



SHAKER  
VILLAGE  
*— of Pleasant Hill —*

Preserving the Past to Inspire the Future

2024 ANNUAL REPORT





An aerial photograph of the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, showing several historic wooden buildings with red roofs, surrounded by lush green trees and fields. A white picket fence runs across the foreground, and a road is visible in the background.

## MISSION STATEMENT

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







# Simple Reflection

## Peaceful.

That's the word most often shared by visitors when asked to describe Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. We hear it so often, in fact, that it can be easy to take for granted the wonderful and varied mixture of ingredients that lead to this simple declaration.

It begins with nature. Birdsong. The breeze passing through tall grasses and river cane. Babbling streams, crickets, frogs and cicadas. The wild world that we all secretly yearn for but often seems so far from our modern lives.

At Pleasant Hill this natural landscape is framed and given context by the built environment of the Shakers. The sturdy timber, brick and limestone structures, born of this land, are comforting with their sense of permanence and purpose.

The final ingredients in this recipe for peacefulness are the people you encounter during your visit. Simple acts of kindness are the hallmark of the staff that care for Shaker Village and its guests, continuing a legacy of hospitality that extends back to the Shakers, when a visitor once remarked that they were "made kindly welcome."

In a world that seems forever pushing toward conflict, complacency and isolation, we need places like Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. Thank you for joining us in our efforts to preserve and share the peace of this place with generations of guests.



**Billy Rankin**  
*President & CEO*





# Preserving Our Heritage

At Shaker Village, preserving the history and heritage of this remarkable place is at the heart of our mission. Thanks to the continued support of committed donors, the Village employs a full-time team of skilled craftsmen who care for 34 original Shaker structures.

## KEY PRESERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024:

- More than \$1.5 million invested in historic preservation across the property.
- Major restoration of the 1845 West Family Sisters' Shop restored the building's exterior carpentry, including 39 windows and 78 sashes.
- After much anticipation following an unprecedented storm, The Carriage House has been fully restored. The restoration was finished in heritage red paint with 6 gallons of primer and 12 gallons of topcoat.

The maintenance, carpentry and paint teams dedicate thousands of hours to preservation work each year under the leadership of:

- Mike Brown, *Director of Buildings and Grounds*
- Mike Worthington, *Paint Foreman*
- Robert Brown, *Preservation Carpenter*
- Terry Cowart, *Shop Carpenter*





# Inspiring Generations

More than 100,000 guests explored Shaker Village in 2024. Charitable donations fund engaging daily programs, hands-on learning experiences, field trips, summer camps and educational exhibits that help guests connect to history, conservation and agriculture in meaningful ways.

## KEY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN 2024:

- ❖ New daily programs in 2024 included popular programs like *If These Walls Could Talk* and *Flushed Away*.
- ❖ 10 exhibits were featured regularly across the Village; in 2024 there were also two featured seasonal exhibits: *Spark! Places of Innovation* from the Smithsonian Institution and *Pleasant Hill Paintings: An Exhibition of Work by Charles Jolly*.
- ❖ More than 3,000 students explored the Village on school field trips and delighted in new programs including *History Detectives* and *Shaker Footprints*.

The collections and archives staff and educational teams are led by:

- Becky Soules, *Collections and Education Director*
- Alli Bramel, *Collections Specialist*





# Conserving the Natural Landscape

Nearly 3,000 acres of natural landscape surrounds historic Shaker Village, in the heart of the Kentucky Bluegrass. Generous contributions ensure the streams, wetlands, fields and forests remain healthy and accessible to the public.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE PRESERVE IN 2024:

- ♥ Benches have been added throughout the trail system to provide peaceful rest stops for hikers and equestrians, with 6 already deployed, 12 assembled and ready for deployment and 12 more to be assembled and deployed.
- ♥ As part of a multi-year effort to restore native ecosystems, approximately 70 acres were cleared of invasive species across viewshed and sensitive wooded areas, and 200 acres of native prairie were treated with prescribed fire.
- ♥ A grant-funded habitat restoration project restored a 20-acre area adjacent to the Shaker Pond.

The landscape is cared for by a team of naturalists and groundskeepers, led by:

- Ben Leffew, *Preserve Manager*
- Laura Baird, *Stewardship Manager*
- Jeremy Collins, *Grounds Foreman*





# Healthy Soil, Healthy Food

The Farm at Shaker Village is a cornerstone of the Shakers' legacy as innovators. Through the generosity of donors, The Farm team grows thousands of pounds of nutrient-dense produce while creating opportunities for guests to explore the value of regenerative agriculture.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE FARM IN 2024:

- ♥ Dr. H.P. Lovelace joined the staff as Farm Manager, bringing a renewed focus on holistic wellness, biodiversity and innovative practices to the farm program.
- ♥ More than 20,000 pounds of food harvested on the farm was served in The Trustee's Table restaurant.
- ♥ Daily programs like *Taste of Fresh* and *Shaker Orchards* connected thousands of guests to the land through hands-on learning experiences.

Under Dr. Lovelace's leadership, The Farm team cares for over 300 animals and cultivates more than 150 acres in the Shaker tradition.





# We Make You Kindly Welcome

The Shakers built the 1839 Trustees' Office to host visitors to the community and conduct business with the outside world. Today, this building remains a center of hospitality, with The Shops, The Trustees' Table and The Inn generating revenue in support of the organization's mission. Shaker Village is also a major destination for heritage tourism in central Kentucky and a driving force for economic growth in the region.

## KEY EXPERIENCES & ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024:

- ♥ In 2024, more than 80,000 guests enjoyed fresh, locally grown meals from The Trustees' Table.
- ♥ More than 11,800 guests stayed overnight at Pleasant Hill in The Inn's 72 hotel rooms.
- ♥ Purchases of local and regional craft items in The Shops earned more than \$677,000 to support Shaker Village's mission.

The team that makes you kindly welcome is led by:

- Kristen Flick, *Vice President of Hospitality Services*
- Shelby Jones, *Chief Marketing Officer*
- Amber Hokams, *Executive Chef*
- Lisa Cloon, *Restaurant Manager*
- Lorrin Ingerson, *Retail Manager*





## Gathering as a Community

Shaker Village proudly hosts nine signature community events throughout the year and provides an unforgettable setting for weddings, retreats and other private celebrations. These events celebrate the region's heritage and create lasting memories for guests.

### KEY EXPERIENCES IN 2024:

- ❖ Seasonal events and festivals drew thousands of visitors to experience Pleasant Hill.
- ❖ 12 couples were married at SVPH and more than 24 families gathered for celebrations.
- ❖ Over 80 bus tour groups explored the Village as part of their travel itinerary.

The Sales and Event team provides personalized customer service for all visitors under the leadership of:

- Kristen Flick, *Vice President of Hospitality Services*
- Michelle Crepeau, *Senior Sales Manager*
- Haylee Jones, *Event Sales Manager*
- Ambert Cagle, *Sales Coordinator*

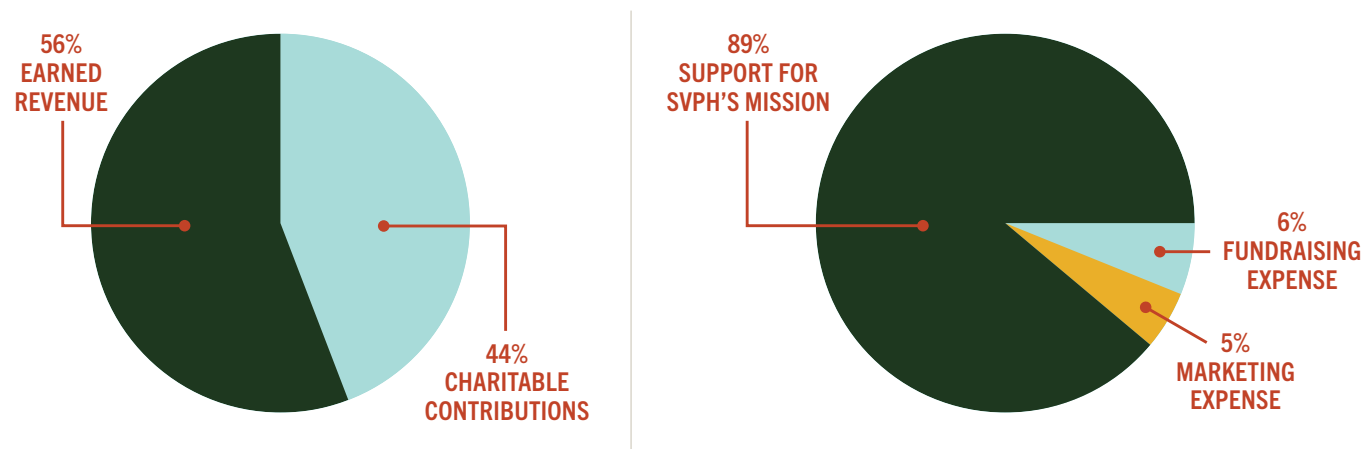


# Funding The Mission

In 1961, a passionate group of Kentuckians came together with a shared vision to restore Shaker Village and open it to the public as one of America’s most important historic landmarks. They formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has since relied on the generosity of the community to sustain its mission.

Initial efforts to restore the Village were made possible through community fundraising, enabling the nonprofit to purchase the remaining Shaker buildings and surrounding land from private individuals.

Today, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill operates with a \$6.6 million annual budget. Fifty-six percent of this budget is funded through earned revenue, while forty-four percent is funded by the charitable donations of more than 1,045 generous individuals and support from the Restricted Endowment.



In addition, more than \$3.2 million was raised for specific capital projects, furthering the preservation and development of key initiatives. Recent capital projects include the preservation of the 1835 East Family Wash House, the design, fabrication and installation of permanent exhibits in the 1834 Centre Family Dwelling and other buildings and care of the trail system and The Preserve.

## 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](https://shakervillageky.org/donate) or call **859.734.1563**.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MUSIC ON THE LAWN

Friday & Saturday evenings through November 1

## FRESH FOOD ADVENTURES

June 21, July 26, August 16, September 13 & November 15

## CRAFT FAIR

August 2-3

## HARVEST FEST

September 20-21

## TRICK-OR-TREAT

October 24-25

## CHRISTMAS MARKET

November 8

## TEA TIME with MRS. CLAUS

December 6, 13 & 20

## ILLUMINATED EVENINGS

December 6, 13 & 20



Scan to View the  
Full Calendar of Events



# ANNUAL PASSHOLDER

The Annual Pass program offers visitors unlimited access to explore and enjoy the property while supporting its nonprofit mission. In 2024, passholders took advantage of valuable benefits designed to make each visit more meaningful and accessible.

- ❖ Unlimited admission to 3,000 acres of natural landscapes, over 30 miles of trails and 34 original Shaker buildings, plus free entry to signature events like Craft Fair, Harvest Fest, Trick-or-Treat and the Easter Egg Hunt.
- ❖ A 10% discount on overnight stays at The Inn, dining at The Trustees' Table and shopping at three onsite craft shops.



## AN ANNUAL PASS PAYS FOR ITSELF IN JUST TWO VISITS!

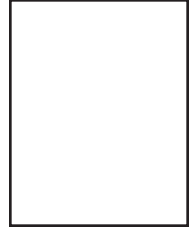
Starting at just \$70, annual passes offer a significant savings for individuals, couples and families. Plus, it's easy to get—purchase your pass today by scanning the QR code and start exploring all the Shaker Village has to offer. *Equestrian and Photography Annual Passes are also available.*







**Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill**  
3501 Lexington Road  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330  
shakervillageky.org  
859.734.5411



## PRESERVE HISTORY, INSPIRE GENERATIONS

Your partnership makes it possible for future generations to discover and experience Shaker Village. You ensure this remarkable site, and its rich legacy, endure for years to come.

### EXPLORE

Discover daily tours, exhibitions and over 30 miles of hiking and riding trails—immerse yourself in history every time you visit.

### EXPERIENCE

Stay at The Inn, dine at The Trustees' Table and browse The Shops, where Shaker hospitality awaits.

### VOLUNTEER

Share your time and talents during seasonal volunteer days and help us care for this living history.

### CONNECT

Engage with us on social media and share your experiences by tagging #shakervillageky—your stories bring our mission to life.

### SUPPORT

Your gifts directly fund preservation and educational programming, ensuring Shaker Village remains a place of shared heritage, discovery and inspiration for generations to come.

For more information on how you can make a lasting impact, contact us at:  
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