Boarders and Stewards of the Monastery, Inc.

Kim Murphy, President
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Andrea Radigan, Director
Paula Siry, Director

Anna Kreuzberger,
Past President

Spring 2021

Dear friends of the Monastery Stable,

I am delighted to write to you as the new president of the Boarders and Stewards of the Monastery (BSM). Like you, I am grateful for the hard work and dedication that BSM, led by Anna Kreuzberger for 26 years, has given to our magical historic site. Though Anna has handed over the reins, she has graciously agreed to advise and help when needed.

Your help is needed now. You can help preserve our history, buildings and rich cultural past of the Monastery Stable, Kitchens Lane millworker’s house and barn. Without a well-maintained Monastery, horses and history are lost and this special place is at risk.

Your donations are critical for any improvement projects across the property. BSM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and improving the buildings at the Monastery and maintaining the grounds. We rely on rental income from the Kitchens Lane millworker’s house and sheep barn to cover most operating expenses for the entire property. Kitchens Lane Stable operates the main barn safely and efficiently. And, of course, volunteerism is at the heart of everything we all do and helps us keep costs down.

You will never forget this year, right? Despite the pandemic and a surge in park visits, we have kept the site safe and well loved.

- We were honored with a 2020 Preservation Achievement Grand Jury Award from the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia for efforts with our 18th and 19th century farm and mill buildings. COVID-conscious tours gave us an opportunity to share our early, prosperous millworker’s property with historic-preservation enthusiasts. We were able to highlight a preservation success story with two working barns and two residences, all on a public property to visit.
- We continued to implement our Manure and Nutrient Management Plan, assuring best practices to protect water quality, minimize odors and control flies. We use naturally occurring insects that feed on fly larvae, provide houses for bluebirds and bats and wildflowers for pollinators. Most importantly, manure is hauled away.
- Behind the scenes, BSM negotiated and signed a new long-term lease with the Fairmount Park Conservancy (FPC), paving the way for more preservation of history and equine activity in the Wissahickon Valley Park. Through our partnership, we share in the FPC vision of revitalization, sustainability and civic engagement and bring that vision to life daily.
• In addition, you helped us raise more than $14,000 last year to fund critical projects including sorely needed roof work for the sheep barn on Kitchens Lane.

For 2021, we have some important needs to address with your help:
• The roof over most of the main barn is more than 25 years old and needs replacement to avoid further damage. The estimated repair/replacement cost is $25,000
• Reparation of a historic stone wall behind the millworker’s house that was heavily damaged when a large tree fell in a severe storm. Thankfully no one was hurt. Estimated cost: $8,000

Our fundraising goal this year is $30,000 to meet these needs. No donation is too small and every contribution is greatly appreciated. There are two ways to make your contribution:
1. Please go to http://www.monasterystables.org/donate. When you do, please be aware that we do not receive the full amount you designate, eg, a $100 donation nets us $96.80 after a 3.2% processing fee. If you’d like for us to receive $100 online, please donate $103.20.
2. Please mail your check to BSM, PO Box 4032, Philadelphia, PA 19118.
Donations are tax-deductible and receipts will be provided. If your employer has a matching gift program, we would be thrilled if you could maximize your gift.

On behalf of the entire BSM board, thank you for your generosity. You are an essential part of the legacy and future of our very special place in history.

Kind regards,
Kim Murphy
President, BSM

PS - There’s another way you can help – Amazon Smile. When you designate the Boarders & Stewards of the Monastery, we receive a quarterly contribution from Amazon. It adds up with more of us participating.