





2024 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

CHAGRIN HISTORY CENTER

To our Readers





Dear Friends,

As we finished our 75th anniversary this year, we have much to celebrate!

- Rebranding Chagrin Falls Historical Society to Chagrin History Center to reach a broader audience and to embrace the campus theme;
- Completing construction of the Barriball Carriage House and Church Blacksmith Shop with contributions, grants, in kind donations, and State of Ohio Capital Improvement Support. We are now able to house the 1957 Chevy police car replica and the 1949 GMC firetruck and to create displays for the Chagrin Valley history of blacksmiths, police and fire departments, and Don Barriball's contributions, all of which allows for increased community involvement;
- Focusing on expansion of resources and funding support and board of trustees structure to increase effectiveness and accountability;

Behind every picture in this Annual Report is a story, which helps keep Chagrin history alive. Thanks to you our dedicated donors and volunteers since our inception in 1949, we would not be where we are today. Your efforts help us make Chagrin History Center a vital part of the Chagrin Valley for years to come.

Carolyn Sibler
President, Board of Trustees

Executive Director

Our Vision & Mission

Chagrin History Center's vision is to inform and inspire residents, businesses, organizations, and community leaders through education and outreach so that all will make decisions respectful of the community's history.

Chagrin History Center's mission is to discover, preserve, and share evidence of and knowledge about the history of Chagrin Falls and vicinity. CHC does this to enable all who live, work, and visit the area to appreciate its past, understand its present, and plan for its future.

Chagrin Falls Historical Society dba Chagrin History Center is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS





Community

4,149 Visits

506 Memberships

72 Research requests

14 Groups using Bo Burr Community Room

Education

24 School & Scout Troop field trips
(498 students impacted)

12 Classrooms visited
(197 students impacted)

10 Programs in senior living communities
(356 seniors impacted)

7 Private group tours

3 Scholarships to High School seniors

Collections

2,001 Items entered into our database

500+ Items donated

61 Donors of items into our Collection

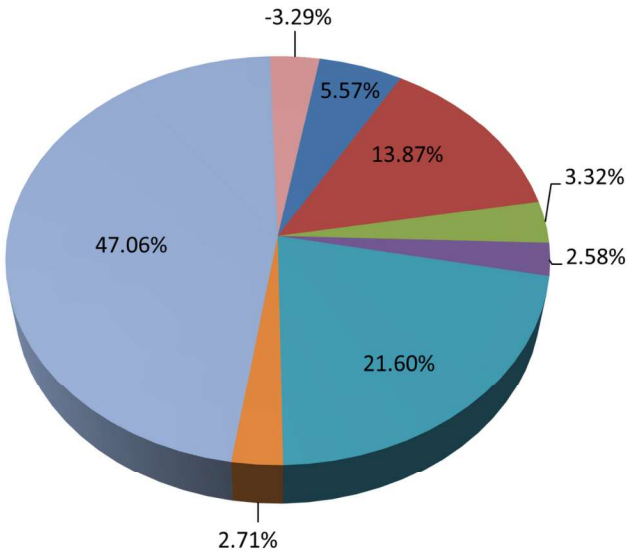
Volunteers

6,611 Volunteer hours

126 Volunteers
(38% increase from 2023)

2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME FOR 2024



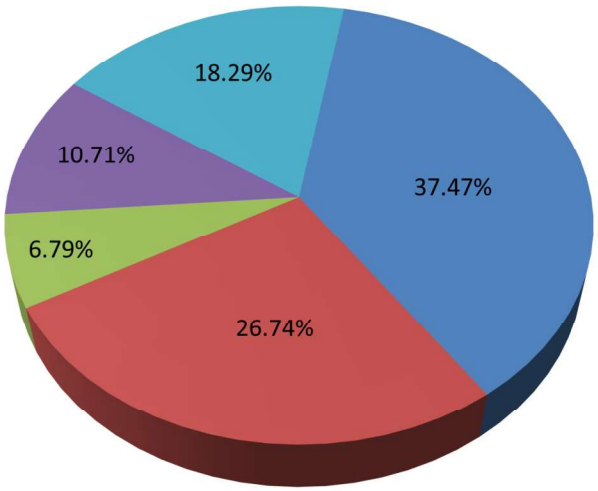
- $51,800 Individual Gifts
- $128,900 Gala & Home Tour
- $30,900 Annual Fund Letter
- $24,000 Foundations, Grants & Other
- $200,700 Investment Income (a)
- $25,200 Programming
- $437,600 Barriball Carriage House
- $-30,600 Write Off of Gift Shop Inventory



TOTAL $868,500

(a) Includes $144,300 Market Value Increase

EXPENSES FOR 2024



- $117,600 Salaries, taxes and benefits
- $83,900 Museum (b)
- $21,300 Programming
- $33,600 Administrative
- $57,400 Fundraising



TOTAL $313,800

(b) Includes $45,300 depreciation

Chagrin History Center Volunteer Spotlights



Eric began volunteering in 2022 after he retired, though he first got involved with the History Center when he donated a large number of prints and slides that his dad had taken of Chagrin Falls in the mid-1950s. “That’s when I first met John & Zo and enjoyed seeing the collections. I became hooked to help out after I retired. I enjoy the people who work and volunteer at the History Center.“

“My favorite part of volunteering is putting photos and other items donated to the History Center into our collections software. This archive is full of information on Chagrin Falls history.”

Kim has been volunteering at the History Center for over ten years. As a retired teacher, she feels that history is an important part of education. Not only does the teaching of history help us understand the past, it also helps explain the present and anticipate the future. By learning how different philosophies, traditions and customs formed, we develop a better appreciation, understanding and tolerance of others' views and opinions.



“Through displays and programs the History Center helps all in the area develop a sense of community and support for each other. The members of the Center are a caring and supportive group which was reinforced for me when my husband was sick.”

CELEBRATING







































75 YEARS



The Shute building


2014 signing of the purchase agreement


2019- Burning the mortgage!

Leading up to today, what you have made possible:

- **1949**- Chagrin Falls Historical Society formed with 12 members paying annual dues of $1
- **1966**- a community building was built from a bequest from Lora Shute with space set aside for the historical society.
- **2014**- Purchased and renovated 87 East Washington Street
- **2015**- Started transformation from an all volunteer organization; hired paid staff and recruited Board members with specific talents/backgrounds
- **2017**- Received Gates House donation from Carolyn Sihler
- **2024**- Rebranded to reach a broader audience and to embrace the campus theme
- **2024**- Completed the Barriball Carriage House for increased community involvement and outreach


Chagrin History Center campus

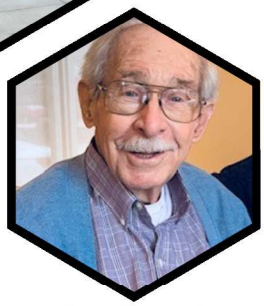
What's next?

- Focusing on Development and Relationship Building
- Upgrading organizational capabilities
- Embarking on an Endowment Campaign to:
  - Ensure long-term viability
  - Create programming to leverage current and future CHC assets
  - Continue being a community focal point for activities, education, and pride

Barriball Carriage House & Church Blacksmith Shop







Church Blacksmith Shop
The Church family, one of Chagrin Falls' first settlers, arrived in 1834. Henry Church, Sr., and his sons Austin, Henry, Jr., and Royal were all trained blacksmiths. The blacksmith shop serves as an educational exhibit center complete with photographs, the original Church workbench, and over fifty blacksmithing tools used by the family.

This unique space allows us to share stories about the Church family, other local blacksmiths, and life in Chagrin Falls, an early mill town and industrial hub. Our long-term vision is to build an outdoor forge and have trained blacksmiths who give demonstrations to students and visitors.

Don Barriball Display
The Barriball Carriage House is name after longtime volunteer, Don Barriball. Don volunteered from 2000 until his death in 2021, logging over 7,000 volunteer hours.

Don had a significant impact on Chagrin History Center's growth and development. He relished the research required to write his many books and welcomed the intellectual challenges posed by researching his many areas of interest.

Don loved to share his knowledge. He created detailed display boards that he used to tell the intricacies of the mills, foundry furnaces, turbines, canal locks or whatever interested him. These story boards are on display in the carriage house.

History of Chagrin Falls Fire & Police Department Display
Inside the Carriage House, we have a collection of the Chagrin Falls Police and Fire department photos and artifacts. Our collection includes badges, uniforms, helmets, the 1949 Fire Truck and the replica 1957 Police car. This display provides a history of the role our first responders played in Chagrin Falls.

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"Just like remodeling a historic home, Brookes & Henderson Building Co. understands the effort and attention to detail that preserving the history of our historic village requires. We are happy to support the Chagrin Falls Historical Society in the building of the History Center."
-Bill Henderson, co-owner Brookes & Henderson

1833 Legacy Circle
Be a part of history

What is your favorite Chagrin Falls memory or story? Help us preserve your special memories. We invite you to make an investment now so future generations may enjoy our treasures, heritage, and memories. **Your gift to a small, non-profit like ours makes a big impact**!

There are many wonderful options for your 1833 Legacy Circle Gift:

- Matching corporate gifts
- Annuities
- Cash
- Appreciated assets: Property, securities, real estate
- Bequests
- Life Insurance
- Yearly Retirement Minimum Distributions (RMD's)

If you are considering an 1833 Legacy Circle gift, please contact Ruth Zeager at 440.247.4695 or director@chagrinhistory.org

The above statements made do not represent legal, tax and/or financial advice. Prospective donors are responsible for obtaining legal, tax and/or financial guidance regarding gifts to the Chagrin History Center

Why I support CHC through Legacy giving...

"The Chagrin History Center plays a critical role in preserving and interpreting the past, and educating our community by insuring that the stories and artifacts are not lost to time. CHC provides programs that make history more exciting to people of all ages. That's why its future is important to me and why I am a member of the Legacy Society".





"I know of no other "historical society" that does more to foster the sense of pride and community than the Chagrin History Center. Their building history tours, lectures, exhibits, programs, events, dare people not to have pride in their community. Along with many other local institutions, the CHC is integral in fostering the future from the past. That is why I am a member of the 1833 Legacy Society"

We are extremely grateful to our donors

Our organization is made possible through the generous support of many donors and volunteers. Thank you all! Below is a list of our contributors in 2024.

(We have made every effort to include everyone. If your name has been inadvertently omitted or spelled incorrectly, please let us know).

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HISTORY CENTER

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