



Since the 1930s, the Expo Center at the Mighty Howard County Fairgrounds has been where families gather, weddings are celebrated and neighbors come together. Generations of us carry memories made under that roof. Now it's time to write the next chapter.

We're working to build **Legacy Hall**, a new \$1.7 million community event center that will serve Howard County and Northeast Iowa for generations to come. This project began with the vision of Donna Thomas and a dedicated committee of local leaders who believe our community deserves a modern, welcoming place to gather. **Legacy Hall** will host traditional events like weddings, community gatherings, youth programs and trade shows. Just as important, it will serve as a Red Cross Emergency Shelter for city and county needs, a medical aid station for EMTs, and a Command Center for law enforcement during the fair and other community events.



Legacy Hall can only happen with your help! Please take a moment to review the enclosed brochure for details on giving levels and ways to contribute. You can also find more information at <https://mhcfair.com/donate/>.

If you know others who care about the future of our community, we hope you'll share the word (there are a few extra brochures enclosed for this purpose) and encourage them to join us in making **Legacy Hall** a reality.

Our community has always shown up for one another – this is our chance to build a place where traditions continue and new memories begin.

Join us in saying "I Do" to Legacy Hall and make a pledge today!

With gratitude,

The "I Do" Crew / Legacy Hall Steering Committee

Darrel Andera, Tom Barnes, Josh Bourassa, Jericho Curtin, Katie Ferrie, Tim Huhe, Michaela Juelsgaard, Dean Lickteig, Erin Ludwig, Janice Ollendick, Dan Ollendick, Michael Ollendick, Jessica Reis, Heather Slifka, Spiff Slifka, Donna Thomas, Mike Walton, Kenny Waller and Sheila Wemark

ORIGIN OF *Legacy Hall*

For years, the Howard County Agricultural Society has pondered a list of needed updates to the existing Expo Center, including to the roof, flooring, restrooms, walls, lighting, among other things. After receiving preliminary quotes, the idea of the updates was put on hold. Along came Donna Thomas. Prior to her retirement from Cresco Bank & Trust, Donna's employer suggested she choose a community project to be involved with, and they would support the organization or project of choice to honor Donna's legacy and lasting impact she has made in the community. In late 2024, Donna approached the officers of the Howard County Agricultural Society with news that she had selected the fairgrounds to focus her efforts, more specifically, the Expo Center. After months of deliberation over needed renovations to the existing building, the concept of a new event center – *Legacy Hall* – came to life.

The *Legacy Hall* project is a joint venture of the Howard County Agricultural Society, and a committee of community leaders, spearheaded by Donna Thomas.



Legacy Hall gifts/donations can be mailed to:

Howard County Agricultural Society
Attn: *Legacy Hall*
PO Box 83, Cresco, IA 52136

QUESTIONS?

Contact Donna Thomas 319-240-6104
dlthomas06@gmail.com



or visit
www.mhcfair.com/donate
for more information

**BUILDING
COMMUNITY**
~~~~~  
**HONORING  
TRADITION**  
~~~~~  
**CREATING
A LEGACY**



Follow the journey on
The Mighty Howard County Fair's social media.



A LEGACY WORTH BUILDING

For generations, the Expo Center at the Mighty Howard County Fairgrounds has served as the heart of our community – a place where families gather, traditions are celebrated, and memories are made. From wedding receptions and family reunions to community events, the Expo Center has brought people together since it's construction in 1930's.

Now, it's time to build the next chapter.
Legacy Hall will be a premier year-round event center designed to serve Howard County and Northeast Iowa for generations to come.

Legacy Hall will provide a modern, accessible, and versatile space for:

- Weddings • Banquets • Youth Programs
- Trade Shows • Community Celebrations
 - Red Cross Emergency Shelter for City/County Needs
- Medical Aid Station for EMTs and Event Command Center for law enforcement during the Mighty Howard County Fair and community events

Together, we can create a lasting legacy.

SAY "I DO" TO *Legacy Hall*!

DESIGN OF *Legacy Hall*



Situated on the north end of the existing Featherlite Center, *Legacy Hall* is envisioned as a beautiful and highly functional event center designed to welcome gatherings of every kind. The banquet hall will accommodate approximately 600 guests and will feature a movable partition, allowing the space to be divided into two separate venues as needed. Additional highlights will include a spacious stage with ADA accessibility, an industrial kitchen, bar area, ADA-accessible restrooms with shower facilities, and a conference room or bridal suite - thoughtfully appointed amenities that will make *Legacy Hall* an exceptional setting for celebrations, meetings, and community events alike.

HOW LARGE IS THE CAPITAL FUNDING PROJECT?

Preliminary estimates received indicate the *Legacy Hall* will cost approximately \$1.7 million dollars.



I DO CREW: The Steering Committee for the new Mighty Howard County Fairgrounds community event center, "Legacy Hall" encourage you to say "I Do!" The team includes (front row, left to right) Michael Ollendick, Josh Bourassa, Tim Huhe, Darrel Andera, Tom Barnes, Dan Ollendick, Kenny Waller, Jessica Reis, Katie Ferrie, (back row, left to right), Donna Thomas, Spiff Slifka, Michaela Juelsgaard, Sheila Wemark, Dean Lickteig, Heather Slifka, and Janice Ollendick. Not pictured: Mike Walton, Erin Ludwig, and Jericho Curtin.

Legacy Hall can only become a reality through the generosity of community members, businesses, foundations, and supporters who believe in the future of Howard County. For generations to come, those who gather here will enjoy the lasting impact of the individuals and organizations who chose to invest in this project today.

Many options exist for you to say, "I Do" in support of *Legacy Hall*. Options to donate include:

1. **Check** – made out to the Howard County Agricultural Society and include "Legacy Hall" in the memo line
2. Make an **online donation** via the fair website - www.mhcfair.com/donate
3. **Recurring Payment Option** (ideal for smaller increments)
- Download, print, fill out and send ACH form to the Fair Office
4. We accept **gifts of grain**.
5. You can give through a qualified charitable distribution from an **IRA**.

INVESTMENT LEVELS INCLUDE:

Legacy	\$100,000+
Visionary	\$50,000 - \$99,999
Hallmark	\$25,000 - \$49,999
Champion	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Cornerstone	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Foundation	\$1,000-\$4,999
Friend	\$25-\$999

All donations, regardless of size, will be accepted and recognized. Donations of \$1,000 and greater will be recognized on the Legacy Wall within the *Legacy Hall*.

Together, we can say "I Do" to *Legacy Hall*, and build a place where traditions continue, new memories are created, and our community thrives!

SAY "I DO" AND MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

The Howard County Agricultural Society is a nonprofit organization in the state of Iowa and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501-c3 tax-exempt organization. Your contribution is considered a charitable donation and therefore could be tax deductible. Please consult with your tax preparer.



Seal it with a gift - your pledge to *Legacy Hall* is a love letter to this community and every neighbor who walks through those doors.

Leave your legacy by making a pledge today!

INVESTMENT LEVELS

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Hallmark	\$25,000 - \$49,999
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Cornerstone	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Foundation	\$1,000-\$4,999
Friend	\$25-\$999

Name _____
Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name for Donor Recognition _____

*Need more
information?*

Additional details
and progress updates
can be found at
mhcfair.com/donate/

☐ My donation of \$ _____ is enclosed.

Check payable to: Howard County Agricultural Society / Memo: Legacy Hall

☐ I would like to make payments over ☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years toward my total pledge of \$ _____.

My first payment of \$ _____ is included.

☐ I would like information about recurring automated payments.

(Forms for this option can be found at <https://mhcfair.com/donate/>)

All donations will be recognized, unless donor wishes to remain anonymous. Donors of \$1,000 and above will be recognized on the donor wall.

Legacy Hall gifts/donations can be mailed to: Howard County Agricultural Society, Attn: Legacy Hall, PO Box 83, Cresco, IA 52136.