

Simple Gifts

2023 Annual Report



A MESSAGE FROM OUR
PRESIDENT + CEO

Bob Gigliotti

As we reflect on the past year at Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, it fills me with immense gratitude and joy to share the remarkable impact we've achieved together. The success and growth we've experienced are tangible outcomes of your unwavering support, dedication, and generosity.

Last year was indeed a year of milestones and accomplishments. We completed historic restoration projects, new educational experiences and culinary delights, supported a growing farm operation and continued management of our cultural landscape. All these achievements were made possible by the collective efforts of our dedicated team, engaged Board of Trustees and, most importantly, by YOU, our valued donors and supporters.

Your contributions have been instrumental in preserving and protecting this cherished historic site, maintaining the original Shaker structures, safeguarding the natural and cultural landscape, practicing sustainable agriculture and offering enriching programs that inspire curiosity, foster learning and ignite a sense of wonder in visitors of all ages.

In this Annual Report, you will find more details about how your donations made a difference across all areas of our operations. Each section of the report celebrates your generosity and showcases the transformative power of your support.

As we embark on a new year filled with opportunities and challenges, I invite you to continue your partnership with us by renewing your support to our Annual Fund. Together, we can ensure that Shaker Village remains a cultural destination for generations to come.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey and for your steadfast commitment to Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Legacies of the Pleasant Hill Shakers

The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, more commonly known as "Shakers," are one of the longest-lasting and most influential intentional communities in American history. At Pleasant Hill, in central Kentucky, the Shakers built a large community that attracted thousands of diverse individuals.

Established in 1806, Pleasant Hill grew quickly and thrived for more than half a century. Following the Civil War, a number of social and economic factors contributed to increased financial pressures and a decline in community membership. By 1923, the last Shakers of Pleasant Hill had passed away. Only the historic buildings and cultural landscape remained.



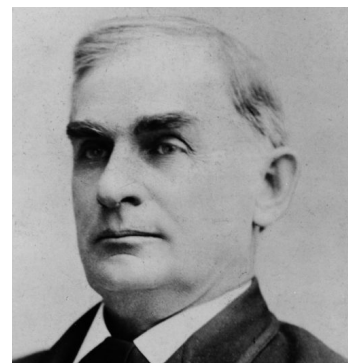
Sister Mary Settles, pictured left of center, was the last Shaker to live at Pleasant Hill. She passed away in 1923.

Today Pleasant Hill is preserved by a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1961. It is one of only five Shaker sites in the country recognized as a National Historic Landmark, and is the largest National Historic Landmark in Kentucky. Today, the property encompasses nearly 3,000 acres and is home to 34 original Shaker structures – the largest private collection of nineteenth-century buildings in the country!



A Gift That Keeps the Legacy Going

Your generosity can leave a lasting impact with a gift to the William Pennebaker Planned Giving Society. It's easy to make a gift through your will, trust or by beneficiary designation. To learn more about legacy gift options, visit shakervillageky.org/donate or call 859.734.1547.





Our Mission

**Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill
is on a mission to inspire generations
through discovery by sharing the legacies of
the Kentucky Shakers.**

Our Vision

We provide first-class service and unforgettable experiences that connect modern audiences to Kentucky's heritage at one of the most engaging historic sites in the country.

Our Core Values

Sustainability

The Shakers' approach to the efficient use of resources is still relevant today. We are charged with the stewardship of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, including its historic assets, natural resources and business operations.

Community

The power of simple human kindness is one of the most inspiring lessons left to us by the Pleasant Hill Shakers. We are committed to this principle by ensuring public access to the site, by providing a positive and engaging experience for our guests and by working to help improve the quality of life of our guests.

Ingenuity

The Shakers were known for their innovative solutions to challenges. Today, we problem solve with open minds and strategically plan our work to ensure the most efficient outcomes.

Preserving the Village & Your Memories



The 1875 Scale House and 1848 Post Office received new roofs in 2023.



Preservation of the 1845 West Family Sisters' Shop and its windows, doors and cornice are underway thanks to a generous donor.

We are committed to the ongoing preservation of our historic buildings. Our team of craftsmen are incredibly talented with decades of intimate knowledge of the 34 original Shaker structures that remain at the site. Over the past decade, we have completed at least \$1 million of historic preservation work each year.

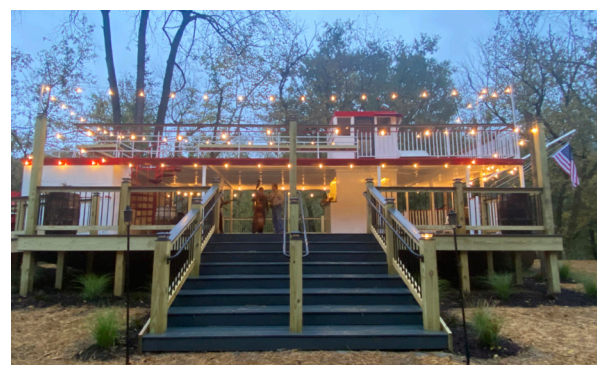
In 2023...

- **Preservation work was completed on 19 historic structures**
- **10,335 hours of staff time dedicated to caring for the irreplaceable architecture**
- **400 gallons of paint purchased**

In 2023, our biggest fear – that a historic building would somehow be lost – came true when a large tree fell during an unprecedented storm and landed on the 1835 Carriage House. Within days of the disaster, donations started to arrive to fund the materials needed to rebuild. Your faith in us fueled the determination of our craftsmen. They carefully sifted through the debris to salvage as many of the original materials as possible. This spring, the reconstruction will be complete and it will (almost) be like nothing ever happened – all because of you!

When the *Dixie Belle*, our paddlewheel riverboat, was retired in 2022 after 40 years of service, we heard from a lot of our friends and guests. Many of you had special memories to share about the riverboat: weddings, family reunions, visits with grandparents or grandchildren and more. Our commitment to preserving the Village includes honoring the memories you have made here.

With help from a generous donor, the riverboat was restored last summer. It was placed in permanent drydock at Shaker Landing for use as an event venue, educational space and for you to enjoy for generations to come.



The permanently docked riverboat is now an event venue at Shaker Landing.

Something to Discover for All Ages

At Shaker Village, carrying forward the legacies of the Shakers who called Pleasant Hill home is our mission. Your contributions help make that possible by funding guided tours, hands-on daily programs and informative exhibits for guests of all ages.

2023 By the Numbers

- **204 individual campers attended Explorer Summer Camp**
- **4,500 students visited SVPH on field trips**
- **SVPH presented 4,000+ daily programs to approximately 28,493 guests**
- **6,429 hikers/walkers/equestrian riders enjoyed our trails**



Summer camp and field trips fun on the Farm.



The Believers exhibit in the 1820 Meeting House.

The Shakers' faith influenced the way they designed their community and how they lived their daily lives. This year we opened a new permanent exhibit, *The Believers*, in partnership with the Lilly Endowment, Inc. *The Believers*, helps visitors discover the pillars of Shakerism and encourages them to explore the influence their own personal beliefs have on the decisions they make every day in their own life. This exhibition is foundational to understanding the Shakers and the relevance of their legacy today.

Many of our guests first experienced Shaker Village as a child and have strong memories of that visit. We want the next generation to have memorable experiences here too. What better way to do that than through play? Contributions from two donors fully funded a natural Playscape that was installed near the Farm this year. The Playscape gives kids the opportunity to discover the historic architecture and cultural landscape of the village while having a lot of fun!

Please visit www.shakervillageky.org/event-calendar for information on daily adventures and upcoming events.



We Make You Kindly Welcome

When the community came together to form the nonprofit that cares for the site, they established The Shops, The Trustees' Table and The Inn to generate revenues to support the organization's mission. When you shop, dine and stay at The Village today, your purchases directly fund historic preservation, stewardship of the collections, care of the cultural landscape and daily educational programs.

In 2023...

- 19,685 individuals and families stayed at The Inn
- \$697,000 generated to support SVPH's mission at The Shops
- 4,703 plates of fried chicken served for lunch at The Trustees' Table



Shaker Village also hosts a series of Signature Events throughout the year to raise funds for its mission and introduce new guests to the site.

Last year thousands of guests attended the Easter Egg Hunt, Family Farm Days, The Chamber Music Festival of the Bluegrass, Vintage Dad's Day, Craft Fair, Harvest Fest, Trick-or-Treat and Illuminated Evenings.



Thank you to our sponsors for making our Signature Events possible!

The Shakers' Lemon Pie recipe is still served daily in our restaurant.



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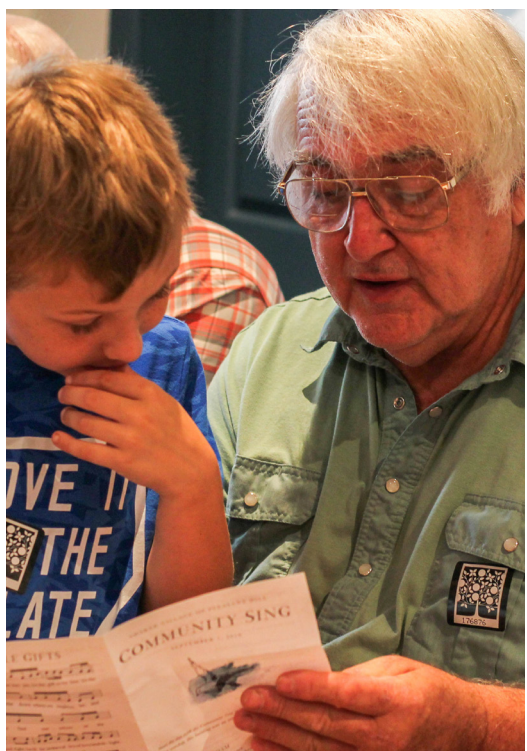
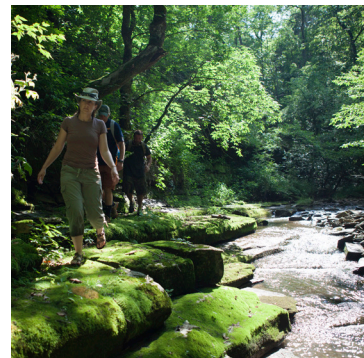
Be Part of Shaker Village

Annual Passholders are our most loyal and engaged guests. If you visit the Village more than once a year, please consider purchasing an Annual Pass. It's an incredible value!

As an Annual Passholder, you receive:

- Unlimited free admission to the Village, including the 30-mile trail system.
- 10% discount on overnight rooms in The Inn, on meals at The Trustees' Table and on purchases in The Shops.
- Free admission to Signature Events, like the Easter Egg Hunt, Craft Fair, Harvest Fest, Trick-or-Treat and Illuminated Evenings.
- Discounts on a variety of Discovery Treks and Workshops.

Shaker Village offers passes for individuals, couples and families starting at \$70. Discounts are available for educators, students, active duty military, first responders and seniors. Equestrian and Photography Annual Passes are also available



Introducing the New Grandparent Annual Pass

Bring your grandchildren to the Village to make and share memories. Passes include admission and benefits for up to two adults and six related children under the age of 18.

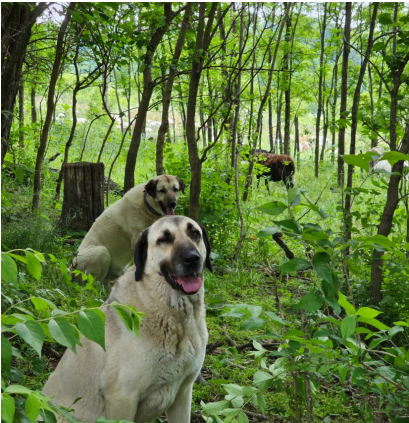


Discover Backyard Sustainability

The Shakers were among some of the most prominent agriculturist of their time and famously known for their packaged seeds. Today we embrace this heritage in every choice made on the Farm and continue sustainable agriculture practices and humane animal husbandry.

2023 on the Farm:

- **Six herding dogs are at work on the Farm**
- **3,600 pounds of produce was harvested from the garden**
- **Produce and meat produced on the farm is served at The Trustees' Table, sold through our CSA program and donated to local food banks**



The Farm at Shaker Village is one of the most visited spots on site and the animals that call it home are the star attraction. Today, more than over 300 animals are part of the “family.”

This year our work on the Farm got a little easier with your help. Two Bernese Mountain Dog puppies, Milo and Murphy, were donated by a local farm. These pups are in training under the watchful eyes of four adult working dogs who look after our flock of sheep here at the Village and Kentucky Utilities nearby solar field. This team of dogs do a marvelous job protecting the flock from predators.



A growing flock of sheep – one that can triple or quadruple each year – needs constant care. This year a generous donor contributed funds for Shaker Village to purchase a sheep working facility that will make this labor of love a lot easier!



Conserving Our Natural & Cultural Resources

On the Preserve last year, a lot of time and energy was spent on clean up following the same March storm that impacted the 1835 Carriage House. Throughout the Village and the Preserve, an estimated 70 trees fell during the storm. This left our team with a lot of debris to remove, particularly so the trail system could reopen safely for our guests.

In 2023...

- **63 breaks in the historic stone fences were repaired**
- **23 volunteers performed 87 hours of work**
- **12 species of rare, threatened and endangered plants were protected**
- **200+ trees and shrubs and 140+ grasses, sedges and wildflowers were planted by local schoolchildren**



Contributions from a local foundation made it possible to complete major restoration work on the Shaker Pond Dam. The dam had become overgrown, compromising its integrity and blocking a viewshed that had historically been open. Funding was used to clear the area and rebuild the dam, preventing further erosion along the bank and ensuring the pond will remain in good condition.

The Shaker Pond Dam work complimented a two-year project already in progress to rehabilitate 20 acres in the pond drainage areas. With grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, SVPH worked to remove trash and invasive species to improve the habitat in the drainage area. The grant also made it possible for 327 local students to participate in two hands-on educational field trip programs.

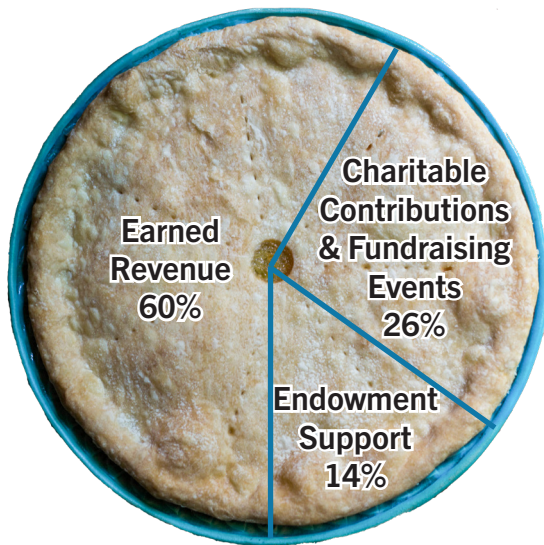
The team also relocated the West Trail Head with funding from the Kentucky Colonel's Good Works Program. This move provides trail users with better parking at the trail head and easier access to the trails.



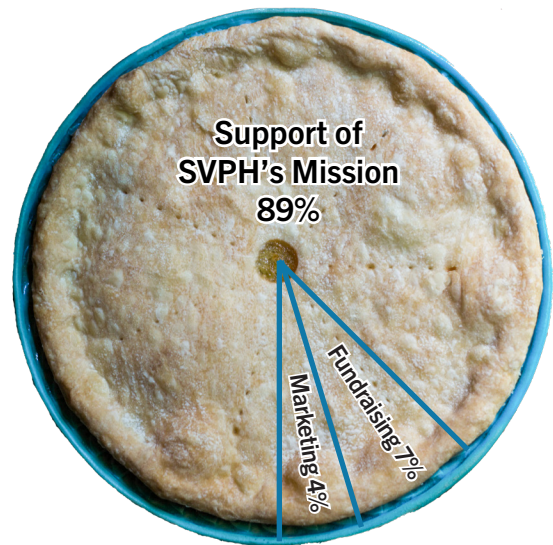
Financial Operations Snapshot

**Your continued commitment to Shaker Village
has been nothing short of inspiring.**

Every time you've stayed overnight in one of our historic buildings, dined in our restaurant, explored our landscape and architecture, participated in programs, workshops, or events, hiked on our trails or simply found solace in the quietude of Pleasant Hill, you've been a part of preserving something truly special.



OPERATIONAL REVENUE



OPERATIONAL EXPENSE

This year, 988 donors and 1,458 passholders collectively contributed \$1.58 million to support the operations of the Village. In addition, the SVPH endowments consist of generous donations made by donors to ensure the long-term vitality of the site. Income generated by the endowments covered 14% of this year's operational expenses, which totaled \$5.88 million.

Our donors also contributed an additional \$819,933 towards specific capital projects. This funding is kept separate from the operational budget because it is designated by the donor for a specific purpose. Detailed descriptions of many of these projects can be found throughout this report, including the revitalization of Shaker Landing, the rededication of the riverboat, the construction of a Children's Playscape and the restoration of windows in the 1845 West Family building.

We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support from our donors. Together, we are guardians of Shaker Village, working hand in hand to ensure Kentucky's largest National Historic Landmark, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, continues to thrive for future generations to discover.

Thank you for everything you do. Whether it's a significant donation or a small act of kindness, your support fuels our work and brings our mission to life.

*The financial data presented here is a summary of the unaudited financial statement. An annual audit is scheduled to be conducted in June 2024 to provide further verification and accuracy.

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Long-Range Plan

Shaker Village has made significant strides in the past decade, addressing challenges and achieving notable successes in historic preservation, grounds care, infrastructure upgrades, and community engagement. While there's still work ahead to maintain and enhance Pleasant Hill, our progress has laid a strong foundation for future growth.

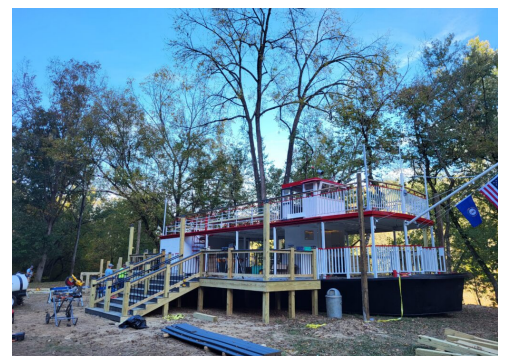
In response to this pivotal moment, the Shaker Village Board of Trustees established the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) in late 2021. Led by Dr. John Roush, Centre College President Emeritus, this committee is comprised of experts in architecture, preservation and business from both the board and senior leadership teams.

The LRPC wasted no time in assessing Shaker Village's operations, conducting studies and identifying key projects for the future. This comprehensive approach involved reviewing our mission, seeking inspiration from cultural sites, analyzing usage data and conditions, and consulting with professionals.

As part of the long-range plan, 34 projects were introduced this past May, ranging from significant initiatives to smaller enhancements that align with our vision for Shaker Village's future and our commitment to preserving the historic fabric of the site. Noteworthy progress has already been made on projects like the Children's Playscape, Shaker Landing, the West Trailhead and historic viewshed, which have had an immediate impact on the guest experience.

To learn more about these projects and stay updated on our progress, visit the Shaker Village blog and follow our social media channels. Your support is crucial in turning these plans into reality. For inquiries about master site planning or to share ideas, contact Billy Rankin, VP of Public Programming & Marketing, at brankin@shakervillageky.org or 859.734.1574.

Join us in shaping the future of Shaker Village as we continue to preserve history and create meaningful experiences for generations to come. Together, we can make a lasting impact!





Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill
3501 Lexington Road
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2023 Annual Report

Preserving History, Inspiring Generations: Your Role in Shaker Village's Success

How can you help?

Visit

Explore daily adventures, guided tours, exhibitions and 30 miles of hiking and riding trails.

Stay, Dine & Shop

The Shakers were known for their hospitality. We carry forward this tradition at The Inn, The Trustees' Table and The Shops.

Volunteer

Sign up and share your talents on our seasonal volunteer days.

Follow us on social media

Tag us in your Facebook and Instagram posts with **#shakervillageky**. Check our blog and weekly emails for updates.

Give

Your financial investment helps sustain Shaker Village for future generations to discover.

