

PRESS RELEASE March 12, 2018, New Bethlehem, PA



Redbank Renaissance, Inc. is pleased to announce its first participation in the *Week of Giving* event hosted by Bridge Builders Community Foundations.



Donations can be given online at www.bbcfgives.org between **8 AM on March 19th through March 23rd at 11:59 PM**. Donors can allocate varying contributions to each nonprofit selected. Donations received through the *Week of Giving* event are fully tax deductible donations under applicable federal and state laws and will be matched on a percentage basis.

More information is available online at www.BBCFgives.org, which includes a brief description of participating nonprofits, and on the Redbank Renaissance website at www.redbankren.org/donations.

Redbank Renaissance, Inc. is a revitalization group, led by Sandy Mateer, that has been working in New Bethlehem and the Redbank Valley since 2006. Past projects include 3 Welcome Signs at each main entrance to New Bethlehem, placement of several bike racks, and façade and signage matching grants that helped Evermoore's Restaurant, McCauley's Service Station, the Leader-Vindicator and others with façade and signage improvements, our annual Spring Cleanup and welcome brochure, among other efforts. A goal is to raise \$5000 to help with additional façade improvements. The 12th annual Clean Up is scheduled for April 21st from 9 am to 12 noon starting at Gumtown Park, Water Street in New Bethlehem.

The Garden Keepers Committee plants and maintains the gardens near the South Bethlehem bridge, the "bear patch" on Broad Street, the garden near the multipurpose court on Water Street and the plantings around the three welcome signs. A goal is to raise \$500 for this year's annual plantings and mulch. A new Garden Keepers project is to raise \$750 to place a monument with an engraving of the Scout Hall in the garden near the multipurpose court where the Scout Hall stood for many years until the 1996 flood.



The Redbank Valley Historical Society was established in 2010 and is a committee of Renaissance led by Cindy Morgan. It recently produced the Redbank Valley Pictorial History which includes 400 historic postcards and photos from throughout the Redbank Valley. A second volume is now underway. The Tom Andrews Business Center Recollections is the history of New Bethlehem's business district, much like many small towns, from the mid-1800's through 1989, with some updated information and photos. The Historical Society is raising funds through these 2 books and donations to supplement the cost of producing a comprehensive history of the Redbank Valley from the late 1800s. A major goal of the society is to establish a history and genealogy center that will be open to the public.

Redbank Renaissance has been involved from the beginning in the effort to establish and promote the Redbank Valley Trails as an economic and recreational asset for the region.

We are currently involved in the Towns & Trails Regional Initiative which is intended to encourage co-promotion of towns along the Armstrong and Redbank Valley Trails. Brochures modeled on the New Bethlehem/Redbank Valley Welcome brochure have been created or are in process by East Brady and Kittanning with the intent to distribute those brochures from Ford City to Brookville. A donation of \$600 would help purchase more copies to distribute the New Bethlehem/Redbank Valley brochure more widely.

A promotional video was created and can be found on the Trail Town page of the Redbank Renaissance website at www.redbankren.org. It is intended to both promote the region and encourage businesses to take advantage of economic opportunities presented by trail tourism.

A current project is to raise \$2500 as matching funds for a grant to add kiosks with brochure holders at Route 861 on the Sligo Spur and at the Lawsonham trail head at mile 6 of the main Redbank Valley Trail to direct trail users to towns and businesses along the main trail including New Bethlehem, Hawthorn, Summerville and Brookville, in addition to Rimersburg and Sligo on the Sligo Spur which is now being developed.

Donations of any amount are welcomed to help Renaissance in its mission of revitalization of New Bethlehem and the Redbank Valley. For more information, please call 814-275-1718.