

1031 Bridge Avenue | Albert Lea, MN 56007
fchmmn.org
Return Service Requested

Museums contribute
\$50 billion
to the U.S. economy each

Board & Staff

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Stephanie Kibler, Executive Director
Linda Evenson, Librarian
Risha Lilienthal, Exhibits & Collections
Lois Lunn, Housekeeping
Riley Knoss, Meeting Room Setup

As we close out 2020, we say good-bye to Gary Schindler. Gary has completed his second three-year term on the FCHM board.

On December 22, during a regular board meeting, the board approved Jim Haney as a new member. Jim is a history teacher at Albert Lea High School. He has worked with Linda Evenson, FCHM Librarian, for more than 20 years on the Discover History program.

Jim is the 2012 Minnesota History Teacher of the Year and the 2004 Albert Lea Teacher of the Year.

We look forward to having Jim serve on the board of directors.

Non Profit Org.

US POSTAGE

PAID

ALBERT LEA, MN

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Current State of the Organization

2020 was a year of uncertainty and we decided to rise to the challenge. And boy did we! The Museum staff got creative and began planning new programming and exhibits. Our volunteers were able to socially distance and many of our Village buildings received fresh paint, a new deck and roof were also completed. New interpretation and hands-on activities went into a number of buildings ensuring we are ready for school tours in 2021. We had a shared goal of ensuring the museum continues to be successful even through trying times.

We, the Board of Directors and Staff of the FCHM, wish to extend our sincerest gratitude to all who share in the concern for preservation and interpretation of the history of Freeborn County. We thank you for your continued sharing of your time and expertise, and your financial support of our efforts. **We couldn't do it without YOU!**

Jason Taylor, Board President
Stephanie Kibler, Executive Director

1031 Bridge Avenue
Albert Lea, Mn 56007
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freeborncountyhistory.org

Grateful for your Support

It's good to be blessed. It's better to be a blessing. —Anonymous

Grants

Operation Round Up - Freeborn-Mower Cooperative Services
Minnesota Energy Resources
Freeborn County Communities Foundation
Mayo Foundation
Freeborn County CARES Act
St. Paul Minnesota Foundation

\$40,724

Gifts

Every dollar has an impact. Gifts to FCHM assist in classroom visits and field trips to our local schools, improves our storage facilities to better preserve artifacts, assist in maintaining our 18 historic structures, and ensures we can continue to provide engaging events and educational programs throughout the year.

In addition to contributing directly to the FCHM, there are other opportunities to give to FCHM:

- Create a Named Endowment
- A Charitable Gift Annuity
- Beneficiary designations
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

Thanks to the generosity of community members in 2020 the FCHM was gifted, through donations, grants and beneficiary designation, a total of

\$65,787

These contributions allowed FCHM to pay off the mortgage on the building addition.

COVID Related Funds

FCHM qualified for \$16,700 through the Small Business Administration (SBA) Payroll Protection Program (PPP). This covered several months of payroll for the Museum during the initial closure.

In addition to the PPP, FCHM also applied for and received an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) through the SBA. Currently these funds are being held in our checking account.

Members

The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.” —Vince Lombardi

Members of FCHM play a critical role in the success of the organization. We are grateful for the support of our members through renewing, participating, promoting and donating.

461 current members & growing

Corporate Sponsorships & In-Kind Contributions

Albert Lea Moose Lodge No 1703 | Albert Lea Public Warehouse | Albert Lea Seed House | Albert Lea Steel Inc.
American Legion Unit #56 | Back Acres Construction Inc.
Brick Furniture of Albert Lea Inc. | Daisy Blue Naturals
Edwards Jones Financial Advisors | Endres Window Cleaning
Farmers State Bank | Freeborn Mower Operation Round Up
Golden "K" Kiwanis | Hammer Dieser & Mangskau PLLP
Hilltop Greenhouse & Farm | Hy-Vee, Inc. | ISC Financial Advisors | Jaguar Communications | JenSales | Jim & Dude's Heating and Cooling | Kelley Plumbing, Heating & Cooling LLC | Kevin Stoa Engineering Inc. | Kwik Trip | M&S Outdoor Equipment | Midwest Diesel Sales & Service
Mineral Springs Brewery | Old Car Company | Paypal Giving Fund | Raleigh's Ace Hardware | Sorenson's Appliance & TV | Three Oaks Winery | Union Center (Gaming Account)
United Employees Credit Union

Museums Are TRUSTED

Museums are considered the most trustworthy source of information in America, rated higher than local papers, nonprofits researchers, the U.S. government, or academic researchers .

American Alliance of Museums

we Collect, Safeguard & Share

our county's most treasured documents and objects

Volunteer Hours

“No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude. “ — Author unknown

FCHM would not be able to accomplish all that we do without the volunteers who give their time so freely. We are extremely grateful, whether you are here for an hour or 100 hours. Each volunteer contributes a unique skill ensuring we fulfill our mission — building the future by preserving the past. We thank all who have given of their time.

1,315 hours given in 2020

Library

Librarian Linda Evenson assisted visitors and adapted her schedule to virtual librarian during COVID closures. She also worked closely with staff providing invaluable research for our new and updated exhibits.

In 2019 library volunteers clocked 711 hours; staff answered 102 mail queries; and the library saw a total of 1,322 researchers. 2020 was a completely different story.

Library Volunteer Hours:

321

Mail Queries Answered by Staff:

72

Total Researchers:

99

Visitors

Visitors did not come from near and far in 2020 and school children could not visit. This was one of the biggest disappointments and staff definitely noticed the quietness of the Museum and Village.

Exhibits

As we close out 2020, we have much to be proud of. Areas of the Museum and Village have been updated and new exhibits have been added. We are grateful for the time we had to literally tear up parts of the Museum and Village and create fun, interactive exhibits. We will continue our exhibit refresh through 2021.

People Love Museums

More people visited an art museum, science center, historic house or site, zoo or aquarium in 2018 than attended a professional sporting event.

American Alliance of Museums

Acquisitions

Risha Lilienthal, Collections & Exhibit Coordinator, oversaw the collections and worked with the Executive Director on moving our collection management software to a web-based program. Thanks to an attentive volunteer our backlog of acquisitions from 2017 to 2019 are in the process of being cataloged.

680 items added to collections

Programming & Events

We celebrated, raised funds and educated in 2020, for a few months anyway.

The Meatball Fundraiser at the Moose Lodge in February was a successful fundraiser for FCHM. Sadly the Eddie Cochran Car Show and Music Fest was cancelled for 2020.

We kicked off a new educational program with Uncorking History in 2019 and were in the process of offering our second case in March. Don't fret! This will be making a comeback in 2021.

We have added a YouTube channel and are offering a variety of video programs including Echoes of the Past and Cocktail History. We plan to continue to add to our virtual programming throughout 2021.