



African American Museum of Iowa  
**2009 Annual Report**



## African American Museum of Iowa

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52401  
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Fax: (319) 862-2105  
Website: www.blackiowa.org

### Mission

To preserve, promote, and educate the public on the African American heritage and culture of Iowa.

### Vision

The Museum vision and the promise that its creation holds embodies the idea of shaping the complexities of the role of “cultural crucible” – that is, to be recognized as Iowa’s leading statewide resource for education on African American history and the appreciation of the variety of contributions of the African American legacy to the cultural life of Iowa. Thus the Museum has accepted the duty and responsibility to be an environment, a place, and a situation in which the different elements interact to produce something new—the reconciliation of conceptual clarity and positive thinking.

### 2009 Board of Directors

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Dr. Robert Nicholson  
Emmett Scherrman

# An Iowa Resource

The year 2009 was marked both as a year of recovery and as a year of expansion. Although the museum building was mostly recovered coming into 2009, the crown jewel, our permanent exhibit, was not in place. It took all of 2009 to redesign, fabricate and install the exhibit *Endless Possibilities*. The cost of the exhibit (\$650,000) was half of our flood loss dollars. Opening that exhibit in December marked a huge accomplishment for us. The majority of the Museum’s programs are based on our exhibits. The Museum was fortunate to have a temporary exhibit waiting in the wings. This temporary exhibit, entitled *No Roads Lead to Buxton*, was scheduled to open in the summer of 2008 and was being stored offsite. So as soon as the building was ready, the Buxton exhibit was installed and opened to the public. This award winning exhibit (ICKY award) has been up all during 2009 and will close in May 2010. Two additional exhibits were planned during the year and are scheduled for 2010 and 2011.



Thomas Moore,  
Executive Director



Paul Danforth,  
Board President

In essence, our recovery was much more than returning to the way things were. We viewed the recovery as more of an opportunity to create an even better facility to serve our constituents. Spaces and areas were not viewed in light of their original use but were repurposed into needs and future needs. The Orientation

Room became the Education Office to accommodate a major tenet of our mission “educate the public”. Orientation occurs in the Rockwell Welcome Center, which also doubles as a reception area. The space where the library was, is now the Aegon Learning Lab. This room is equipped for multi-purposes and has some book shelves along the wall to serve as a mini library. The permanent exhibit was scrutinized for opportunities to improve weaknesses in the former exhibit. This wonderful exhibit is both bigger and better suited for school group tours. Although the Museum has many adult visitors the majority of our visitors are school groups. We have incorporated gathering spaces and immersive environments, yet retained volumes of historical information that accommodates the avid historian.

The year 2009 was a year of expanding our museum services. Early in the year, our new Davenport office opened in the Fairmount Branch of the Davenport Public Library. Tyla Cole became the Director of Statewide Programs and has an office in both Davenport and Des Moines. She provides programming such as exhibits, lectures, performing arts, etc to communities throughout Iowa. By servicing statewide, the museum is able to expand its financial support base, which enhances sustainability.

These few highlights of 2009 give a sense of the level of success the Museum achieved in living out its mission of preserving, publicizing, and educating the public on the heritage of African Americans in Iowa. We express our thanks to our many partners and friends that have enabled us to write this very positive report. As we are poised to write another exciting chapter in 2010, please remember that the Museum needs all of its friends to continue their support for it to happen. Thanks again for a super 2009!



(L to R) Front Row: Lynn Koos, Administrative Assistant; Tyla Cole, Statewide Program Director; Michelle Poe, Museum Educator; Connie Jo Toyne, Children’s Oral History Coordinator; Katharine Hardy, Curator; Back Row: Ed Young Jr., Enterprise Manager; Willie McCall, Facilities Technician; Benjamin Hoover, Development Director; Thomas Moore, Executive Director; Julie Mitchell, Children’s Oral History Assistant

## HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

# 10 ways to support Iowa's African American Museum today!

### 1) Tour the Museum's exhibits

Our exhibits provide a fun and interesting way to educate the public on the heritage of African Americans in Iowa. Attendance figures also aid in obtaining financial support as it shows community investment.

### 2) Become a Museum member

With few grants available for basic operating costs, such as heat and electricity, the Museum counts on the support of its members to continue to keep the doors open.

### 3) Participate in programs

Did you know the majority of the Museum's programs are free and open to the public? Help teach the youth in your community about the importance of learning Iowa's African American history while helping the Museum appeal to donors by showing them their contributions can make a difference.

### 4) Join the Ebony Circle

The Ebony Circle is a Women's giving society that hosts networking and social events in support of the Museum.

### 5) Shop at the Museum's Nikee Gift Shop

Shop tax free at one of the few culturally expressive stores in the area. All profits from the shop go directly to support the Museum.

### 6) Volunteer

Meet new people, learn new things and feel good about impacting the lives of Iowa's youth. Rewarding opportunities await in all aspects of Museum operation.

### 7) Make a donation

The Museum is a 501(c)3 organization making most of your donations tax-deductible. Donations are also another source of income needed to maintain operational funds that are often hard to come by.

### 8) Leave a legacy

Support the education of future generations by leaving a legacy in your family's name through the inclusion of the Museum in estate planning.

### 9) Explore corporate sponsorship

These sponsorships are available for exhibits, programs, special events, and more. Does your company have a matching gifts program? If so please let them know about us.

### 10) Tell your friends

One of the most powerful tools for cultivating members and donors is through word of mouth.

## Financial Position

(as of December 2009)

Assets:

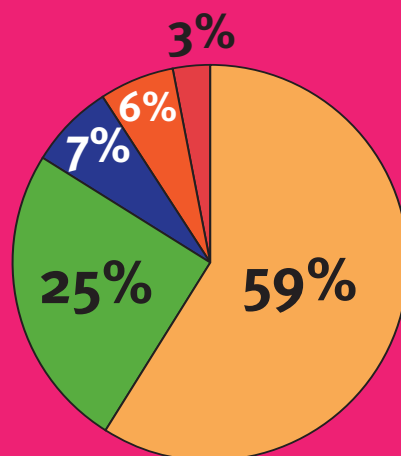
**\$2,348,297**

Liabilities:

**\$98,917**

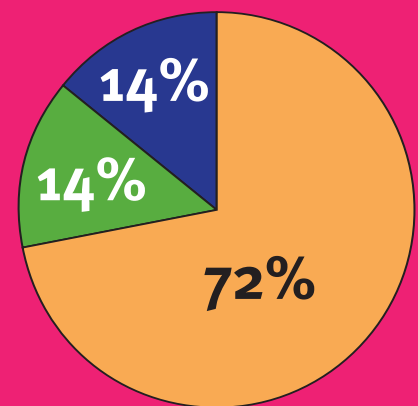
Net Assets:

**\$2,249,380**



## Revenue

- Grants
- Donations
- Events and Store
- Admission & Rentals
- Memberships



## Expenses

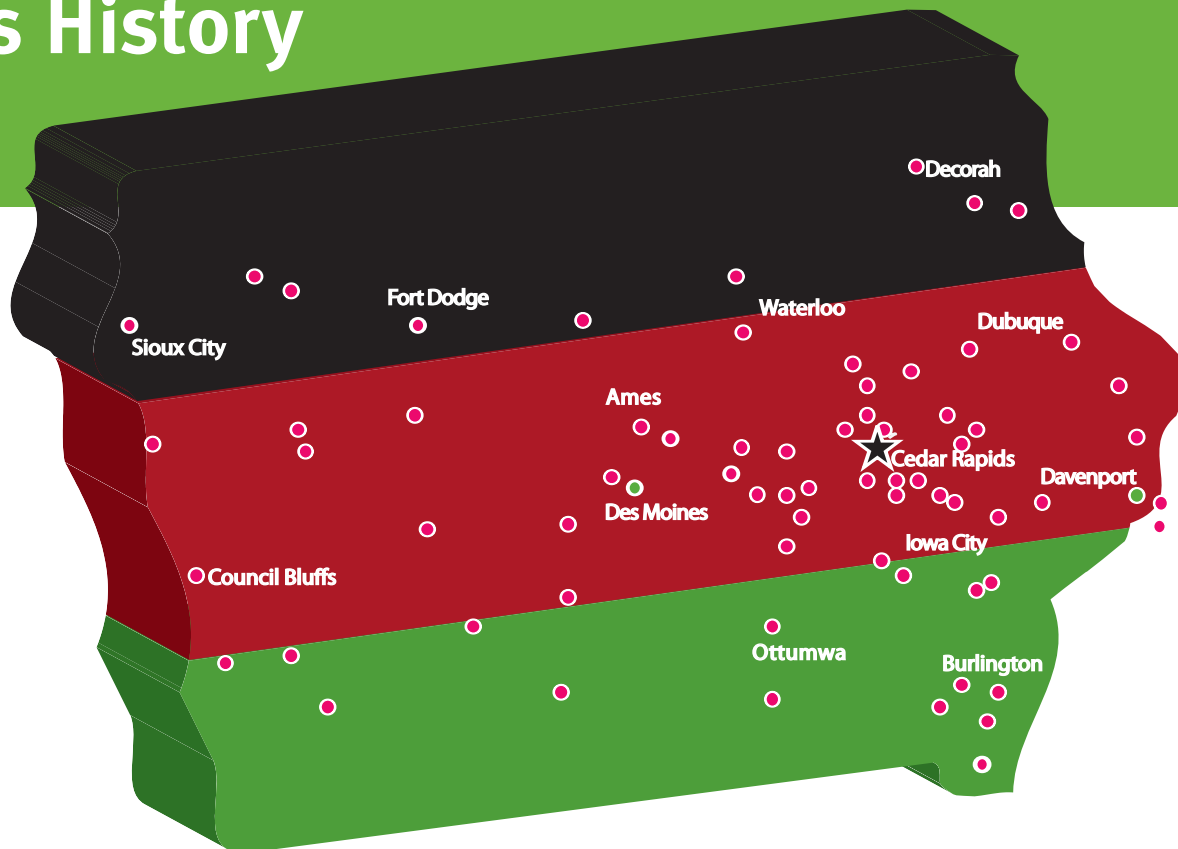
- Programs
- Administration
- Fundraising

# Connecting the Dots in Iowa's History

**Total  
Attendance:  
31,753**

**Programs  
Statewide:  
106**

- ★ **Museum  
Headquarters**
- **Field Offices**
- **Programming  
Locations**



## Cities hosting Museum programs:

Ames, Bettendorf, Blairsburg, Burlington, Belle Plaine, Clinton, Coralville, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Decorah, Denison, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fort Dodge, Fort Madison, Hiawatha, Iowa City, Keokuk, La Porte City, Marion, Maquoketa, Moline(IL), Mount Pleasant, Mount Vernon, Muscatine, North Liberty, Ottumwa, Riverside, Rock Island (IL), Shellsburg, Sioux City, Solon, Waterloo, and Winterset.

## Cities hosting an exhibit from the Museum:

Ames, Bettendorf, Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Cherokee, Clarinda, Coralville, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Ft. Dodge, Ft. Madison, Iowa City, Marshalltown, Mount Pleasant, Ottumwa, Red Oak, Sioux City, and Waterloo.

## Group tours visited the Museum from the following communities:

Alburnett, Ames, Anamosa, Austin (TX), Bellevue, Blairstown, Bloomfield, Carol, Cedar Falls, Center Point, Coralville, Council Bluffs, Crawfordsville, Decorah, Des Moines, Dubuque, Dyersville, Ely, Fairfax, Gregory (SD), Hiawatha, Iowa City, Kalona, La Porte City, Lisbon, Mechanicsville, Marion, Moline (IL), Mt. Vernon, North English, North Liberty, Norway, Omaha (NE) Oxford, Peoria (IL), Robbins, Rock Island (IL), Sioux City, Solon, St. Louis (MO), St. Paul (MN), Walker, Waterloo, Waverly, West Branch, and West Des Moines.





# 2009volunteers

Abraham Funchess	George Eichacker	Michael Tory
Alex Myrkic	Greg Jackson	Mirela Taylor
Ana Campbell	Gwen Randall	Miriam Brown-Taylor
Anessa Woods	Hana Foss	Miriam Hassain
Answer Ejiasi	Hannah Iverson	Missy Elliff
Barbara Hoehnle	Harry Blackwood	Nancy Humbles
Berlinda Tyler-Jamison	Hazel Pegus	Nancy Kraft
Bernard & Pearl Gill	Heather Sweeney	Nathan Shepherd
Bettina McWilliams	Helane Golden	Oather Taylor
Betty Andrews	Hiram Harris	Pamela Nosek
Betty Jean Furgerson	Honesty Parker	Pastor Sylvia Tillman
Bettye Bolden	Jacob Peterson	Paul Danforth
Bill Harriott	James Collins	Peggy Hardimen
Brett Lewis	Jeanette Moore-	Phillip Hale
Brita Fitzgibbons	Loggins	Phoebe Smith
Caitlin Elliff	Jeff Melsha	Rachel Collins
Carson Kness	Joe Henry	Reggie Carter
Celeste Bemby	John Rocarek	Renee Hardman
Chad Thompson	Joseph Henry	Renee Sneitzer
Chris Lawler	Judge Brown Jr.	Richard Burdine
Chris Yates	Karen Rhines	Richard Rocarek
Cierra Borum	Karl Cassell	Robert Diaz
Claudia Schabel	Katie Carty	Robert Wright Sr
Connie Hillsman	Katlin Ansler	Robin Jenkins
Cymarom Dawson	Keelle Forkenbrock	Rona Berinobis
Dale Toyne	Kelsey Parman	Sam Bolden
Damu Diaz Doolin	Keshia Fields	Sgt. Corey Hite
Danielle Potter	Kim Abram Bryant	ShaNell Young
Deborah Kwan	Kim Fitten	Shavar Diaz
Dedric Doolin	Kimberly Baxter	Shawn Whittington
Denise Bridges	Kristen Roppolo	Shawndell Young
Dennis Brown	LaSharon Duckett	Shelby Humbles
Diana Henry	LaSheila Yates	Star Holmes-Word
Dr. Benita Wolff	Lawrence Nimmers	Students of Metro
Dr. David Gradwohl	Leila Granger	High School
Dr. Ida Johnson	Leland Freie	Sue Rocarek
Dr. Jacqueline	Lindsay Wieland	Susan Moore
Thompson	Lois Eichacker	Terina Heidelberg
Dr. Percy Harris	Lori Young	Theresa Armsted
Dr. Ruth White	Luis Garcia-Sanchez	Thomas Levi
Dr. Sarah Clunis	Lyn Stinson	Tony Zignego
Dr. Geraldene Felton	Lynn Koos	Troy Patrick
Eara Nimmers	Majesta Ochoa	Vergarie Sanford
Edward Mead	Marcella David	Virgil Gooding
Elizabeth Buck	Marlene Jessop	Vlisha Stanerson
Emily Kerrigan	Martin Smith	Ward Grant
Erik Alvinson	Marty Brown	Zach Elliff
Flora Lee	Marvin Steward	Zach Ray

*We would like to extend our greatest appreciation for your help in 2009 and greatly apologize if we failed to list your name.*



# 2009 donors

## Director's Circle

(\$5,000 & Above)

### Altoona

Prairie Meadows Racetrack & Casino

### Cedar Rapids

The Hall-Perrine Foundation  
Rockwell Collins  
AEGON Transamerica Foundation  
Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation: Flood Fund  
Nonprofit Rebuilding Capital Grant  
City of Cedar Rapids Hotel Motel Tax Grant

Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation: Momentum Fund  
Allaint Energy Foundation  
Quaker Manufacturing  
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United Fire Group Foundation  
Wal-Mart Foundation  
Karen Rhines  
Ken and Ortha Harstad Memorial Fund  
Linn County Historic Preservation

### Cincinnati, OH

Procter & Gamble: P&G Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation

### Des Moines

State Historical Society of Iowa: Historical Resource Development Program

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### Washington, D.C.

Institute of Museum and Library Services

### West Des Moines

Hy-Vee

## Museum Partners

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

### Burlington

Lynn Stinson

### Cedar Rapids

CRST International Fund of the GCRCF  
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Wells Fargo  
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Gazette Foundation Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation  
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Ralston Foods  
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### Des Moines

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Bankers Trust  
Department of Cultural Affairs  
Wellmark BlueCross BlueShield

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### Johnston

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### Keokuk

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Joe Concannon Family Charitable Foundation

### Marion

OHE Industries  
Bernard & Pearl Gill

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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Phillips

## Museum Patrons

(\$500 - \$1,000)

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Constance Hyman & Ronald Harstad

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Bill Harriott

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Luther College

### Des Moines

Iowa Accountability Program  
Paul Danforth  
Friends of Iowa Civil Rights  
Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans  
Iowa Department of Economic Development

### Iowa City

University of Iowa Community Credit Union

### Marion

Pat & Monica Kappes

## Museum Contributors

(\$100 - \$499)

### Ames

Iowa State University  
Harold & Marguerite McNabb  
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald & Eileen Klonglan

### Ankeny

Galín & Carol Berrier

### Burlington

Jaquelyn Tolson

### Cedar Falls

Ruth Schild

### Cedar Rapids

Mount Zion Baptist Church  
Veridian Credit Union Staff  
Diane Cowell  
Norman Erickson  
McKinley Middle School  
Quaker Oats Credit Union  
Virginia Rystrom  
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Brad & Lynda Dirks  
Edward & ShaNell Young  
Collins Community Credit Union  
Harding Middle School  
Thomas & Nancy Lackner  
Pi Tau  
Tom & Margaret Sears



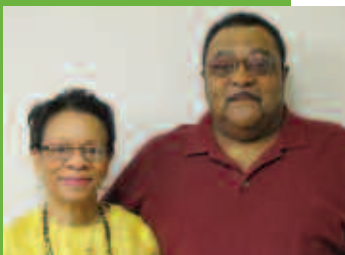
Childrens Oral History interview with Henry Leo Dawson and Shawndell Young



Dorris and Grover Bell



Grand re-opening ribbon cutting ceremony, January 2009



James and Paulette Clark



The Cedar Memorial Park  
Cemetery Association, Inc.  
Leo & Pearle Griggs  
Lileah Harris  
Kate Hawkins  
Edwin & Joan Hemphill  
Jan & Sally Hornbeck  
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Milhiser Smith Foundation  
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Margaret & Robert Walker

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Richard & Norma Small  
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**Warrenville**  
Deborah Smith

**Waterloo**  
Miriam Brown Tyson

**Wauke**  
Thomas & Carline Phillips

**West Des Moines**  
Paul Farris

**West Liberty**  
Stanley D. Hinkhouse

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Belle Plaine Historical Society

**Belleview**  
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Evangeline Ray

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Iowa Museum Association  
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Jamie & Yvonne Jonas  
Nedra Juenger  
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Keith & Cheryl Krewer  
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Carol Burns  
Jo Etta Collins  
Rachel Collins  
Betty Coquillette  
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LaSharon Duckett  
Harry Edwards  
Jim Efting  
Otto Eichacker  
Archie & Dianne Ellison  
Cathrine Erdahl  
Brian Fagan  
Dr. Willaim and Jo Anne  
Galbraith  
Genevieve Gatto  
Tekeste Gebrekidan  
Jane Gilmore  
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Beatrice T. Jackson  
Willie Jenkins  
Rober t& Marlene Jessop  
Marilynn Keller  
Jean Kruse  
Leon & Vera Mehning  
Billie D. Mims



2008 Annual African American Women's Leadership Conference attendees



Beta Sigma Phi check presentation



Kim Heckart's third grade class, Prairie Ridge Elementary, Cedar Rapids



Prairie Meadows check presentation



Rockwell Collins check presentation



Veridian check presentation



WalMart and Sam's Club check presentation

Jan Moore-Ecker  
 Joyce Nielsen  
 Mike & Deb Nunemaker  
 Jean Oxley  
 PEO GM Chapter  
 Ann Pickford  
 Richard and Frances Quetsch  
 Dorothy Ramsey  
 Wilma Shadle  
 Juanita Smith  
 Lloyd Smith  
 Robert Sperry  
 Georgene Stapelton  
 Sally Taylor  
 Joan Thaler  
 Barbara Weeks  
 NancyLee Ziese  
 Donna & Richard Butikofer  
 Kay Henry  
 Russell & Constance Proffitt  
 John Bickel  
 James Burlingham  
 Robert & Kathryn Hogg  
 Virginia Jungman  
 Matthew & Laura Schwarz

**Center Point**  
 Susan Novak  
 Connie Robinson

**Charlotte, NC**  
 Larry Davis

**Clive**  
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**Coralville**  
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 Lee & Shirleen Martin  
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 Arlene Myers

Penecostal Church of God  
 United Neighbors Inc  
 Janet Woods-Bragg

**Decorab**  
 Sheila Radford-Hill

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 Mary Chapman  
 Geraldene Daniels  
 Betty Duncan  
 Marguerite Fitch  
 Kimberly Baxter  
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**East Moline, IL**  
 Turana Johnson

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 Gerolyn Banks  
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 Richard & Martha Bailie  
 Jane Burleson  
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 Jerry & Sandra Patterson

**Fort Wayne, IN**  
 Allen County Public Library

**Gregory, SD**  
 Jerry Wilske

**Hiawatha**  
 Richard & Patricia Semelroth  
 Hiawatha Elementary PTO

**Independence**  
 James & Shirley Rozendaal

**Indianola**  
 Art & Wanda Johnson  
 Beverly L. Wilson  
 Alices Riley

**Ionia**  
 Timothy & Theresa Hake

**Iowa City**  
 Loyce Arthur  
 Robert & Elizabeth Engel  
 Alberto & Lisa Segre  
 Orville & Billie Townsend  
 Madeline Brown  
 Valerie Garr  
 Archie Green  
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 Teresa McAndrews  
 Adrien Wing  
 Jill Jack & Diane Finnerty  
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 Christopher & Jane Lindell

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 Mary Neppel Bennett  
 Mervin K. & Judith A. Dosh Trust  
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 Jill Handley  
 Hope Kettlekamp  
 Patti Miller Marolf  
 Bonnie Young  
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 Christine Lawlor  
 Michelle Mouton  
 Robert Yeats and Deb Dakin

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 Ernestine Burtley  
 Terry Hudson

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 Mary Ford  
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 Althea Saunders

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 Melanie Alexander

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