



Preserving Our Past Enriches Our Future

Dear Friend of South Haven,

As 2024 draws to a close, I have been reflecting with pride and gratitude on all that we have accomplished this past year. We held six successful programs and were joined by guest speakers on a range of topics from the archeological project at Fort St. Joseph to Michigan's most lethal women. We partnered with the Black History Leadership Society to celebrate Black History Month and allowed the South Haven Area Emergency Services to use our lighthouse to assist with their high angle rescue certification. And of course, we hosted HASH's annual events-including our Membership Drive Open House and our HASH Ice Cream Social-and participated in local celebrations including the Ice Breaker Festival, Harborfest, Fourth of July, Blueberry Festival and the Labor day weekend festivities. We are proud to engage with our community in so many different ways, all of which promote our mission to appreciate, support and preserve South Haven's history. **Thank you so much for your philanthropic support of our mission and work this year.**

I am also happy to report that we have made great progress on the Forest House restoration project. The speakeasy is nearing completion, and we are making significant progress on the restoration of the rooms on the upper floors. We are eager to invite all of our supporters to visit the Forest House on Saturday, May 24, 2025, which will coincide with the launch of our 2025 Membership Drive-please be on the lookout for more information.

Please know that none of this would be possible without the generosity of our supporters. **All of our programs are free and open to the public.** Your annual gifts not only fund these programs, but also allow us to maintain the integrity of our physical properties and fund our operations and behind-the-scenes infrastructure that is the foundation for our work in the community.

As you consider your end of year giving, I ask that you include the HASH among your philanthropic priorities. I respectfully request that you also consider an increased donation to the HASH-the more we receive, the more we can do. The dedicated support of our community is essential to fulfilling our mission. We are so grateful for all of you!

As we look forward to the coming year, we would like you to know that considering how to best sustain the HASH's operational stability for years to come remains top of mind. Our work is important to the life of the South Haven community, and we want to ensure that we can continue our good work well into the future. To that end, we look forward to sharing an exciting initiative with you that we hope to launch in conjunction with our membership drive this spring. Stay tuned for more details!

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Until then, please accept our deepest gratitude for all you do for the HASH, for our community now, and for future generations of South Haven's residents, visitors and friends. You may make your tax-exempt contribution by returning the enclosed remittance envelope, or you can make a donation online by visiting <https://historyofsouthhaven.org/donate/>. And please do not forget to update your contact information (including your email address) so we may keep you informed. Thank you again for your support!

With Gratitude,

Jim Ollgaard

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President, Historical Association of South Haven

