



For Immediate Release  
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*Eden Valley Awarded Grant from Ohio Historical Society Tax Check Off*

Eden Valley Enterprises (EVE) is pleased to announce that it has received one of only eleven grants awarded in 2013 through the Ohio Historical Society's History Fund grant program, which is entirely funded through Ohio taxpayers' voluntary contributions. This matching grant of \$15,000 is in support of a PBS documentary about Emma Gatewood of Gallipolis, Ohio, who was the first woman to solo thru-hike the 2,180-mile Appalachian Trail (AT) in 1955 at the age of 67 after raising 11 children and surviving domestic abuse. "Grandma" Gatewood is a true Ohio folk heroine. She rose above impoverished circumstances and personal crises in order to achieve national distinction and is the subject of this Eden Valley project which is being done with WGTE/PBS, FilmAffects and TrueNorth Cultural Arts Center.

EMMA GATEWOOD: AN APPALACHIAN TALE will be the culmination of a multi-part project that began in 2009. With funding from the Buckeye Trail Association, the Ohio Humanities Council and the National Storytelling Network, initial research into Emma's life was completed along with the creation of a storytelling program and companion e-book, EMMA GATEWOOD: OHIO'S LEGENDARY HIKER by Bette Lou Higgins and Kelly

Boyer Sagert. The storytelling program premiered at the Westlake Community Services Center in November, 2011 and was presented nine times during 2012 and more performances are scheduled for 2013. Recent grants from the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Lorain County, The Puffin Foundation and the Gallia County Charitable Foundation will go towards a weekend of activities dedicated to Emma at TrueNorth Cultural Arts in Sheffield Village Ohio. (For a complete schedule of events see: <http://edenvalleyenterprises.org/calendar.html> )

Eden Valley is grateful to all who have donated to the Ohio History Fund through the "tax check-off". EVE is charged with raising an additional \$15,000 to match this award. To make a tax-deductible donation to EVE toward this matching grant, send a check made out to Eden Valley Enterprises to 1250 East River St.; Elryia, OH 44035 or pay online at: <http://edenvalleyenterprises.org/progdesc/gatewood/donate.htm>

Bill O'Brien, Board Member, stated, "All of us at Eden Valley, FilmAffects and TrueNorth are grateful to the Ohio History Fund for their support and look forward to sharing this inspiring story before it is forgotten to history."

For complete information about the project, visit the website at: <http://edenvalleyenterprises.org/progdesc/gatewood/gtwdinf.htm> and the blog at: <http://grandmagatewood.wordpress.com/category/about-emma/>

The Ohio Historical Society (OHS) administers the History Fund, a competitive matching grants program that is one of four "tax check-off" funds found on Ohio's income tax forms. OHS reports that demand in this first year of operation was exceptionally strong. OHS received 64 applications totaling \$891,000 in requests. The supply of grant

monies available was \$114,000, thanks to the nearly 17,000 Ohioans who voluntarily contributed to the History Fund in 2012 (tax year 2011).

"There is a great demand for this grant, one solely dedicated to history projects", said Burt Logan, executive director and CEO for OHS. "We hope the high number of grant applicants will inspire more Ohioans to donate to the History Fund. It is a worthy program that helps Ohioans preserve and share their community's history."

The History Fund was created as a result of the "tax check off" for OHS in the state's two-year budget, signed into law by Gov. John R. Kasich on June 30, 2011. The legislation allowing for the change in state tax forms was initially brought to the General Assembly by former State Rep. Kathleen Chandler (D-Kent) in 2005. State Rep. Randy Gardner (R-Bowling Green) re-introduced it before it was enacted in the state budget. On previous year's IT-1040 forms, Ohio residents have had the option of donating to causes such as military injury relief, wildlife conservation, and nature preserves. The History Fund joined these programs on the 2011 Ohio tax form and will be on future tax forms, providing a simple way to help preserve the state's history. Tax refunds are not the only way to support the program. OHS also accepts direct donations designated for the History Fund. All donations are tax-deductible. The Ohio Historical Society serves as the administrative organization for the History Fund and cannot apply for the grant funds. To learn more about the history fund, visit <http://www.ohiohistory.org/local-history-office/funding-opportunities/history-fund>.

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