

WRHS WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL FUND & DONOR RECOGNITION FY 2025





November 1, 2025

Dear Friend of WRHS,

At the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), history happens every day, and you are part of the story! Here you will find opportunities for audiences of all ages to explore, commemorate, experience, and preserve Northeast Ohio and American history.

During FY 25, WRHS achieved a significant milestone. In March 2025, WRHS was awarded full accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest mark of distinction for museums in the U. S., a recognition of our commitment to industry professional standards for organizational health, education, public service and collections stewardship.

Last year, WRHS continued to invest in its people, places, collections and experiences. Thanks to generous philanthropic support from donors like you. WRHS has the capacity to safeguard its collections, buildings and grounds and expand programming for the benefit and enrichment of our community, through increased outreach and collaboration. Your support for annual operations, endowment, and priority projects are vital to WRHS's long-term institutional sustainability. I am pleased to report that thanks to your continuing support and engagement, WRHS continued to invest in priority capital projects during fiscal year 2025:

- The project to fully restore the WRHS Library building and collections as a result of the 2023 fire was completed and the library reopened in April 2025.
- The first phase of the Hanna Garden restoration project has been completed at the Cleveland History Center. The work included preservation of windows, architectural details, and the original fountain.
- The restoration of the Edward Cranz Farm is complete, thanks to significant support from the State of Ohio and private donors. In the coming months, WRHS looks forward to opening the historic Cranz Farm Inn for overnight stays, events and meetings!

WRHS created experiences that are relevant and representative of the communities we serve, including:

- Solidarity Now! 1968 Poor People's Campaign, a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution and History in their Hands: Black Photographers in Cleveland, 1968 to Present, the inaugural exhibit presented in WRHS's new permanent gallery dedicated to African American history, opened in September 2024.
- In the Chisholm Halle Costume Wing, WRHS presented the charming All Dolled Up exhibit featuring 200 years of dolls and miniatures.
- Plans to create a permanent International Heritage Gallery at the CHC are well underway.
- Provided exceptional educational experiences to lifelong learners in addition to 150 local school districts and institutes of higher learning.
- In the Crawford, we presented Wild Horses: 60 Years of Ford's Mustang and Mini Mania! Big Fun on Little Bikes.
- Plans to mark the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026 continued.

Your tax-deductible contribution makes these experiences and improvements possible! For further information, please call Glenn Anderson Jr., Senior Vice President of Advancement at 216-721-5722 x1401 or Christie Gound, Advancement Manager at 216-721-5722 x1501. Please know that you may contribute online at www.wrhs.org/product/donation or by wire transfer.

Thank you for your important and meaningful support, engagement and time.

President and CEO, Western Reserve Historical Society

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## EXPERIENCE



WRHS CLEVELAND
HISTORY CENTER

Explore the tangible history of Northeast Ohio at the Cleveland History Center. Discover our vast archives in the WRHS Library, create memories with a ride on the historic Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel, and step into our city's prosperous past at the Hay-McKinney Mansion. Each gallery at the Cleveland History Center is filled with stories of real people doing extraordinary things including these exhibits: American Dream: Immigrants and the Business of Fashion; Carl & Louis Stokes: Making History, Cleveland Starts Here® sponsored by Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation; Hollywood on the Cuyahoga: Northeast Ohio and the Movies sponsored by PNC; Race, Place, and Community Based Healthcare, c. 1957-Present sponsored by the Cleveland Council of Black Nurses; Robert P. Madison: A Lifetime of Design; Top Brass: The Core of the Crawford and Women and Politics: Empowered to Vote, Empowered to Lead presented by PNC. These exhibits and full calendar of complementary programs and events including our popular History on Tap, Murder Mystery, and By the Book series are sure to make your next trip to the Cleveland History Center a memorable one.



## EXPERIENCE



## WRHS & HALE FARM & VILLAGE

Discover Hale Farm & Village, an outdoor living history museum that brings 19th-century life to the present by preserving and showcasing the seasonal rhythms, regional history, and period arts and trades of the time. Step into the mid-1800s and explore dozens of historic buildings, engage with farm animals, wander through heritage gardens, and watch live demonstrations of traditional cooking, crafts, and trades from Early America. Beyond daily activities, Hale Farm & Village offers a dynamic calendar of special events throughout the year. Celebrate spring with the Maple Sugar Festival and Pancake Breakfast, explore the farming traditions of both past and present at the Sow and Grow Festival, featuring oxen-powered plowing and draft horse demonstrations. Experience living history at Civil War Weekend, and enjoy unique shopping at the Made in Ohio Art & Craft Festival. Nestled within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Hale Farm & Village, under the care of WRHS, preserves nearly 100 acres of land and 34 historic structures.

Four historic structures at Hale Farm & Village have been the focus of preservation work this year. The Land Office had a complete exterior restoration performed, the Benjamin Franklin Wade Law Office and First Settlement Cabin had their shake shingle roofs replaced and the School House had structural framing and its shake shingle roof addressed. All of these structures are critical to the delivery of educational programming for students and the general public.









Thanks to the generous support of Northeast Ohio foundations and fundraising benefits like the Hundred Year Club, the Cleveland History Center and Hale Farm & Village nurture innovation and the entrepreneurial mindset in Northeast Ohio students. The Youth Entrepreneurship Education (YEE) continuum was created in partnership with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District (CMSD) and is designed to inspire students at a young age to pursue entrepreneurial ventures. Now in its second decade, YEE continues to expand service to districts around Cuyahoga County with a similar economic profile to CMSD. Last year, YEE served 2,700 students in CMSD and inner-ring districts, in addition to thousands of students served through paid school, scout, and homeschool bookings. In Summer 2025, YEE content formed the basis for our first ever Entrepreneur-in-Training Summer Camp, a three-day experience at the Cleveland History Center where each camper planned a business step-by-step using lessons from Cleveland's entrepreneurial past and WRHS collections.





## Jim Walker

### **Guardian Society Member**

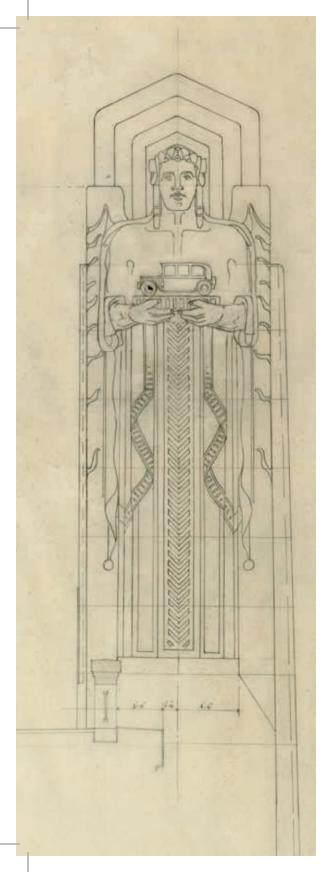
The history of Cleveland, Ohio is also a big part of our nation's history. I was lucky to have grown up in Cleveland and experience the heyday of downtown, and my family's many trips to Euclid Beach Amusement Park which was also enjoyed by millions of other people thru the years. Two of my biggest interests in the last 40 years have been preserving the memories of Euclid Beach Park and my love of antique cars, which of course is the other reason why I am so fond of the museum. The many changing exhibits also keep young people coming back over and over again.

Making even a small yearly contribution makes you feel like you are helping to preserve Cleveland's history and those contributions all add up to keeping this wonderful museum operating. I have included WRHS in my estate planning and I encourage other people to do the same, if possible.



For over 160 years, we have guarded our collective history with the immeasurable help of esteemed benefactors like you. Through a planned giving legacy gift, you can join other passionate supporters to ensure access to our collections, exhibitions, and educational programs for generations to come. It is our greatest hope that after you provide for your loved ones, you consider continuing your lifetime donations with a legacy gift to WRHS. Everyone who shares their intention to make a gift in will to WRHS is invited to join the Guardian Society which honors the benefactors who support the future of WRHS. Members receive recognition in the annual report and are invited to special events.

Please contact Glenn Anderson, Jr. at <u>gandersonjr@wrhs.org</u> or 216-721-5722 ext. 1401 or Christie Gound at <u>cgound@wrhs.org</u> or 216-721-5722 ext. 1501 to discuss the lasting impact of your philanthropy.



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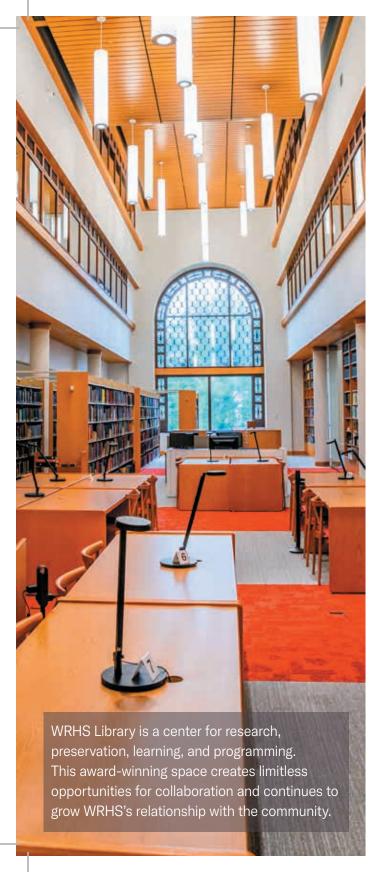
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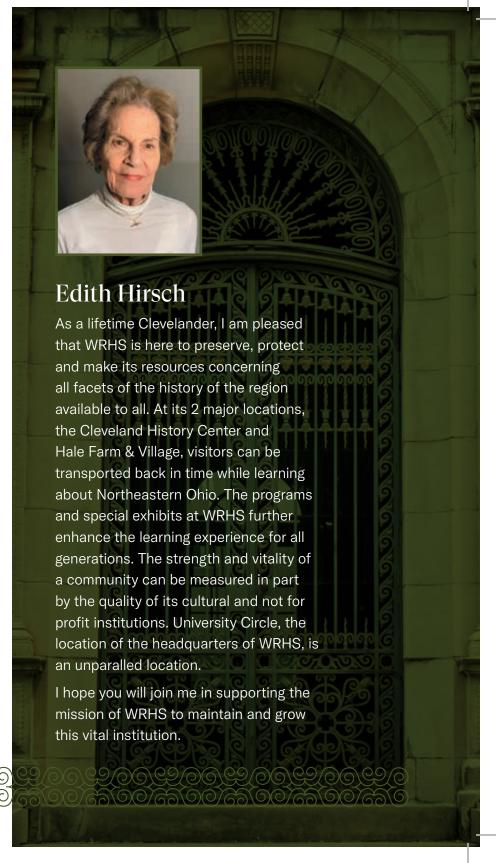
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WRHS is grateful to the State of Ohio for its generous support of capital projects in Cuyahoga and Summit County, like the Cranz Farm Inn and Crawford Renovation project. We deeply appreciate support for annual operating expenses. WRHS leverages support from the State of Ohio into additional gifts from the private sector. This includes investment in safety, accessibility, preservation, and overall sustainability of WRHS.





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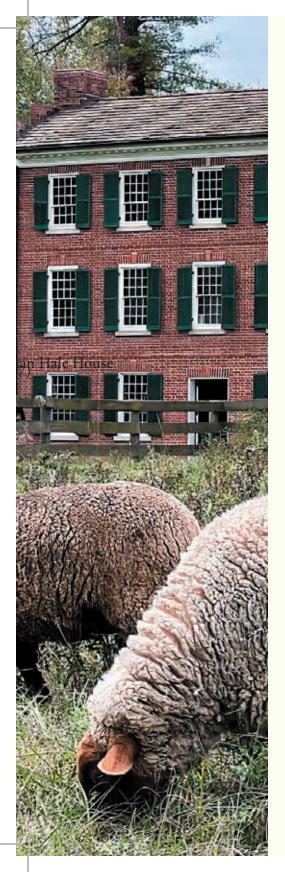
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WRHS is grateful to work with over 130 talented and enthusiastic volunteers and interns. In FY25 our volunteers donated over 9,000 hours to WRHS, and our interns contributed over 1,500 hours to WRHS! From tending our gardens at Hale Farm & Village to assisting with collections and archives at the Library, they are a vital part of our organization. Thank you to our invaluable volunteers and interns.

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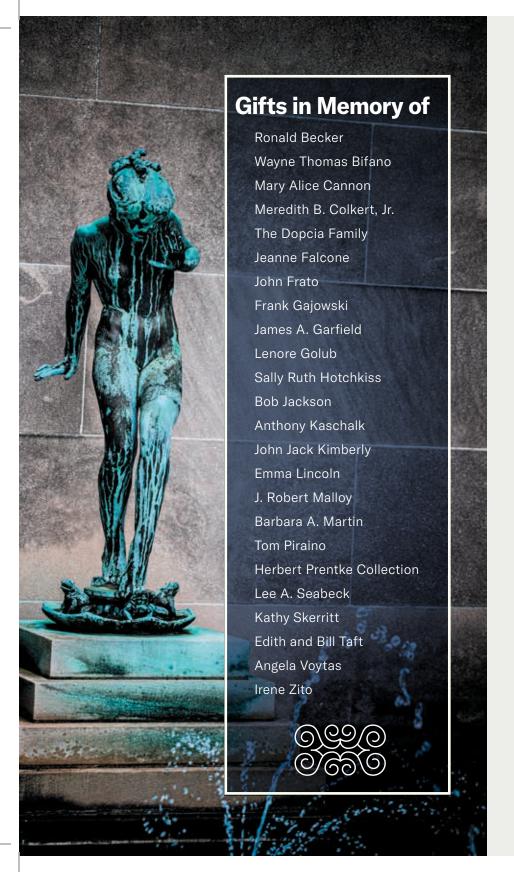
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## Robert Jackson Memorial

WRHS remembers Bob Jackson, a longtime member of our Board of Directors from 1992 through 2023. During his tenure, he served several years in leadership as Vice President (1999, 2003-2005) and Vice Chair (2008-2009). Bob was a founding and senior partner at Kohrman Jackson & Krantz (KJK) PLL, Cleveland, Ohio. A noted collector of rare books

and tribal art, Bob was an internationally recognized writer, scholar and world traveler. A corporate lawyer and private equity investor, Bob's broad interests, deep knowledge and experiences benefited WRHS, an American history organization known for its diverse library and museum collections.

In 2004, WRHS collaborated with Donna and Bob Jackson to present the groundbreaking Standing on Ceremony: Traditional African Arms from the Donna L. and Robert H. Jackson Collection, a WRHS exhibit that showcased their collection of African art including ceremonial knives, combat sabers, throwing knives, daggers, dignitary swords, currency knives and other ritual items produced by Central African peoples noted for their work as smiths. Bob and Donna presented a captivating presentation on the art of collecting with a special focus on their collection of tribal art featured in the exhibit. They shared how their collecting led to travel, adventure, and quest for global knowledge.

Under Bob's leadership, WRHS strengthened relationships with peer institutions. As an advisor to the Baker-Nord Center of Case Western Reserve University, WRHS staff benefited from Bob's lectures about literature, rare books, libraries and travel, his own collection, and law-related topics.





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