

COUNTING ON YOU

Fall 2024

Dear Friend,

With the completion of Lincoln Hall, our 14,000 square foot, year-round event facility, 2024 marks a seminal year for Hildene. At our recent gala to celebrate its opening, a full house of supporters was entertained and inspired by *The New York Times* best-selling author Ron White as he explored the values and wisdom of Abraham Lincoln and underscored their relevance for today.

This was merely a glimpse of things to come, as planning is underway to bring new programming to Hildene that advances our mission and builds stronger partnerships with outside organizations that share our values. We are forever grateful to the scores of supporters who are making this possible.

Youth initiatives are thriving, with popular standards-based school offerings, summer camps, Youth Corps, the Exploration Backpack Program, and the Lincoln Essay Competition. Our collaboration with Burr & Burton Academy continues to flourish: students engage in an experiential learning curriculum five days a week in our renovated 19th-century barn. Education is at the heart of everything we do.

Attendance is strong as visitors are drawn to Hildene's unique story and natural beauty. Our exhibit featuring Peggy Beckwith, the last Lincoln family member to live here, has proved very popular. At the same time, our growing archive collection continues to be an important repository of American history.

Hildene's agriculture and conservation activities continue to set a strong example of responsible stewardship. From cheesemaking to herd management—including our efforts to conserve heritage animal species and the land on which they thrive—our farming operations advance our mission and foster values important to all generations.

None of this can happen without loyal donors like you. Please consider a generous gift to our annual fund on behalf of these efforts and our staff whose dedication makes all this possible.

Thank you for your continued support of Hildene.

With warm regards,



Brian Keefe
President



Bob Hallenbeck
Chair, Board of Trustees