

2012 C.P.A. Application - Community Support

The all volunteer, non-profit Middleborough Historical Museum is the recipient of community support in many forms. In fact, we are dependant on community support. We exist for the community; it is our stated audience and from where we draw our members and volunteer work force.

The museum offers genuine and satisfying work to a growing intergenerational group of community residents. Retired people with years of specialized skills work along side high school and college-aged interns. Newly transplanted residents interact with life-long Middleborough people. Some MHA events allow families to volunteer interact together – a rare opportunity and valuable life lesson.

Wide-spread community support for the museum is evident in the many monetary and in-kind donations from the following individuals and businesses over the past few years: Maxim Foundation, Christmas Tree Shoppes, Mayflower Bank, Hannah Shaw Home, Stop and Shop, Hannaford's, Trucchi's, Cirelli's, Winberg's TruValue Hardware, Wilmot's Paints, Mid-Cape Home Center, Hopwood Plumbing. (This is not by any means a complete listing.) The Middleborough Public Library has provided a place for monthly board meetings when the weather is too cold to meet in the unheated museum. Ned Vaughan Realty provided us heated office space one winter so that work on our collections could continue. Both of our neighbors, the Robbins Museum and the Girl Scout House have provided heated program space in the past.

Collaborations with other cultural/ historical groups on a regular and ongoing basis include the Robbins Museum, Soule Homestead, Middleborough Public Library and Lakeville Historical Society. We have partnered with these organizations to produce lecture series, programs and events.

Collaborations with Middleboro's public schools include onsite visits (third grade students who are studying local history) and presentations by MHA staff in local classrooms. Since 2005, students of *Historiae Opus Bono*, the history honor society of Middleborough High School have partnered with M.H.A. working in the collections during the summers and at special events such as the Heritage Festival (2008) and the annual Ice Cream Social. A bond with these students has been strong and some have returned after entering college to help with MHA projects.

Each year, volunteers from MHA provide free and low cost slide presentations and talks that highlight Middleboro history to area community groups as part of our mission.

In 2008, MHA initiated and coordinated Middleborough's 340th Anniversary Heritage Festival. Nearly thirty historical and cultural groups worked together to present a day of educational fun to the greater Middleborough community. Collaborating with MHA at that well attended event were the Cabot Club, Committee for the Preservation of Thompson St, Eddy Homestead, First Congregational Church on the Green, Future of Middleborough Trust, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Green School Preservation, "Recollecting Nemasket", Lakeville Historical Commission, Lakeville Historical Society, Middleborough Historical Commission, Middleborough on the Move, Middleborough Public Library, Nemasket Hill Cemetery, Old Colony Historical Society, Pilgrim Hall Museum, Robbins Museum of Archaeology, Soule Homestead Education Center, St. Andrew's Traditional Anglican Church, Weston Forest, American Legion (Middleboro Post), and the Middleborough-Lakeville Herring Fisheries Commission.

During the anniversary event the following individuals shared their talents: Mary Guidaboni, Dean and Laurie Rantz, Spinners with Soul – Barbara Chadwick, Harlow House Spinners – Karen Delaney, Country Piece Makers- Betty Marinelli, Jeff Stevens – gravestones/ cemeteries, Trish Holloway – artist, Yolanda Lodi – author, Rock Village Publishing, Kara Andrews – Art on the Spot,

Other social and fraternal organizations like the Cabot Club, the Oak Point Quilter's Guild, Plymouth County Girl and Boy Scouts and Middleborough on the Move have supported MHA in numerous ways. M.H.A. is grateful to the many Eagle Scouts who have chosen to work on projects to preserve or restore our historic buildings over the past few years. These local scouts and their troops and families become part of our M.H.A. "family" and have left lasting physical improvements to our buildings. This is community support in a most basic and necessary form.

To conclude, at least two of our annual low cost / free, family friendly programs such as the ice cream social in July and the annual Birthday Party for Mrs. Tom Thumb in October have become much anticipated community events. Area families return year after year.