



October 7, 2020

Dear Friend,

Without doubt, 2020 has been a frustrating year. It's hard to recall the winter season and the changing new year that came with it. The previous year's momentum certainly energized the Allen County Museum. We were off to a great start, well positioned to take on new programs, exhibits, and a new strategic plan.

Fast forward three months and everything came to a screeching halt—impacted by a worldwide pandemic. COVID-19 dramatically changed the world and the impact has been felt by all. Like so many businesses and organizations, we shuttered the museum for over 3 months, working from home as part of the new normal.

In May, staff slowly returned to work under challenging circumstances. The museum assessed the situation and adapted by making changes to help reduce the impact to the organization. Staff worked diligently to understand how best to re-open the facility under the new state mandates. With health and safety in the forefront of our minds, we instituted new protocols and re-opened on June 16, 2020 while grappling with significant decreases in donations, a loss of fundraising opportunities and events, and low attendance. Donations from museum visitors are down 75% and other financial streams like rental fees and gift shop purchases are almost non-existent.

While things are certainly far from normal, the staff continues to look for the silver lining by remaining steadfast and forward thinking. The museum has successfully accomplished several important projects over the past six months including:

- Finalizing a new strategic plan funded in part by support from the Ohio Arts Council
- Expanding museum access to the community through our first ever online exhibition now on our website
- Developing new resources for teachers, visitors, and docents with the goal of improving our online presence

As we face these uncertain times, the pandemic will eventually end, the nation will calm, and the museum will move forward. Until then, we are asking you ***for vitally important support through a year-end donation.*** By donating to the museum's ***2020 Annual Appeal*** your commitment helps us remain an essential part of the community throughout these difficult circumstances. Please help us ***secure your past and our future through a generous gift!***

Most sincerely,

*Bill Timmermeister*

William C. Timmermeister, President  
Allen County Museum and Historical Society

I want to support the Allen County Museum's 2020 Annual Giving Campaign with a tax-deductible gift of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000    \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please return this form with your check payable to:**

Allen County Historical Society • 620 West Market Street • Lima, Ohio • 45801

**Credit cards may be used securely via PayPal through this website.**

**(Donate button is on top right of page; type APPEAL in notes.)**