

parcel posts, or stay overnight in one of the slave cabins or barn lodging. Other environmentally friendly restorations will include the reintroduction of native and heritage species of fruits, vegetables, and herbs. These will be showcased, along with their usage in antebellum life, through living history demonstrations and hands on activities throughout the year.

This comprehensive plan provides the prototype for the Foundation's vision of where they would like to see this project within the next ten years. The vision is for the Octagon House to become a leader in community sustainability through tourism, education, and history of past ingenuity and modern adaptation.

The second grant awarded, valued at \$25,166.00, comes through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to CDAC as a companion to the comprehensive planning grant. The Brownfields Assessment Grant is currently being used to conduct an assessment of the Octagon House property for any environmental concerns due to its history as a commercial industry site. For many years the property was a commercial apple orchard with possible pesticide application. The EPA Assessment Grant provides funding for CDAC to help communities determine if a site is contaminated (and if so, with what), and then to plan for the possible redevelopment of that site through conceptual design development. EPA does not require or commit communities to any cleanup if the community participates in this process. EPA's goals are to protect human health and the environment, sustain reuse, promote partnerships, and strengthen the marketplace.

A "Brownfield" property is considered one in which "the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." The purpose of this EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant is to conduct a Phase I Environmental Assessment, conducted by Cardno, an environmental consultant agency working with CDAC, on the Octagon House property. The CDAC will then plan for the redevelopment of the site through conceptual design development.

The focus is on adding supporting structures that would ultimately fulfill the goal of creating historical, educational, and cultural attractions. Initial ideas for supporting structures include recreating the historic barns to use as event spaces and lodging, recreated slave cabins, the kitchen, and various other farm structures.

The Octagon House Foundation is optimistic about the grant awards and continues to pursue other funding opportunities by grant procurement, capital fundraising, special events, and memberships. The process is often slow and arduous but the ultimate goal is to restore the home to its original state, boost tourism, and give back to Smyth County.

---

### **Octagon House Quilt Winner Announced**

The Octagon House Foundation recently held its annual quilt raffle drawing. This year's winner was Katrina Wareham of Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. The yearly drawing has been held at small business locations throughout Smyth County to help showcase their presence and services to local communities. This year's location was Casey's Diner in the Thomas Bridge Community, which sold the winning ticket for last year's drawing! The Octagon House Foundation thanks all who participated in the raffle through the purchase of tickets and the individuals and businesses who gave of their time to promote this project.

### **Business Plan Development**

The Foundation continues to develop a business plan with the help of the Small Business Development Center at VA Highlands Community College in Abingdon. Director Cindi Fields and her staff have worked closely with Board members to develop a business plan covering all financial aspects of viability and sustainability as our restoration project moves forward.

### **Some Fund Raising Totals**

- April 6 – Spaghetti dinner cleared \$1,071
- June 2 - Yard Sale brought in \$1,103.40
- Quilt Raffle brought in \$563.50 profit
- Sold quilt donated by Malinda Cleary for \$700

### **Special Thanks...**

- to everyone who helped in any way on the above fund raisers. We couldn't do it without you!!
- to everyone for renewing your memberships.
- The Foundation would like to express its gratitude to Carolyn Cattle and Nancy Smith for their work in producing our newsletters. Their hard work allows our members to know the status of our progress, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities. We appreciate their hard work and dedication.

### **Another Tidbit...**

- The Foundation has gained 4 new members since our last newsletter went out! Welcome to each one!