

National Orphan Train Complex's

Fall Wish List!

2022 has been another challenging year at the National Orphan Train Complex. Visitation numbers continue to trend much lower than our pre-Covid numbers. True, people are more willing to get out, but gas prices and inflation rates seem to have impacted our general operating budget.

That said, we have been able to complete several projects that have been on our "to do" list for some time. A new roof was put on the depot, funded through insurance, a Community Foundation for Cloud County grant, and several private donors. This was quite an extensive project but was a first step to ensure that the building will safely display artifacts from the Orphan Train movement. The roof fascia was repaired and new guttering and downspouts installed. Water is now draining farther away from the foundation of the museum, which was damaging the foundation. This was funded through private donations and funds generated by hosting the Annual Celebration of Orphan Train Riders. Finally this year, the old HVAC system was replaced and the condenser relocated to a more protected side of the building. The new unit functions much more efficiently and maintains the humidity at the correct level for archival preservation. Again, private donors and funds from the NOTC Operations account in the Community Foundation were used for this project. The NOTC Operations Fund was established through an estate bequest by descendant Bobby and wife Wanda Morgan.

With visitor numbers remaining lower than normal, our greatest area of need is for normal operation funding. We now estimate that it costs \$150 per day to keep the museum open. This only pays for insurance, salaries, and utilities. We continue to look for grants to aid in special projects, but those for operations have ended since the pandemic has slowed. And we pinch pennies!!

1. **Electricity, natural gas, water, trash pickup, telephone/internet** average \$650 per month.
2. **Salaries** for our full-time curator, part-time researcher, and Saturday docent run \$3000+ per month. Thanks to all our volunteers, we are able to keep this amount to a minimum!
3. **Printer ink cartridges and laser toner cartridges, postage stamps, paper, handouts for visitors** are a smaller expense, but very necessary! Ordinarily, we spend \$120 per month for these items.
4. **Insurance** is one of the necessities that continues to rise in price. For property and liability, we currently spend \$595 per month. A 13th payment of that amount nearly covers our annual Workmen's Comp insurance premium.
5. **Cleaning** seems like something our volunteers might be able to handle, and we do maintain the Welcome Center and Jones Education Station. However, there are never enough hours in any week to

ensure the museum is clean and inviting to guests. Our cleaning crew comes in every two weeks to mop, dust, clean toilets, etc. at a cost of \$150 each time.

Next project: we have been fundraising for several years now to replace the nearly 100-year-old brick platform around the depot museum. It is part of the reason for the damage to the foundation of that building. It has sunk in numerous locations and the bricks are deteriorating, creating a walking



hazard for visitors. A square foot of bricks costs \$50 and a square yard is \$450. We currently have \$8000 of this \$160,000 project on hand. Grant entities have suggested we secure 10% in funding before applying for assistance.

THANK YOU!



300 Washington Street,
PO Box 322
Concordia, KS 66901

I am happy to fund Item(s) # _____. Enclosed is my payment of \$ _____.

name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (in case we have questions) _____

NOTC is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization and your donations may be tax deductible. Other giving opportunities are available by visiting our website at orphantraindepot.org or by calling **785-243-4471**.

Complete this form and send it with your donation to:

National Orphan Train Complex, Inc.
PO Box 322
Concordia, KS 66901-0322