

Understanding how Old Home Day is funded

As most Carlisle residents know, Old Home Day is a special event celebrating a tradition that contributes much to that special character which makes Carlisle – well, Carlisle. Situated virtually a stone's throw from Boston's crowded urban streets, the OHD frog jumping races, pie baking contest, pet show, three-legged race, corn shucking, fireman's barbecue, etc., help us all hold on to simpler country traditions of a time gone by. All of this down home fun takes months of preparation, hundreds of hours of volunteer effort, and thousands of dollars in expense.

When it began in 1912, Old Home Day used to be self-funding. But that luxury passed us by years ago and we have had to seek donations ever since to cover our costs.

What to do?

In order to seek donations in Massachusetts however, requires that an organization be recognized as a public charity by the State (MGL 180). After considerable investigation, it was decided to reorganize the Old Home Day Association into a non-profit public charity, and focus our goals not only on keeping a tradition alive but contribute to educational opportunities within our community. This would allow OHD supporters to make tax-deductible donations as we would be listed with the IRS as a 501c(3) Organization. An additional advantage to this designation, would afford that OHD volunteers would then be protected from litigation by the Volunteer Protection Act of 1999. This seemed like a win, win solution. Beloved OHD activities were kept, OHD volunteers were protected, and deserving local students were granted scholarships. Three years after making this decision, The Carlisle Old Home Day Association Inc. became a non-profit organization

However, a few people have asked, "Why are you asking for donations when you're giving away money on scholarships?"

Here's how Old Home Day is funded

OHD has two debit categories:

1. General expenses.
2. Scholarships.

OHD has three revenue categories:

1. Donations,
2. Support fees from "Town Groups" who enjoy the extent of the crowds that Old Home Day draws.
3. Revenue from OHD volunteer-run activities.

Revenue from donations and from Town Groups is used to pay for General Expenses, and is NOT used for Scholarships. Scholarship money comes ONLY from revenue generated from OHD volunteer-run activities that include the Road races, the Country fair, the Dunking booth, the Cakewalk, the Art show, the Baking contests, the Soapbox derby, the Ice cream social and the hot air balloon. These are the singular source of funds for the educational purposes of The Old Home Day Association.

None of the donated money is used for scholarships unless a contribution is so designated by the sender.

Thus it is the donations that now keep Old Home Day alive. If donations aren't sufficient to cover our expenses then even the above earned money must go to offset costs. As an example, our costs typically run between \$10,000 and \$12,000. If contributions to offset expenses only amounted to \$9,000, then the difference of \$3,000 must come from the proceeds of the days' committee run events. If those proceeds were to total \$3,500, then after expenses \$500 would be left over and earmarked for NEXT year's scholarship.

We hope this helps answer questions that we have been asked as to why The Old Home Day Association still needs donations to sponsor this event while also offering scholarships.

Please help. Send your donation to: Old Home Day at 90 Page Brook Road.