the City of Troy and the Big Beaver corridor. It is also gaining momentum across the region as a “must see” car show. In the early spring, the Village hosted the Historical Society of Michigan Local History Conference

Opening Reception. This was a fantastic opportunity to share the buildings and programs with more than 120 history nerds from across Michigan. Several representatives of other historical sites have since followed up with Village Staff as a resource to improve their own sites, interpretation, and school programming.



The Village was honored to host the 2025 State of the City Address as Mayor Baker celebrated the City’s 70th birthday. Though the Mayor and City Council are often at Village events, it was a chance for other leaders throughout the City to really see what the Village is all about. Staff and Board members were thrilled to have conversations and connect with so many community leaders and business owners.

Staff were also delighted to host Lieutenant Governor Garland Gilchrest and spotlight the Village through WDIV Channel 4. Lt. Governor Gilchrest spent an October morning visiting and learning about the Village’s Indigenous Voices program. With children of his own he saw incredible

value in using the Village to connect Troy students and teachers to Indigenous Partners from across the state. The Village was also lucky to be featured in two separate pieces on WDIV. The first was an overview of our programs and historic interpretation for an evening spotlight on the City of Troy. The second was a look into how the cuts in government funding could impact the Village. We are thankful for every opportunity we get to share the importance of what we do at the Village!

All of these activities were in addition to annual Fall, Midwinter, and Summer Kickoff Open House events and hosting the Troy Garden Club Garden Walk Arts & Crafts Boutique and Plant Sale at the Village. We again provided a pop-up Maple Syrup Store for Stage Nature Center’s Maple Syrup Time, and participated in Troy Recreation’s Midsummer Bash, Fall Fest, and Polar Party, the Troy Touch a Truck Event, the Fire Station Open House, and the Library Summer Kickoff offsite. The Village combined with the Troy Chamber of Commerce for another successful Fire and Flannel event and again hosted the Troy Kiwanis Spring Fundraiser. THS and Village Staff support the Troy Community wherever and whenever possible!



# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers continued to be an important part of maintaining the Village and supporting programs that fulfill the mission of THS in FYE 2025. Volunteers perform a range of tasks at several different skill levels, and each year new volunteers complete a training session to understand the vision of the Village and find a perfect fit for their skills and interest. THS has noticed that the number of individuals seeking volunteer opportunities has been dwindling since Covid. This seems to be the case across all museums and nonprofits. With that in mind, Village staff are working on ways to promote volunteer opportunities in coordination with other Troy organizations.



The Village utilized volunteers to prepare for the more than 13,000 student, teachers, and chaperones on school visits. Any given class might dip candles, make a ball and cup toy, or complete a tin punch project. All three of those items are prepped by volunteers, saving staff members hundreds of hours of time which allows them to focus on the program itself. For each of our Community Events, volunteers similarly prepare the crafts and activities for hundreds of guests. While some prefer to take items home, we have recently set up times where craft prep can be done as a group, creating an important community for the volunteers. Volunteer assist with other programs by greeting guests, leading activities, or giving tours. They also help staff get the word out by distributing marketing materials and participating in offsite community events.

Volunteers help Village Staff maintain the buildings and collections. Our archival assistants are trained in scanning and handling artifacts and documents, again completing hundreds of hours of work for the benefit of the community.

Other volunteers help us with more delicate cleaning around the Village and artifacts. Our Tuesday Work Crew built new air conditioning covers, installed a new sign at the Niles-Barnard House, and built shelves in the basement for storage. Around the holiday season, volunteers also help decorate and undecorate the buildings.

Volunteers were also crucial to THS fundraising activities. In order to make the Troy Traffic Jam successful, Village Staff rely on more than 80 volunteers across the event to help with registration, parking, pedal car races, and more. For the Scarecrow Row, volunteers built more than 30 of the scarecrows and ensured business-built scarecrows would stand up to a month worth of Michigan weather. Finally, for our Summer Raffle, volunteers helped solicit donations and created the final baskets before selling tickets during the annual Troy Garden Walk. We are incredibly thankful for all the ways volunteers help around the Village!



**205**

**Volunteers contributed a total of 4,406 hours of time to Village programs and operations support.**

# LOOKING FORWARD

The work continues! Following another successful year of programming and community involvement, THS and Village Staff are looking forward to expanding the Village, supporting the Troy and Museum communities, and celebrating America's 250th anniversary by Telling Troy's Stories.

In the Spring of 2025, Troy Historic Village was one of 20 recipients of a competitive Community Museum Grant from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity for the West End Expansion Project. **With donor support, City of Troy support, and \$399,770 in grant funding, the West End Expansion Project will complete 11 items in the recently developed Master Plan including moving the Log Cabin, expanding the Village fenceline, adding an Indigenous storytelling space, and adding staff parking.** This will enable us to increase our programming capacity as we reclaim underutilized spaces. Planning work has begun on this multiyear project and we look forward to moving the Cabin this summer. This project prepares the Village for the next steps in the Master Plan which include improvements to the Artisan Corner and eventually a new Visitor Center and expanded parking lot.

Though it will be hard to top hosting the State of the City Address in 2025, we will continue to look for ways to support the Troy Community with Village resources. THS and Village Staff participate in several nonprofit, local history, and museum groups and enjoy hosting meetings and programs whenever possible. In October of 2026 the Michigan Museum Association will hold its Annual Conference in Oakland County. Village staff will participate in planning, and the Village will host at least one seminar or program.



**WATCH THIS SPACE!**



**WATCH THIS SPACE!**

2026 is also the Semiquincentennial! As we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary we are looking to expand our archives with oral histories from the upcoming "Telling Troy's Story" project. Our goal is to gather a diverse collection of stories centered on the question "Why Troy?" in order to tell a more inclusive story of our community. With much of the Village collection focused on pioneer history from the 1800s and early 1900s, there is little to explain how the City grew from a small, white, farming community to one of the largest and most diverse cities in Michigan. Our hope is that community members will share photos along with stories so we can build the digital collection as we think of what historians 50 and 100 years from now will want to know. This oral history project will be combined with staff research and a local school project to be displayed at the Village and across the City this summer.