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GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

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**STATEWIDE VOLUNTEERS HELP PRESERVE AND PROMOTE
OHIO GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE AND HERITAGE GARDEN**

Holiday tours of the "People's House" available now

COLUMBUS – Volunteer gardeners and docents at the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden generously donated more than 1,900 hours of their time this past year to weekly guided tours of the historic home and cultivation of its extensive gardens. Their [efforts were recently recognized](#) during an appreciation luncheon held at the Governor's Residence in Bexley, Ohio.

"I am grateful for our dedicated and talented volunteers, without whom the Residence and its gardens would not be the beautiful showpieces they are today," said [Karen W. Kasich, Ohio First Lady](#) and Chair of the Friends of the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden. "The passion and knowledge that these volunteers bring with them helps to ensure the 'People's House' is a wonderful place to visit and a source of pride for all Ohioans."

The Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden volunteers are from 14 counties across the state. While a majority of volunteers live in central Ohio, some traveled from as far away as Brown, Henry, and Stark counties.

Over the past year, 92 garden volunteers donated 1,715 hours to plant, weed, prune, and fertilize the [Heritage Garden](#). Volunteer Jan Kennedy of Mansfield gave more than 75 garden hours, and JoAnna Kralian of Powell donated 70.5 hours. The Residence grounds are a showcase of Ohio's natural history and environment, landscaped with native plants from the state's five major ecosystems. Traditional gardens further enhance the outside of the house, including formal rose and water gardens.

Inside the nearly 90-year-old [Governor's Residence](#), 11 docents donated 248 hours as they guided thousands of children and adults through the Jacobean Revival style home. Volunteer docent Suzanne Butler of Worthington donated 66.6 hours. Linda Johnson of Columbus gave an amazing 62 docent hours as well as 43.5 hours in the garden. Among other things, visitors to the Residence can expect to see examples of Ohio's rich heritage of art, industry, and craftsmanship, as well as learn about notable guests that have visited the house through the many years.

Volunteer docent and garden guides provide public tours of the Residence and Heritage Garden on most Tuesdays throughout the year. During the month of December, the Residence is decorated for the holidays and additional tour days are available. All tours are free, but advance reservations are required. For information about scheduling a tour or to learn more about joining the team of volunteers, visit friendsohio.org.

