

News Release

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The Preble County Historical Society is pleased to inform the community that it has raised nearly \$250,000 toward its campaign goal of \$350,000 to match the State of Ohio Capital Improvements Budget appropriation for the construction of an outdoor amphitheater at the Society's location in southeast Preble County.

The generosity of local individuals, families, local businesses and foundations, has been remarkable! Over the past six months the Society has received individual gifts ranging from \$50 to \$50,000 from forty-two individuals and families; corporate and foundation gifts ranging from \$500 to \$30,000 from fifteen organizations; and in-kind contributions from an additional ten individuals and businesses. The Society genuinely appreciates this support.

The application to the Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission to release the state funds for the project is due in April, so the Society is seeking to raise the remaining funds as quickly as possible.

The Society's primary objective for the amphitheater is to develop a new community resource at a proven site. For over forty years, the PCHS has pursued its mission of providing opportunities for the community to experience, learn, create, and imagine the historic flavor of the rich cultural heritage of Preble County. The Historical Center is a 255 acre location, only one mile from the intersections of SR 503, SR 122, and SR 725. The Center enables the Society to create partnerships with schools, community volunteer organizations, local government, state and federal entities. The amphitheater will create a depth of opportunity for the type of family programming, culture, and activity that attracts residents, businesses, and visitors from beyond Preble County. Indeed the Historical Center serves the entire southwest Ohio and southeast Indiana area.

The Society's secondary objectives for the amphitheater are to create a natural and green design to take advantage of an extraordinary site overlooking the restored wetlands at the Historical Center; to create a unique facility for community events; and to promote community-wide economic benefits.

As the Society begins its 40th anniversary year, we invite individuals, families, and local businesses to contribute to the amphitheater project. Donations can be a tribute to the Society recognizing its 40th year, to the community, or to individuals who appreciate the county's historical heritage and anticipate a bright future for the organization. The groundbreaking of the Amphitheater in 2011 will launch the Preble County Historical Society into a new and exciting era for the county.

Donations may be sent to the Preble County Historical Society at 7693 Swartsel Road, Eaton OH 45320. For more information about this exciting project, please contact Society Executive Director Jane Lightner at 937-787-4256, or preblecohistsoc@brecnet.com. Visit the Society's web site at www.pchs.preblecounty.com.