

Our Mission

The Otsego County Historical Society, among other things, seeks to:

- provide a repository for area artifacts;
- provide educational programming;
- preserve area heritage and the work of the Museum; and
- provide funds to continue the work of the Historical Society for the benefit of the community.

Who We Are

The Society is comprised of volunteers dedicated to preserving the heritage of Otsego County for the enjoyment and education of future generations. An elected Board of Directors provides leadership for our nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, while patron sponsorships, donations and membership dues provide funds to carry out our mission.

Looking Back

The Historical Society was established in 1963. Thanks to the generosity of the late Gordon G. Everett and his wife, Marlene, we have a place to call home. The Otsego County Historical Society Museum, at 320 W. Main Street in Gaylord, opened in 1992. Since then, the museum has operated on donations and grants.

KEEP THE STORY ALIVE ...

Looking Ahead

The establishment in 2008 of the Otsego County Historical Society Endowment Fund under the Otsego County Community Foundation umbrella assures funding will exist in the future for our mission, to preserve the past. An endowment fund will help us to serve more people and to consider goals like expanding programming and reaching toward still other dreams.

How It Works

The Otsego County Community Foundation acts as a community savings account, providing maximum tax advantages to donors. The funds belong to the community, for improvements that matter to everyone. In our case, donations earmarked for the Otsego County Historical Society's Endowment Fund are invested permanently, and income earned will be used for Historical Society projects. The original donation keeps earning income. That means every gift is perpetual.

Your Legacy

You can join us in remembering your hometown and keeping the story alive. Working with the Foundation, your endowment gift will help to supplement other Society fund-raising efforts today and beyond your lifetime.

Remembering the Historical Society Endowment Fund in your will has tax benefits. Gifts are exempt from estate taxes. By including the Otsego County Historical Society as a bequest in your will, you can make a gift of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate or other assets.



Enjoy State & Federal Tax Breaks

Michigan law permits individuals and businesses to reduce their Michigan income tax or Michigan Business Tax by a credit of 50% of the contribution to the Community Foundation.

Your tax advisor can more accurately explain the particular tax benefits of your specific gift, so please consult your tax professional.

AN EXAMPLE OF TAX IMPACT

	Individual	Couple
YOUR GIFT	\$200	\$400
LESS MICH. TAX CREDIT	(\$100)	(\$200)
LESS FEDERAL TAX CREDIT	(\$25)	(\$50)
TOTAL SAVINGS	(\$125)	(\$250)
ACTUAL COST	\$75	\$150

The Michigan Community Foundation Tax Credit allows you to reduce your state income tax liability by up to one-half of your donation. This is an example of a gift given by a donor in the 25% tax bracket.