



# ANNUAL REPORT



ENDURING FAMILIES PROJECT FILMING. PHOTO BY PHIL S ADDIS

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021

# La Crosse County Historical Society

LCHS has been in existence since 1898, making it the oldest non-profit organization in La Crosse. LCHS's mission to preserve and share local history is what inspires us to tell the stories of all the people who have lived in this area and who continue to inspire us with their stories of life in the Driftless Region.

## Mission

La Crosse County Historical Society discovers, collects, preserves, and shares the history of La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

## Vision

Enriching lives through engagement with the history of La Crosse County.

## Core Values

Responsibility  
Integrity  
Stewardship  
Education  
Service

## Officers

Greg Clark, President  
John Dudkiewicz, Vice President  
Robert Mullen, Secretary  
Tracy Littlejohn, Treasurer

## Staff

Peggy Derrick, Executive Director  
Amy Vach, Curator  
Margaret Lichter, Interpretation Coordinator

## Directors

Candace Brown  
Thomas Behrenbeck, MD  
Richard Breaux, PhD  
Fred Hixon Glore  
Chuck Hanson  
Barb Janssen  
Jean Lund  
Paul Mueller, MD

## Reflections on 2021

By Peggy Derrick, LCHS Executive Director



This is probably as confusing to you as it is to me, reflecting on 2021 as 2022 comes to a close. But this is the long-delayed Annual Report for 2021, so please keep that in mind as you read it. For the first time in 7 years, we had a professional audit done, and because of their staffing challenges, it was delayed, which delayed the completion of our 990 for the IRS, which delayed this report.

The good news is that the audit came out clean, with no surprises, and it left staff feeling affirmed that we have been doing a good job stewarding the organization's resources and keeping good records.

Looking back on 2021, I am impressed with how quickly and effectively we dealt with the pandemic and managed to continue moving forward with plans to expand our programs, staffing, and outreach.

It was a year of positive growth and change for LCHS. When the year began, we had only just opened our new public museum, the La Crosse Area Heritage Center. It has taken time and hard work to develop relationships and reconnect with school districts and other groups, and only in 2022 have school field trips begun to take off. Amy Vach, our Curator of Collections and Programming Coordinator, gets the credit for both creating the displays in the Heritage Center and for creating the curriculum for student field trips.

In the spring, LCHS initiated an entirely new program with the hiring of Margaret Lichter as our Interpretation Coordinator. Margaret's role is to recruit, train and schedule all the Hixon House docents and bus tour guides who allow us to fulfill our mission of sharing regional history with the public. With her background in managing docents and her history as curator of the restoration at Hixon House, Margaret was the perfect person to take this on. She started an education program called Guide School right away that has continued to expand and improve, giving our docents and guides a more structured study of regional history and culture.

The financial report speaks for itself: largely due to the generosity of our members and donors, LCHS ended the year in strong shape. Through a variety of programs, both in-person and virtual, we continued to fulfill our mission. After a year of virtually no revenue from admissions or cruise boat visitors, things slowly began to come back in 2021.

And to finish out the year and lead us into 2022, the board of directors and I sought and received funding from both the city and county of La Crosse to help with the cost of strategic planning. This was the next step to creating a new home for LCHS and a new history center for the region. In January of 2022, we began working with a large group of engaged community members, and that report was finished this past spring.

In sum, we ended the year in good shape financially, and with high hopes for the future.



# 2021 in Review

10,000+ Visitors Exploring  
Artifacts Online

4,000 Visitors at Historic  
Hixon House & the La Crosse  
Area Heritage Center

3,642 views of Enduring  
Families Project Videos



700+ Event Attendees

610 YouTube hits

400+ Artifacts added  
to the Collection

300+ Member  
Households





# 2021 Artifact Donation Highlights



Portrait of Leona Linker, 1915.



Monna Vanna Cigar Box from Pamperin Cigar Co., 1934.



Hooçak (Ho-Chunk) Basket



Hmoob (Hmong) Dolls with Handmade Clothing.



Lyle Monti's ID Badge from the Bump Pump Co.

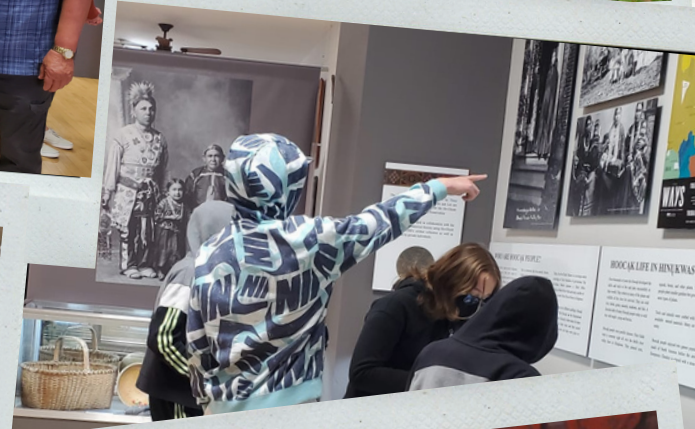


First COVID-19 Vaccine Vials used at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse.



Pearl Button Card from the Wisconsin Pearl Button Co.



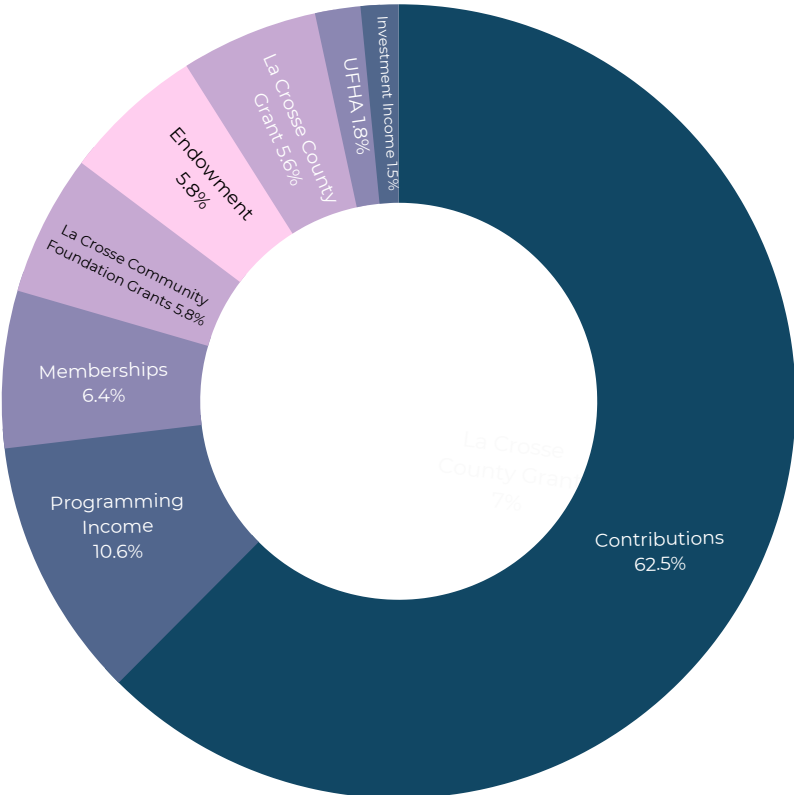




# Financial Report

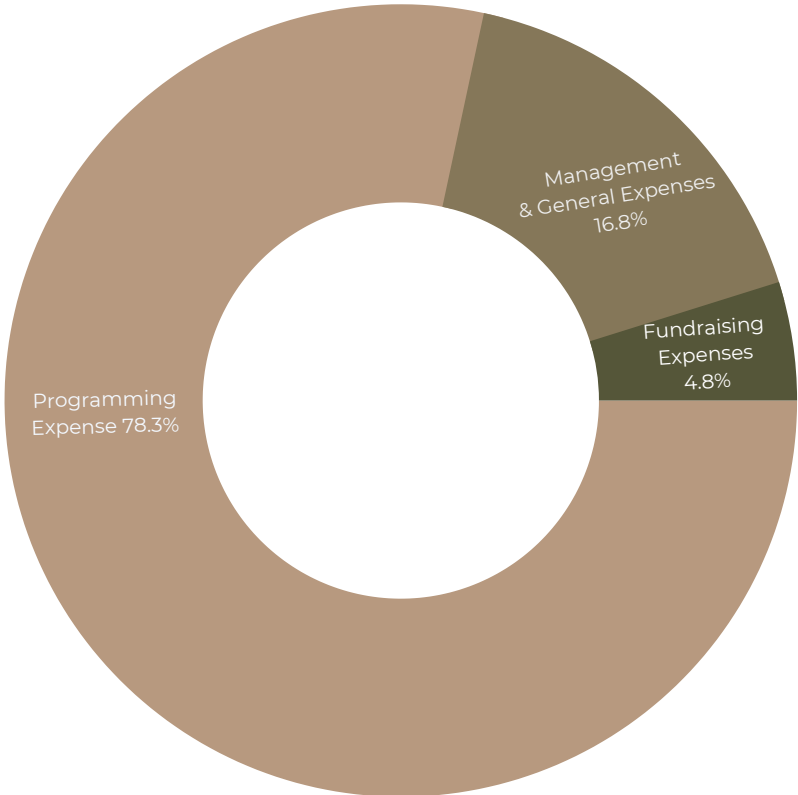
## January 1-December 31, 2021

### Support & Revenue



Investment Income	\$4,993
UFAH	\$6,002
La Crosse County Grant	\$18,163
Endowment	\$18,700
La Crosse Community Foundation Grants	\$18,700
Memberships	\$20,767
Programming Income	\$34,538
Contributions	\$202,767
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$324,630</b>

### Expenses



Fundraising Expenses	\$19,994
Management & General Expenses	\$69,479
Programming Expenses	\$324,071
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$413,544</b>

# Wisconsin Historical Society Board of Curators Award

We are excited to announce that the La Crosse County Historical Society and the Enduring Families Project have received the 2022 Public Program Award from the Wisconsin Historical Society for the Enduring Families Video Project. This award honors outstanding work in a new Wisconsin public history program. The award is presented to a Wisconsin organization that has launched an exceptional history public program during the preceding year.

In 2021, the Enduring Families Project produced a series of videos of their reenactments. The EFP Video Project aimed to make these performances and the history they share available for years to come.

The idea for the video series was developed in conjunction with the La Crosse School District and is funded in part by the school district, the La Crosse Public Education Foundation, and the La Crosse Community Foundation.

The Enduring Families Project now features over ten professionally produced videos that showcase performances that share early settler stories from La Crosse and the Cheyenne Valley. The video project brings to life the stories and experiences of historically marginalized communities and connects school-aged audiences with local history through innovative and engaging public programming.

The EFP team responsible for the videos are Denise Christy Moss, producer, Rebecca Mormann-Krieger, scriptwriter and historian, and Phil S Addis, videographer. Mary Nelson serves as the group's grant writer.





# 2021 Supporters

## \$50,000

Dr. Jane Sorensen Lord

## \$20,000

Warren & Denise Loveland

## \$10,000

Joseph & Renate Hixon III  
Torrance Casting Inc.

## \$5,000+

Carolee Beutler, in memory of  
Arthur Beutler  
Sue & Bill Carskadon  
Maude Glore  
Andrew R. Hixon  
Wheelock Whitney III

## \$2,000+

John Beauchamp  
Fred Hixon Glore & Connie Pemberton  
Edwin & Nancy Hill  
Maureen Kinney  
John & Kathy Reinhart  
Russell & Vera Smith

## \$1,000+

Anthony & Barbara Binsfeld  
Michael Davy  
Kirk Donskey  
Philip & Melissa Gelatt  
Marti Schwem & Bob Robinson  
Benson Whitney & Mary Farnam  
Joseph & Desiree Whitney  
Gelatt Foundation  
State Bank Financial

## \$500+

Kent Allebrand & Brier Turpin  
Devon Geiger Nielsen  
Robert & Carole Mullen  
Robert Skemp  
Dennis & Sharon Ryan

## \$200+

Heidi & Scott Blanke  
Candace & Tom Brown  
Lisa & Clinton Bucher  
Greg & Mary Clark  
Maureen & Robert Freedland  
Sherry & Bill Gingerich  
Sig & Jean Gundersen  
Larry Green  
Mike Hanson  
Douglas Howard  
John & Sangeetha Kelly

Dick Record  
Jeri Sebo  
Glenn & Lila Seager  
Fred & Jean Skemp  
David & Barbara Skogen  
Mark & Carolyn Steingraeber  
Marc & Beth Storch  
Deb Wakeen  
Eric & Virginia Wheeler  
Pennell Whitney  
Xcel Energy

## \$100+

Joyce & Brian Abernathy  
Steve Hixon Aubrey  
Paul Beck  
Conrad Berger  
Richard Breaux & Deborah-Eve Lombard  
Ariel & Jordan Christenson  
Peggy Derrick  
Anita Froegel  
Roger & Charlotte Grant  
Richard Granum  
Gary Harter  
Joe Hengel  
William & Julia Hixon Jr.  
Dorothy Johnson  
Joseph & Barbara Kruse

David & Karen Lange  
Jean Lund  
Bradford & Sheryl Max  
Judith McAteer  
Rebecca Mormann-Krieger  
Earl Newton  
Marilyn Nieckarz  
Kathleen Nimm  
Lyle Peacock  
John & Cathy Pederson  
Jill & Rich Pein  
Nick Roush  
Mary Schafer  
Susan Swingen  
Mary & Mark Swingle  
Robert & Leanna Taunt

Larry Vangen  
Don Vinger  
Terry & Ken Visger  
Melinda Wishon  
Bob Zeman  
Governmental Employees Credit Union

## Special Thanks to



# LCHS Membership

## Life Members

Ballard, Alexandra  
Dahl, Harry  
Fortney, Marc & Carol  
Foster, Barbara Hunter  
Geiger, William Dodd III  
Glore, Maude  
Hansen, John & Donna  
Hixon, Andrew  
Hixon, Dylan  
Hixon, Shanti  
Mathy, Leah  
Mathy, Steve  
Reinhart, Robert & Diane  
Schwalbe, Tye  
Skogen, David & Barbara  
Weber, Donald & Roxanne  
Whitney, Wheelock III  
Whitney, Benson & Mary Farnam

## Heritage Circle

Carskadon, Bill & Sue  
Cleary, Gail  
Glore, Fred Hixon & Connie  
Reinhart, Riley  
Torrance, William  
Young, Suzanne

## History Guardian

Behrenbeck, Dr. Thomas & Julia  
Clemons, Arla  
Kelly, John & Sangeetha  
Record, Dick  
Schroeder, Grace  
Bossard Parke Law

## Sustaining

Blomquist, Barry & Eva Dahl  
Donskey, Kirk  
Glasshoff, Travis  
Greiner, Joel & Jacquie  
Grenisen, Margaret  
Growt, David & Audrey  
Hoel, Bill & Karen  
Lund, Jean  
Mattison, Wendy  
Mueller, Dr. Paul  
Pederson, John & Cathy  
Sebo, Jeri

## Century

Beutler, Carolee  
Beutler, David & Peggy Clews  
Callies, Chuck & Carla  
Casberg, Ken & Kathy  
Crocker, Dr. Les & Ruth  
Dudkiewicz, John & Judy  
Granum, Richard

## Century Continued

Green, Larry  
Harter, Gary  
Hixon III, Joseph M. & Renate  
Houlihan, Karen & Tom  
Jenkins, Glen  
Kinney, Maureen  
Kotnour, Nancy  
Levendoski, Susan & Robert  
Littlejohn, Tracy  
Martell, Ellen  
McMillen, Milton & Paul Brieske  
Morrison, David  
Rudolph, Mike & Evelyn  
Skemp, Dr. Fred & Jean  
Skemp, Robert  
Solberg, John & Nancy  
Storch, Marc & Beth  
Taunt, Robert & Leanna  
Wakeen, Deb  
Webster, Dr. Stephen & Katherine  
Wetterling, Dale & Mary  
Wiffler, James  
Wilson, Patrick & Bobbie  
Wood, Margaret & Daryl  
Zeman, Bob  
Governmental Employees Credit Union  
Hengel Brothers Inc  
Rebecca Myrick Chapter DAR

## Household

Abernathy, Brian & Joyce  
Albrechtson, Barb & Rick  
Albrechtson, Stephen & Connie  
Amundson, Dave & Ruth  
Arneson, David & Mary  
Bacon, Kent & Julie  
Baehr, Linda & Dennis  
Baier, Terry & Diane  
Bakalars, Mike & Bethany  
Beekman, John & Jane  
Binsfeld, Anthony & Barbara  
Breaux, Dr. Richard &  
Deborah-Eve Lombard  
Brown, Candace & Tom  
Bucher, Lisa & Clinton  
Clark, Greg & Mary  
Cleveland, Arduis & John  
Daley-Mack, Theresa  
Darling, Jack & Patricia  
Davy, Michael  
Devitt, Ruth & Dan  
Dolder-Zieke, Beth & Steve Zieke  
Engh, Kathleen & John  
Erdenberger, Angela & Chad  
Evans, Anita  
Freedland, Robert & Maureen  
Friell, Bruce

## Household Continued

Fuss, Kathy & Tim  
Galster, Doug & Karee  
Gassere, Alice Englehard  
Gerzema, David & Abigail  
Gonzalez, Ramona  
Gund, Patricia & Stephen  
Hatlestad, Kathryn  
Heerens-Knudson, Nancy &  
Ralph Knudson  
Heim, Joe & Pat  
Hill, Edwin & Nancy  
Hinze, Leslie  
Hundt, Nathan  
Italiano, George & Linda  
Jack, Steven & Angie  
Johns Jr., Robert & Susan  
Johnston, Mike & Sue  
Jolly, Janis & Mark Stahlhut  
Keil, Michael & Karen  
Kilbey, Regina Markos  
Kolander, Mark & Marilyn  
Krajewski, Thomas & Juna  
Lange, David & Karen  
Lien, Alden & Helen  
Logan, Laurie & Alice Bachop  
Lucier, Audrey  
Macha, Betty & Allen  
Markos, Richard & Terri  
Markussen, Vicki  
Mason, Jon & Jessica  
Mauss, Frank & Sharon Lukert  
McGuire, Pat  
Metz, Marie  
Molling, Davita Jo & Rob  
Morgan, Betsy  
Mormann-Krieger, Rebecca  
Mullen, Robert & Carole  
Nelson-Britten, Carol  
& Chuck Britten  
Neve, Kristie & Drew  
Newcomer, Barbara  
Nimm, Kathleen  
Onsager, Scott & Mike Smith  
Opland, Russel & Peggy  
Patros, Robert  
Pearse, John & Cheryl  
Przywojski, Rick  
& Ruth Vach-Przywojski  
Rada, Ronald & Jane  
Ranger, Marc & Elizabeth  
Roberts, Cameron & Carlene  
Rude, Brian & Karen  
Russell, David & Nancy  
Ryan, Dr. Dennis & Sharon  
Sacia, Bonnie & Bill  
Satory, John & Beth  
Schafer, Mary



### Household Continued

Schams, Charles  
Schmidt, Matthew  
Schultz, Michael & Karen  
Schwartz, Bill & Maureen  
Sherwood, Linda  
Siebenaler, Sam & Deb  
Sigman, Michael  
& Kelly Krieg-Sigman  
Skinner, Susann & Dean  
Sleik, Judy & Tom  
Smith, George & Marita  
Steingraeber, Carolyn & Mark  
Stephens, Patrick & Joanne  
Storlie, Kathy  
Swingen, Susan  
Thompson, Marcia & Dick  
Toro, Emily  
Tyser, Kathie  
Visger, Terry & Ken  
Walth, Cathy & Gary  
Wedeking, Russell  
Whitney, Joseph & Desiree  
Wiebke, Monica & Brad Peterson  
Wittenberg, Jim & Cheryl Amsrud  
Wolfe, Glenn  
Young, Bonny

### Individual

Abts, David  
Albrecht, Catherine  
Allebrand, Kent  
Allen, Harriet  
Arzigian, Connie  
Baier, Betty  
Beck, Paul  
Bigelow, Lois  
Binash, Margaret  
Bissen, Barb  
Blanke, Heidi  
Brandt, Brenda  
Broadhead, Karen  
Brown, Danielle  
Buckley, Joan  
Byerly, Tom  
Campbell, Roy  
Casto, Grant  
Ceason, Mike  
Cepek, Alice  
Christenson, Ariel  
Christy Moss, Denise  
Cowen, Sandra  
Daley, Sr., Robert  
Derrick, Peggy  
Dobbs, Diane  
Donskey, Kirk  
Ewald, Greg  
Fitting, Matthew  
Flaherty, Lynda  
Froegel, Anita  
Gamoake, Robert  
Geiger Nielsen, Devon

### Individual Continued

Gelatt, Phillip  
Gillespie, Cynthea  
Gingerich, Sherry  
Godden, Laura  
Grant, Roger  
Groeschner, Mary  
Gschwind, Sr. Mary Ann  
Gustafson, Rev. Ronald  
Guthrey, Leslie  
Hahn, Britney  
Hanson, Chuck  
Hanson, Michael  
Hanson, Mike  
Harder, Heidi  
Harmon, Tessa  
Harris, Ronald  
Helgeson, David  
Helixon, Tracy  
Hertel, Maria  
Hixon, Robert  
Hixon Jr., William  
Hodge, Lynne  
Hodson-Haag, Donna  
Hoelzen, Randy  
Holley, Maria  
Howard, Douglas  
Hunter, Joseph  
Hussey, Erin  
Jansen, Barb  
Jarecki, Amy  
Johnson, Dorothy  
Kabat, Tim  
Knapp, Ruth-Ann  
Kocar, Merry  
Kouba, Karen  
Kurtz, Dianne  
Larson, Eldora  
Lazere, Monica  
Lee, Margaret  
Lichter, Margaret  
Lord, Jane Sorensen  
Loveland, Warren  
Majerus, John  
Mattson, Linda  
McAteer, Judith  
McGarty, Fr. Bernard  
McHenry, Jerad  
McLenahan, Gladys  
McLoone, Robert  
McShannock, Linda  
Medinger, John  
Monsoor, Mary  
Nelson, Connor  
Nelson, Mary  
Newton, Earl  
Nieckarz, Marilyn  
Nottingham, Ann  
Olson, Doreen  
Overgard, Florence  
Pachsal, Joseph  
Patterson, Elsie

### Individual Continued

Peacock, Lyle  
Pearson, Esther  
Pein, Jill  
Peterson, Lorie  
Peterson, Michael  
Pittman, Rita  
Plesha, Roger  
Pralle, Madonna  
Reinhart, John  
Richardson, Bessie  
Rider, Michael  
Rieder, Mary  
Ross, Dennis  
Rudolph, Don  
Rudrud, Charles  
Schilling, Carol  
Schmidt, Robert  
Schneider, Gail  
Schroeder, Kurt  
Schwarz, Rebecca  
Schwem, Marti  
Seager, Glenn  
Seelow, Sandra  
Seielstad, Peter  
Silberschmidt, Laurel  
Sill, James  
Smith, Connie  
Smith, Karol  
Smith, Linda  
Smith, Russell  
Snebold, Matt  
Snodgrass, George  
Stolder, Mary  
Swingle, Mary  
Vach, Amy  
Valiquette, Lynne  
Van Lin, Frank  
Vangen, Larry  
Vinger, Don  
Walsh, Colleen  
Weber, Roberta  
Weeth, Charles  
Wehrs, Larry  
Weisbecker, Richard  
Werner, Rosemary  
Wetzel, John  
Wheeler, Eric  
Whitney, Pennell  
Wishon, Melinda  
Wrobel, Ray  
Zastrow, Ilene  
Allen County Public Library  
CBS Graphics  
Crescent Jewelers  
Hixon Properties, Inc.  
La Crosse Community Foundation  
Murphy Library  
Oak Grove Cemetery  
Xcel Energy



La Crosse County Historical Society  
145 West Avenue South  
La Crosse, WI 54601

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
La Crosse, Wisconsin  
Permit No. 157

# *New Year's* RESOLUTIONS

- Visit the La Crosse Area Heritage Center
- Visit Historic Hixon House
- Go to "Discover the Silent City" on June 10
- Watch an Enduring Families Project Video