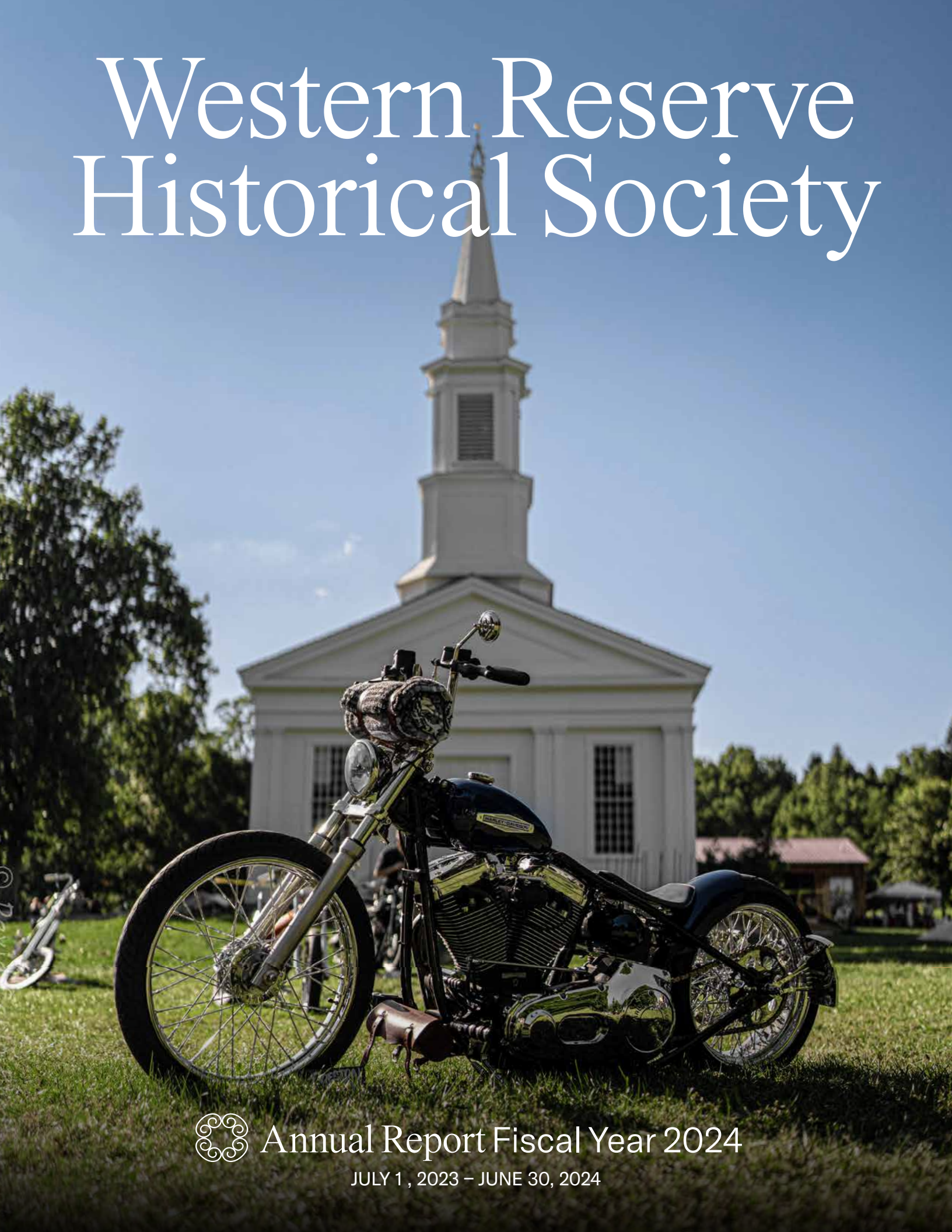
Western Reserve Historical Society



Annual Report Fiscal Year 2024

JULY 1 , 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kelly Falcone-Hall,
President & CEO, WRHS

Dear WRHS Friends, Supporters, and Stakeholders,

At the Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS), history happens every day, and you are part of the story! Here you will find opportunities for audiences of all ages to explore, commemorate, experience, and preserve Northeast Ohio and American history.

In Fiscal Year 2024, WRHS continued to invest in priority capital projects including:

- The project to fully restore the WRHS Library building and collections as a result of the 2023 fire progressed throughout FY24 and we expect to reopen in the spring of 2025.
- With capital support from the State of Ohio, WRHS continued to restore the historic Edward Cranz Farm as a one-of-a-kind venue for overnight accommodations.
- A bequest from the Estate of Mary Cannon funded significant investments in Cleveland History Center gardens, including critical restoration work on the Hay McKinney Mansion garden wall.

WRHS created experiences that are relevant and representative of the communities we serve, including:

- In the Chisholm Halle Costume Wing and Hay-McKinney Mansion, WRHS presented the stunning Fashion After Dark exhibit featuring the costume and textile collection.
- Exceptional education experiences for schoolchildren, including Youth Entrepreneurship Education programs, funded by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation and Hale Farm & Village Essential Experiences funded by the GAR Foundation, continued.
- WRHS added La Macchina Molto Bella Car Show to its robust calendar of events at Hale Farm & Village
- In the Crawford, we presented Ferrari: the Essence of Italian Design and Corvair: The American Porsche and our work to restore the iconic Street of Shops continued
- WRHS unveiled its African American Art/History Walk, a public art installation on East 108th St. featuring murals of prominent African American Clevelanders
- WRHS prepared to open its inaugural exhibit presented in WRHS's new permanent gallery dedicated to African American history, which opened in early Fiscal Year 2025.
- Plans to mark the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026 continued.

Last year, WRHS was formally accepted into the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Accreditation Program. When successful, WRHS will be fully accredited by the AAM, the highest mark of distinction for museums in the U. S., a recognition of our commitment to industry professional standards for organizational health, education, public service and collections stewardship.

Thank you for your important and meaningful support, engagement and time.

Sincerely,

Kelly Falcone-Hall
WRHS President & CEO

MISSION

To inspire people to discover the American experience in all its diversity by exploring the tangible history of Northeast Ohio.

VISION

To be the first stop for the exploration of Cleveland and American history in Northeast Ohio.

VALUES

STEWARDSHIP

We are committed to the custody, care, and honoring of the history of Northeast Ohio.

INTEGRITY

We are honest, accurate, and transparent in every aspect of our operation.

INNOVATION

We empower and support an entrepreneurial mindset.

EXCELLENCE

Underscores all that we do.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESS, INCLUSION

Our commitment to DEAI is unwavering and central to our mission.

ORGANIZATION

WRHS owns and operates 7 sites across a 4-county area of Northeast Ohio

CLEVELAND HISTORY CENTER

Cleveland, University Circle (Cuyahoga County)

EDWARD CRANZ FARM

Bath, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit County)

LOGHURST

Canfield (Mahoning County)

HOLSEY GATES HOUSE

Bedford (Cuyahoga County)

HALE FARM & VILLAGE

Bath, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (Summit County)

SHANDY HALL

Geneva (Ashtabula County)

RESTORATION & STORAGE FACILITY

Macedonia (Summit County)

OUR PROMISE

WRHS prioritizes and elevates People, Place and Purpose. For our **People** – the WRHS community, our partners, and the communities we serve - WRHS strives for a culture of excellence, diversity, equity, access and inclusion (DEAI). We apply best practices to the stewardship of our many **Places**, collections, land, and digital resources. It is our **Purpose** to empower an entrepreneurial spirit to create, promote and sustain a relevant, experience driven organization for the benefit and enrichment of our communities and future generations. We approach our work through an equity lens to ensure that our collections, experiences, and people reflect the rich diversity of Northeast Ohio.

AAM PLEDGE OF EXCELLENCE

WRHS demonstrates its commitment to the museum field by taking the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Pledge of Excellence: WRHS pledges that, in fulfillment of its educational mission, it will strive to operate according to national standards and best practices to the best of its abilities and in accordance with its resources.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is dedicated to making all staff and guests feel welcome, safe and engaged. At WRHS, we prioritize people – the WRHS community and the communities we serve. WRHS strives for a culture of excellence, diversity, equity, access and inclusion. We apply best practices to the stewardship of our places, collections and digital resources. It is our purpose to empower an entrepreneurial spirit to create, promote, and sustain a relevant, experience driven organization. We approach our work through an equity lens to ensure that collections, experiences, staff and board reflect the rich diversity of Northeast Ohio.

WRHS is dedicated to providing a safe and harassment-free experience for everyone, including ALL guests, vendors and independent contractors, volunteers, interns, stakeholders, community partners and employees. Accordingly, WRHS prohibits harassment or discrimination based on race, national origin, ethnicity, citizenship, religion, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, ability, veteran or military status, or other dimensions of diversity. Harassment and/or offensive behavior (which may include slurs, epithets, sexual advances, discrimination, demeaning comments, exclusion from participation, comments on appearance or ability, threats, etc.) is not tolerated. If you find yourself in a situation where you feel your safety is at risk, or if you bear witness to behavior that you feel is unacceptable, please immediately visit one of the admissions desks or reach out to a WRHS staff member. WRHS will investigate all reported incidents with discretion, and urgency. As a consequence, WRHS reserves the right to revoke, without refund, access to the museum sites and/or WRHS membership.

Since 1867, WRHS is committed to preserving and providing access to the history, culture and development of Cleveland and northeast Ohio. We pledge to provide a safe, welcoming, accessible and enriching experience to all, with integrity and adhering to the highest level of standards for personal and professional conduct.

60,195 Visitors experienced the Cleveland History Center

28,497 Riders on the historic Euclid Beach Park Grand Carousel

12 exhibits on display, showcasing WRHS's extensive collections, including:

1. Carl and Louis Stokes Making History
2. Cleveland Starts Here sponsored by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation
3. Women and Politics | Empowered to Vote, Empowered to Lead presented by PNC
4. Open Storage | Art from the WRHS Collection
5. Top Brass | The Core of the Crawford Collection
6. Faith In Focus
7. Fashion After Dark
8. BMW Centennial, a Symphony of Cylinders
9. Cleveland National Air Races: Speedway of the Skies
10. Sisters: Portraits of Women Religious
11. Ferrari: The Essence of Italian Design
12. A Place for All People: Introducing the National Museum of African American History and Culture
13. Faith Through Light and Color: The Stained Glass of Dr. Rudolph Sandon
14. Corvair: The American Porsche?
15. AMCNO: 200 Years of Medicine in Cleveland

CHC EVENTS

28 programs attended by **3,720** attendees, including FERRARI: The Essence of Italian Design; DEBUT | Paul Landis, The Final Witness; A Winter's Eve Mystery; and Murder at the Mayor's Mansion: A Suffrage-Era Mystery.

10,410 guests attending **60** rental events

104 Speaking of Cleveland presentations

CHC EDUCATION

8,302 schools and youth served, including:

334 classes

3,763 CMSD students made up of **135** classes

4,143 Students participating in our YEE continuum

421 students from 20 schools registered 257 projects at Region 3 Ohio History Day 2024 on the theme of Turning Points in History.

- 18 projects from our Region 3 contest qualified for National History Day, held at the University of Maryland, College Park.

13 program options offered

SOHIO
RED CROWN GASOLINE
98

Over 66,000 photos, video, documents, and more accessible online on Digital Cleveland Starts Here®

Check it out at digital.wrhs.org

5 collections fully processed and made accessible for public display and research, including paintings by Paul Travis and William Sommer, and another **9** Museum collections and **25** Library and Archival collections actively being processed including

- Bust of Nikola Tesla
- 1914 Stellite automobile,
- Bequest of garments from the Severance McCoy family,
- Doll collection bequest from Ranelle Gamble,
- Custom MG Midget MK I race car driven by Kat Kizer, a champion driver from Ohio,
- The Rabbi Abba Hillell Silver and Rabbi Jeremy Silver Digitization Project,
- The Congressman Louis B. Stokes Congressional Papers project.

Over **200** in person researchers used over 670 Library and Archival Collections on site during FY24. A Temporary Research Room was set up in the CHC allowing collection donors access to collections during the Library Restoration Project. WRHS also responded to nearly **6,000** remote requests for information.

94 objects from the WRHS collection on loan to **15** entities, including 23 costume pieces and objects to the Massillon Museum, 8 costume pieces to the Canton Museum of Art, 25 paintings to the Union Club, and two automobiles (1961 Morgan and 2008 Honda S-2000) to the Cleveland Auto Show.

41 collections accessioned into WRHS's museum and library collections, totaling **80** objects and **approximately 300** linear feet of material.

Photo by: Nancy Balluck Photography

34,997 General admission visitors experienced Hale Farm & Village

10,568 Students from **234** schools experienced history through Hale Farm & Village through School & Youth programming

34 Historic structures

5,934 Guests attending **69** rental events

10 Signature events over the course of 35 days including:

1. Music in the Valley Folk & Wine Festival 2
2. Fuel Cleveland Motorcycle Show 2
3. Civil War Weekend 2
4. Made in Ohio Art & Craft Festival 3
5. Harvest Festival 4
6. All Hale's Eve 1
7. Holiday Lantern Tours 12
8. Maple Sugar Festival & Pancake Breakfast 4
9. Citizens of Hale Farm & Village Plant Sale 3
10. Crooked River Festival 2

PRESERVATION

Preservation projects included:

- Wetmore Barn: Slate Roof Restoration
- Wetmore House: Bathroom renovation
- Wetmore House: Plaster Restoration
- Stow House: Porch Restoration
- Stow House: Siding and Architectural Detail Restoration
- Herrick House Porch: Restoration
- Land Office: Sash Restoration
- Goldsmith: Column Restoration
- Meetinghouse: ADA landscaping

AGRICULTURE

3 Heritage breeds including:

- Tunis Sheep (2 wethers)
- Milking Short Horn Cattle (2 steers)
- Heritage Chicken Breeds (9 hens and 2 roosters of 7 different breeds)

Non-heritage wool sheep:

- Merino Sheep (1 wether, 3 ewes)

MUSEUM
GALLERIES

$5,699,816

Annual operating budget

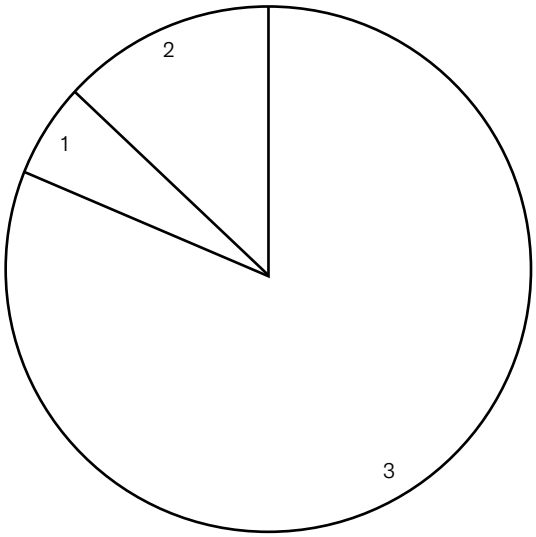
$2,434,493

Capital Projects including Library fire restoration, CHC Lester building upgrades, CHC Street of Shops exhibit updates, and new WRHS website.

$7,152,212

Operating Expenses
for FYE June 30, 2024

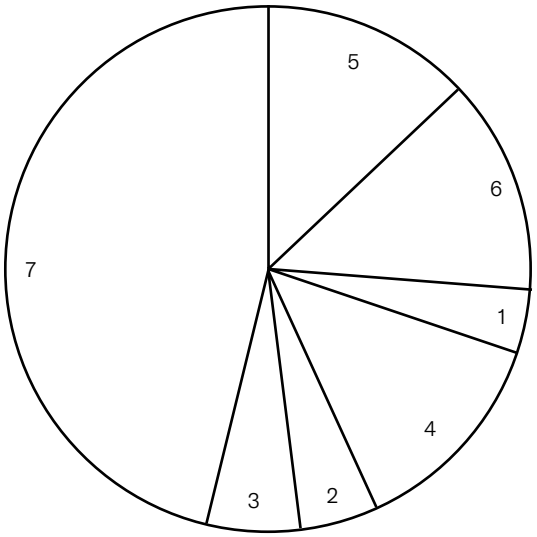
1 **$408,586** Fundraising Expenses (6%)
2 **$1,000,050** Management & General Expenses (14%)
3 **$5,743,576** Program Service Expenses (80%)



$6,512,840

Operating Revenues
for FYE June 30, 2024

1 **$261,741** Other Income (4%)
2 **$290,409** Support from Perpetual Trusts (5%)
3 **$359,365** Capital Grants (6%)
4 **$849,936** Endowment Support (13%)
5 **$860,913** Admissions (13%)
6 **$885,983** Earned Income (12%)
7 **$3,004,493** Gifts, Grants and Project Support (46%)



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Center

Emily Poznako
Chief of Staff and Interim
Director, Hale Farm & Village

Ann Sindelar
Acting Library Director and
Reference Supervisor

Regennia Williams
Distinguished Scholar of African
American History and Culture

THANK YOU

Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) deeply appreciates our donors' commitment to our mission: To inspire people to discover the American experience by exploring the tangible history of Northeast Ohio.

The following gifts were made to WRHS between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this donor list. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

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