

Carmel Clay Historical Society
Planned Giving
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the mission and purpose of the Carmel Clay Historical Society?

The Carmel Clay Historical Society (CCHS) connects Carmel residents to the past by preserving and sharing its collection and by providing educational programs celebrating the history of Carmel. CCHS is the sole repository for documents, photographs, stories, and information pertaining to the 177 years of Carmel's history. Its reach extends to every individual and business that is — or has been — a part of the Carmel Indiana community.

The Society was organized in 1975 during local preparations for the national Bicentennial of 1976. Preservation of the Monon Depot, built in 1883, was the first major project undertaken by the organization and today serves as a museum about Carmel's history. It is open free to the public. Last year, 497 people visited the museum from 3 countries and 11 states. In addition, 912 Carmel second-grade students came to the museum and experienced Old Town on tours led by our volunteers.

What does the CCHS Fund?

The Carmel Clay Historical Society funds educational programs and projects consistent with its mission in the following ways:

- * Public Programs about local topics
- * Tours of the Monon Railroad Depot Museum
- * Curriculum materials to schools on local and county history
- * Historic Home Tours highlighting local architecture and antiques
- * Providing genealogical assistance to area researchers
- * Maintaining an archives of letters, diaries, newspapers, documents, and artifacts that pertain to Carmel and Clay Township

How does the CCHS raise money?

The Carmel Clay Historical Society relies solely on the generosity of its donors and grant money, and seeks financial support from individuals and organizations both within and outside the city of Carmel.

Are my contributions tax deductible?

The Carmel Clay Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions are fully tax deductible provided no goods or services were received in consideration of your donation.

May I make a donation as a memorial or honorarium?

Gifts to CCHS may be made as memorial contributions or honorariums. If you would like to make a contribution to fund a specific initiative, please contact the Carmel Clay Historical Society to discuss the details of your wishes.

What are the ways I can give to the Carmel Clay Historical Society?

There are many options for donating to the Carmel Clay Historical Society, including:

Gifts of Cash

A gift of cash is the easiest way to give to the Foundation. Make your check payable to THE CARMEL CLAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY and mail to:

The Carmel Clay Historical Society
211 First Street SW
Carmel, IN 46032

Bequests

Just a simple designation in your will or living trust creates a legacy for the Carmel Clay Historical Society and will not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.

Named Funds

With a gift of \$25,000 or more, CCHS will establish at your request a fund bearing the name you designate. These named funds offer ways for friends, family members, neighbors, colleagues, foundations or other organizations to commemorate special individuals, such as an individual who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to Carmel's history.

Individuals and families or other groups may combine gifts made over time to meet the minimum amount. Once a named fund is established, gifts may be designated to the fund at any time. Families and friends may choose to let others know that the fund has been established and invite others to join them in support of this lasting tribute.

Funds may be directed to a mutually agreed upon specific purpose that fits within the CCHS's mission and organizational goals and is approved by the CCHS Board.

Charitable Trusts

This is a terrific way to make a gift, allowing you to receive fixed payments and defer or eliminate gains tax, or, if you prefer, allowing CCHS to receive income for a period of years, with the remainder passing to your heirs.

Gifts of Real Estate

The Foundation will accept gifts of real estate, including remainder interests in a personal residence or farm; however, all gifts of real estate are subject to the approval of the CCHS's board.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

When you gift appreciated securities to CCHS, you are able to deduct the market value of the stock at the time of the donation and CCHS is able to sell the stock without paying capital gain taxes.

Gifts of Life Insurance

In donating a policy, you can often take an immediate deduction as well as deduct future premium payments. You'll get the proceeds out of your taxable estate and because life insurance costs "pennies per dollar" of coverage, it's a great way to make an extraordinary gift at a modest cost.

Gifts of Retirement Assets

Your retirement fund can be taxed up to 80% if passed on to heirs, but its tax free to CCHS. Often, between paying taxes and receiving a deduction, using a lifetime withdrawal to make a charitable gift is a "wash" for tax purposes.