Message from the President and Executive Director

The Fiscal Year 2009 was for the Rhode Island Historical Society a period testifying to our organizational strength, and to the constancy of our members, contributors, and users of our services. It was also a time of considerable progress and advances in almost every area. Our financial losses were tempered by our fiscal care, caution and prudence, we adjusted to the severe recession with no staff layoffs, our core services continued robustly, and several new projects were initiated. We ended the year better than we began it, looking forward to national economic recovery and even more successes in 2010.

Finances

Due to the prudent and diverse investment strategies followed by the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, our endowment suffered less in the recession than the endowment of many comparable institutions, and it began to recover toward the end of the fiscal year, regaining a third of the loss. The RIHS increased its income with a series of successful grant applications that bolstered the Museum of Work and Culture, expanded educational programming, and continued to support the ongoing capital restoration of the John Brown House. News of another large successful grant award, this one to support collections cataloguing, came at the end of the year and will help sustain this work in 2010-2011. The RIHS’s donor support did not falter in 2009, and membership actually grew in FY 2009, while our attendance at sites and programs increased. The loyalty and constancy of our supporters was much in evidence, allowing us to continue our operations from a solid foundation.

The John Brown House and Other Infrastructure Projects

We are thrilled to report that Phase III of the John Brown House restoration project was finally completed with the exterior restoration of the house ending after four years of work and the expenditure of about $1.5 million, all raised through grants. Phase IV of the restoration, for interior work, will begin in the 2010 Fiscal Year. About $1 million of work remains for Phase IV and V in order to complete the whole project. Aldrich House, also a designated National Historic Landmark, received its share of repairs and improvements. Of special note was the extensive volunteer effort of the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society, which has transformed the appearance of the Aldrich House grounds.

The Board of Trustees

FY 2009 brought change and new vigor to the RIHS’s Board of Trustees. Board contributions grew, a number of new committees were set up, and a new strategic plan and vision was developed for 2010-2014. The strategic
planning process was an elaborate one involving extensive board and staff committee meetings. The process will continue into 2010, but much of the work has been completed in FY 2009.

A most important resolution was passed rescinding the deaccession of the Joseph Brown secretary desk and returning it to the Society’s collection. Some readers may recall that nearly five years ago the RIHS proposed to sell this very important and valuable piece of furniture to create a truly supportive endowment for the Society. The RIHS never did sell the piece, but only with this new resolution has the secretary desk been formally returned to the collection and the proposed sale fully reversed. It is a very significant measure of how far the RIHS has improved itself, and how far it has come in achieving stability and high levels of professional competence.

Education Department
The Newell D. Goff Education Center developed a number of new educational programs. Of special significance was the successful achievement of a $132,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in which a Summer Institute was established to bring to Rhode Island teachers from all over the country to learn about major topics in New England history and incorporate this material in their own curricula. The Society’s three-year Teaching American History grant, an American Revolutions Collaborative with the East Providence, Cumberland and Cranston school systems, completed its program with a long summer institute held at Providence College and a week-long excursion to the south, in connection with the Gilder-Lehrman Institute, to study the Civil Rights movement. The Department continued its outreach to local colleges, presenting classes, lectures and other programs at Brown University, the Community College of Rhode Island (both campuses), the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, and at Rhode Island College.

Our Providence Walking Tours program was a great success in 2009, earning a Best of Rhode Island award from Rhode Island Monthly. A related triumph was the organization of numbers of tours and activities relating to the Garden Clubs of America convention held in Providence: in connection with that event, RIHS programs served nearly a thousand visitors to the city in a few hectic days, underlying the Society’s substantial significance to the city’s tourism industry.

Collections Department
The Collections Department, comprising the work of the Library and the John Brown House Museum, undertook a series of new or expanded projects intended to add to the collections, improve their cataloguing and documentation, and making them more accessible to the public.
An American Heritage Preservation grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) enabled the Society to conserve the records of the Third Regiment, Rhode Island Heavy Artillery. Another IMLS grant allowed the RIHS to acquire a core set of books and other materials to assist the staff in the ongoing conservation and management of the Society’s collections, and to help ensure the continuation of the upgraded professional management standards the RIHS put in place as part of the 2004-2009 strategic plan. And through a private grant, new architecturally sympathetic mahogany railings were installed in the John Brown House to provide better protection for the exhibits.

The Collections Department, with the strong collaboration of the Education Department, prepared and installed an exhibit at the Aldrich House as part of the activities marking Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday. Called ‘Rhode Island in the Time of Lincoln,’ the exhibit’s support came from a Rhode Island Foundation grant through the state’s Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

The Library continued presenting regular public programs and lectures, including several talks from New England Regional Fellowship Consortium scholars allowing them to discuss their particular research projects.

The RIHS’s Graphics Division basic cataloguing and inventory project, funded by a private grant, achieved the impressive result of having inventoried 155,000 individual photographic and other items since the inauguration of the project some two years ago. We believe that approximately half of this exceptionally important collection has now received the basic documentation needed to make it accessible for research use by the public, and the cataloguing effort continues, helped by the receipt of a major IMLS grant that will support this effort in 2010-2012. Our collections grew by hundreds of items. Among the most important was an extremely rare book from 1677, ‘A Narrative of the Troubles with the Indians in New England,’ by W. Hubbard, minister of Ipswich.

The Museum of Work and Culture

The year began with the opening of the Treasury of Life, a new permanent installation intended to give museum supporters a way to make strong connections with their community and personal history, and support the museum at the same time. In a related process, the efforts of the Museum of Work and Culture Preservation Foundation attracted additional support for building the museum’s endowment and in support of museum capital improvements: to date, over $300,000 has been raised for these purposes over several years.

The museum, in collaboration with the Society’s Education Department, was successful in being awarded its first Community Development Block Grant, for a sum of $33,000, intended to support educational visits to the
museum by all area 4th and 11th graders. The actual school visits will begin later in 2009, and will offer the museum a more enhanced role in the region’s education.

One of the museum’s most interesting series of activities was its statewide leadership for International Francophonie week and its hosting of the Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques, both enterprises connected with the promotion of French culture in New England and within the United States. Among other activities the museum held an opening ceremony at the Rhode Island state house that featured Governor Carcieri, Congressman Patrick Kennedy, and other dignitaries.

In this context we would like to express our sadness and sense of loss at the passing this year of Jacques Staelen, a life-long proponent of French culture and a strong supporter of the museum, who died on August 17, 2009, at the age of 84. Jacques’s efforts were primarily responsible for developing the Merci Train boxcar exhibit at the museum, and he was closely involved in the creation of the museum itself. His extensive work on behalf of French culture was recognized by his award of the Chevalier (Knight) of the French National Order of Merit, presented to him personally by French President François Mitterrand, and by his award of the Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, presented by French President Jacques Chirac.

**Conclusion**

So at a time of national difficulty and crisis, with reductions and layoffs everywhere around us, the Rhode Island Historical Society sustained its key operations with only very limited adjustments and the addition of new and exciting projects and programs. We thank our members and supporters for their constancy and interest, and look forward to a new year and even more opportunities to make our state’s history a vibrant force for us all.

Robert J. Manning  
President

Bernard P. Fishman  
Executive Director
Board of Trustees, Officers, Members and Chairs 2008-2009

Officers and Executive Committee
Mr. Robert J. Manning
President, Grays Point Investments LLC
President

The Honorable Roger N. Begin
Sales Director, BNY Mellon
Private Wealth Management
President Emeritus

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Professor, Department of Anthropology,
Brown University
First Vice President

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Partner, Brewster Thornton Group Architects LLP
Second Vice President

Mr. Peter J. Miniati
Vice President, Wealth Management
The Washington Trust Company
Treasurer

The Honorable Robert G. Flanders, Jr.
Partner, Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP
Secretary

Education
Winifred E. Brownell
Dean of Arts and Sciences
University of Rhode Island

Executive
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President, Grays Point Investments LLC

Facilities Master Planning
Mr. Evan J. Granoff
Managing Member, Granoff Associates, LLC

Finance
Mr. Peter J. Miniati
Vice President, Wealth Management
The Washington Trust Company

Nominating
The Honorable Roger N. Begin
Sales Director,
BNY Mellon Private Wealth Management

Publications
Luther W. Spoehr, Ph.D.
Lecturer, Departments of History and Education
Brown University

Public Affairs
Edward J. Cooney
Vice President and Treasurer,
Nortek, Inc.

Strategic Planning
Co-Chair
The Honorable Robert G. Flanders, Jr.
Partner, Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP

Co-Chair
Ms. Barbara J. Thornton, AIA
Partner, Brewster Thornton Group Architects LLP

Trustees At Large
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Philanthropy and Donor Advisor,
Brown & Fischer

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Dean of Arts and Sciences,
University of Rhode Island

Nancy K. Cassidy, Esq.
Executive Counsel, Textron, Inc.

Mr. William F. Connell
Financial Consultant

Mr. Edward J. Cooney
Vice President and Treasurer, Nortek, Inc.

Mr. Lyle S. Fain
President, IES

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Adjunct Professor,
Rhode Island School of Design

William M. Fowler, Jr., Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of History,
Northeastern University

George M. Goodwin, Ph.D.
Independent Historian

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Partner, Mandel & Tracy, LLC

Ms. Carolyn P. Medina
Associate, Partridge Snow & Hahn, LLP

Mr. Timothy T. More
Counselor at Law

Mr. Theodore W. Smalletz
Chief Financial Officer, Gloria Duchin, Inc.

Luther W. Spoehr, Ph.D.
Lecturer, Departments of History and Education, Brown University

Mr. Dennis E. Stark
Former Vice President for Business & Finance, URI

Ms. C. June Tow
Community Activist

Presidential Appointment
Ms. Laurie White
President,
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce

Trustee Ex-Officio
Mr. Thomas R. Evans
State Librarian, State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Lifetime Members of the RIHS

John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley NHC Commission

Roger Williams National Memorial

----------------------

Mr. Charles & Mrs. Eiko Adams
Mr. William T. Babcock
Ms. Chelis Baukus *
Arthur A. Bert, M.D. & Ms. Catherine Little Bert
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice A. Bissonnette
Captain Nicholas Brown
Ms. Donna Welk Cameron
Nancy R. Carriuolo, Ph.D.
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Cicma
Dr. Patrick T. Conley, Esq. & Mrs. Gail C. Conley
Ms. Althea B. Crowley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dick
Ms. Virginia Doris
Mrs. Philip Drinker
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Mr. Donald Farrar
Mr. Chester A. Files, Jr.
Dr. Edwin & Mrs. Angela Brown Fischer
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Mr. Louis H. Maynard
Mrs. A.M. Murray
Mr. Eugene A. Peloquin
Mr. Donald I. Perry
Mrs. Mary E. Goff Robinson
Mr. Henry D. Sharpe, Jr. & Mrs. Peggy Boyd Sharpe
Mrs. William Sherman
The Honorable Fernand J. St. Germain
Mr. James P. Twaddell
Ms. Alice Viola
Mr. George H. Waterman, III
Mr. Charles E. Williams
Harrison M. Wright, Ph.D. & Mrs. Josiphine Wright
Mr. Eric M. Wunsch
Mr. Louis Yip

* deceased
# Rhode Island Historical Society

## Statements of Financial Position

**June 30th, 2008**

### ASSETS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash Equivalents:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>2,100,368</td>
<td>1,610,824</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant restricted</td>
<td>413,084</td>
<td>274,932</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Receivables:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>268,800</td>
<td>69,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>11,294</td>
<td>20,416</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Inventories</strong></td>
<td>28,354</td>
<td>31,173</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prepaid Expenses</strong></td>
<td>29,473</td>
<td>4,345</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Investments, at fair value</strong></td>
<td>6,414,424</td>
<td>6,532,403</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Property and Equipment, net</strong></td>
<td>2,227,927</td>
<td>1,958,661</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred life insurance pledges</strong></td>
<td>36,350</td>
<td>34,704</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>11,570,054</td>
<td>10,537,008</td>
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### LIABILITIES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>68,154</td>
<td>185,764</td>
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<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll and payroll taxes</td>
<td>82,451</td>
<td>76,590</td>
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<td>Other</td>
<td>18,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>169,105</td>
<td>279,854</td>
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### NET ASSETS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unrestricted:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>2,427,453</td>
<td>2,204,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Designated</td>
<td>2,312,128</td>
<td>2,612,724</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,739,581</td>
<td>4,817,632</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Temporarily Restricted</strong></td>
<td>1,203,953</td>
<td>980,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanently Restricted</strong></td>
<td>5,457,415</td>
<td>4,458,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td>11,400,949</td>
<td>10,257,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>11,570,054</td>
<td>10,537,008</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Statement of Activities

**June 30th, 2008**

### PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted - General</th>
<th>Unrestricted - Board Designated</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Support:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>215,386</td>
<td>96,023</td>
<td>80,975</td>
<td>998,710</td>
<td>1,391,094</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>322,345</td>
<td></td>
<td>834,901</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,157,246</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bequest income</td>
<td>100,969</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100,969</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total public support</strong></td>
<td><strong>638,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>96,023</strong></td>
<td><strong>915,876</strong></td>
<td><strong>998,710</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,649,309</strong></td>
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</table>

### Revenue:

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted - General</th>
<th>Unrestricted - Board Designated</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program revenues</td>
<td>83,663</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>83,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>61,282</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>61,282</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind contributions</td>
<td>147,806</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>147,806</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions income</td>
<td>80,969</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>80,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications and book sales</td>
<td>6,407</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,407</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sale of deaccessioned items</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative fees</td>
<td>13,072</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13,072</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment income, net</td>
<td>32,292</td>
<td>188,420</td>
<td>(282,026)</td>
<td>(61,314)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rental functions income</td>
<td>17,825</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17,825</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous income</td>
<td>289,308</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>289,308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>732,724</strong></td>
<td><strong>188,420</strong></td>
<td><strong>(282,026)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(61,314)</strong></td>
<td><strong>639,118</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Net assets released from restrictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted - General</th>
<th>Unrestricted - Board Designated</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>995,753</td>
<td>(585,039)</td>
<td>(410,714)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total public support and revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted - General</th>
<th>Unrestricted - Board Designated</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total public support and revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,367,177</strong></td>
<td>(300,596)</td>
<td>223,136</td>
<td>998,710</td>
<td><strong>3,288,427</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses:

#### Program Services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted - General</th>
<th>Unrestricted - Board Designated</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library services</td>
<td>514,834</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>514,834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum program</td>
<td>289,239</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>289,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woonsocket museum</td>
<td>272,303</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>272,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education program</td>
<td>310,747</td>
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<td></td>
<td>310,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total program services</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,387,123</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>1,387,123</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Supporting services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted - General</th>
<th>Unrestricted - Board Designated</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>222,190</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>222,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>535,319</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>535,319</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td><strong>757,509</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>757,509</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted - General</th>
<th>Unrestricted - Board Designated</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,144,632</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>2,144,632</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted - General</th>
<th>Unrestricted - Board Designated</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>222,545</strong></td>
<td>(300,596)</td>
<td>223,136</td>
<td>998,710</td>
<td><strong>1,143,795</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RIHS Individual Supporters

$50,000 +
Anonymous

$5,000 +
Mr. Edward FitzPatrick, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ellicott Wright

$1000 +
Mrs. Cherry F. Bamberg
Mr. William T. Babcock
Mr. Paul & Mrs. Denise Bourget
Ms. Sylvia Brown
Ms. Nancy K. Cassidy, Esq.
Ms. Lisa Churchville & Mr. Skip Carlin
Mr. Albert Klyberg
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Manning
William Simmons, Ph.D. & Mrs. Cheryl Simmons
Mr. Theodore & Mrs. Robyn Smalletz
Luther Spoehr, Ph.D. & Kathryn Spoehr, Ph.D.
Ms. Barbara Thornton, A.I.A. & Mr. Peter Thornton

Mr. Russell & Mrs. Mary Dexter
Mr. & Mrs. William P. Devereaux
Mr. Elisha Dyer, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Karl F. Ericson
The Honorable Robert G. Flanders & Mrs. Flanders
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Foulkes
Mr. Arnold Friedman
Dr. George M. & Mrs. Betsey S. Goodwin
Mrs. Virginia D. Hales
Mr. & Mrs. Bradford B. Kopp
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Lamoureux
Mr. Peter J. Miniati, III
Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. Nicholson, Jr.
Ms. Carla & Dr. Russell Ricci
Ms. Daryl Sherman *

$100 +
Mrs. Deborah & Mr. Frank Aceto
Mr. John & Mrs. Kyle Adamonis
Mr. Richard & Mrs. Rebecca Alberg
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M. Julie Armada, M.D.
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Pitcher
Transfer-printed creamware with bamboo-form handle.
1900-1910, probably England
Gift of Mr. Benton H. Rosen
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