



## PROJECTS MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR COMMUNITY



### HELPING HANDS FEED A COMMUNITY

In 1993, St. Mary's Caring was just two Roman Catholic nuns serving soup out of a station wagon. Today, that same non-profit serves over 32,000 meals a year, some of which we are proud to say contains Sotterley produce. Over the past year, Sotterley has donated 4,000+ pounds of produce to local food banks, soup kitchens and shelters.



"Hunger is in our own backyard" said Executive Director (?) Kristie Millen. "I can't feed the whole world, but I can feed the Southern Maryland world." Supported almost exclusively by volunteers, St. Mary's Caring is the only soup-kitchen in all of Southern Maryland. While the needs of our area are great, they are being met through partnerships in our community.

### UPCYCLING AN UNUSED TRAILER INTO AN EDUCATIONAL SPACE

Trailer Pics

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### SOTTERLEY & SCOUTING

Not many Girl Scouts Silver Projects involve bats, however, Julia Belvin is one in a million. A few months ago, Julia approached Sotterley with the idea of putting up multiple bat boxes on our property. Today, these bat boxes provide a safe haven for these important bug-predators. Later, she presented at our Farmer's Market about the importance of bats, their effect on the environment and how critical bat habitats are to a healthy ecosystem. Thanks for all your hard work, Julia!



When you visit Sotterley next, be sure to look for some brand new benches, made by Eagle Scout candidate Clayton Reppert. While originally from Arlington, his grandmother lives just around the corner from Sotterley, and he wanted give back to the Southern Maryland community. Thanks for all your hard work, Clayton!

## THE LONG VIEW

Winter is coming! For us at Sotterley that's not a bad thing. Fall is the best time of the year to visit your Tidewater Plantation. The leaves are changing colors and the brisk fall air is perfect for exploring our numerous paths and gardens.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and this year we have so much to be thankful for! Thanks to all of you who visited Sotterley this year. Thanks to our Donors and Members for your continued support. And thanks to our event Sponsors who helped us create the best series of events we've ever had!

Our WineFest was without a doubt the best ever. We had a HUGE turnout (especially on Saturday) and the beer and wine represented was fantastic. Moving the event into the historic core was a great decision – next year we will increase the counter space for more access for wine tasting.

“Ghosts of Sotterley” drew sell-out crowds who enjoyed another amazing production.

Our Speaker Series just finished and it was fantastic. The staff put together another fantastic list of speakers. Once again, we thank The Boeing Company for underwriting this great Series.

We added a Bourbon Tasting this year and want to thank our friends at the Tobacco Barn Distillery for creating this event. American whiskey production started in Southern Maryland and the Tobacco Barn Distillery has brought the legal production of Bourbon and Whiskey back to its American birthplace. If you haven't tried their spirits, you should and you are in for a treat!

“Thank you” isn't enough for our incredible staff! Once again this year they have risen to the occasion brilliantly. We are so indebted to them for their dedicated and professional support.

The last events of the year are “A Toast to Christmas Past” which will include dinner in the Mansion, “Santa's Table” which will be breakfast with Santa, and “Home for the Holidays”, a more intimate version of our previous “Family Plantation Christmas”. We love sharing these special holiday events and its all about families and fun. Don't forget, our gift shop has wonderful Christmas gifts, and our Garden Guild Green Sales are a must for those of you who love to decorate for the Holidays.

Finally, our End of the Year appeal will be coming soon, and we want to thank you in advance for considering Sotterley as worthy of your support. Your continued support, both now and in the coming year, is critical and we appreciate it. Thanks to each of you for your generosity this holiday season, and know that it is only with the support of our Sotterley Family that we can continue to be the incredible asset to our community that Sotterley has become.

With warmest regards and best wishes for you and yours,

Bert Johnston

President, Board of Trustees

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“When I think of Southern Maryland, one of things I think of is Sotterley. It’s part of the fabric of our community.”

**(\$5,000.00 to \$9,999.00)**

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“Sotterley is indeed a jewel with its history (the good and not so good), the natural beauty, a deep learning experience, and to me, a spiritual experience.”

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"I am pleased to see what Sotterley is doing with respect to agriculture. I grew up on a Southern Maryland farm and I understand the importance of farming to Sotterley's past. I'm also happy to see the work being done to protect the environment."

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RADM and Mrs. Donald and  
Gay Scott Boecker

"I find myself more open to new ways of thinking because of my involvement with Sotterley. The slave cabin exhibit is presented in a non-judgmental way. Facts and harsh truths are given, but without anger. We know the enslaved were de-humanized in so many ways, and yet Sotterley has found ways for them to be remembered as humans and individuals."

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"I came to Sotterley almost 25 years ago because of my love of 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> century history. The landscape, the rolling farm land, and the river reminded me of my family's home in Virginia. It was my heritage that brought me here."

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## THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS YEAR POSSIBLE

We couldn't have made this past year possible without your support! Whether you support us by donating your time as a member of our priceless volunteer group, purchased an ad in our WineFest Program, or challenged a company to mirror your support of Sotterley with sponsorships or corporate giving (?), thank you for making 2017 another success!

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## THE HOLIDAYS AT SOTTERLEY

### MEMBER'S NIGHT

**December 7**

Please join us for an evening of fine food and holiday splendor to celebrate our wonderful members and all that your support makes possible. Tickets are \$15 a person. Please RSVP by Monday December 4<sup>th</sup> at 301.373.2280 to purchase tickets and reserve times for a stroll through the decorated Plantation House.

### A TOAST TO CHRISTMAS PAST

**December 8 & 9**

Our new holiday event! Join us in the decorated Plantation House to enjoy food, libations, music, and scenes from the past. Tickets will be available on Ticket Derby in early November.

### SANTA'S TABLE

**December 9 & 10**

Bring the family to enjoy breakfast with the "big guy" and stay to explore the site for the day with included admission to Home for the Holidays. Tickets will be available on Ticket Derby in early November.

### HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**December 9 & 10**

A family-friendly day of fun on the site, including decorated house tours, access to our exhibits, our Garden Guild greens sale, "Santa's Secret Shop", and a host of holiday activities for all ages.

## EVENTS?

## AMAZON SMILE

## PARTNERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund (MAERDAF) awarded Sotterley \$27,580 to erect an outdoor pavilion as an important part of our agricultural educational experience. In this setting, creativity, imagination and hands-on learning are accessible for our visitors including Farmers Market customers, scheduled school visitors and heritage or recreational visitors.



Northrop Grumman granted Sotterley \$2000 for education in August 2017. Funding will be used to create a man made wetland area with native tree and plants for habitat. This will be a living classroom where students can gain skills and knowledge about the environment and learn to make decisions that protect and enhance our natural resources and environment.

A big thanks to Wally of Wally's Excavating for putting innumerable hours into water management, storm water reduction and run-off prevention.

## CLASSROOMS WITHOUT BORDERS

As the temperatures finally cool, the last field trips for the semester enjoy Historic Sotterley at its most beautiful. Sotterley's Ed team represented and participated in St. Mary's County Public Schools' STEM Festival and Expo at the Fairgrounds on November 4, and a week later on November 11, hosted STEM experiences on site to *Build a Better Butterfly House* as part of the Maryland STEM Festival. What does STEM have to do with Social Studies and the Humanities? To quote the National Council for the Social Studies, "When partnered together, "STEM" and "social studies" enable us to ask deeper questions and propose sharper conclusions based on a wide body of evidence." The question is not how Social Studies and Humanities fit into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, but how these subjects all naturally fit into the Social Sciences. Humanities and Social Studies reflect our collective human experience and help us learn from the past, understand the present, and plan for the future.

## COMMON GROUND, CONNECTED HERITAGE

*"Sotterley is more than a place frozen in time." ~ Donald Barber*

We are proud to announce that our first quarterly correspondence has gone out to everyone who considers themselves to be a Sotterley descendant! By opening the door to frequent communication between ourselves and those who trace their heritage to Sotterley, we hope to gather more information about the people of the past, as well as enable descendants to meet each other and compare notes on family ties. Former member of the board, Donald Barber wrote,

*"My connection to Sotterley provides a touchstone in an increasingly impermanent world. I remember the place my father pointed out and said 'I was born right there.' Sotterley is more than a place frozen in time. It is brought to life by its people, their connections, struggles and triumphs. The late Agnes Kane Callum graciously researched my genealogy and presented me the fruits of her investigation. This information, which was completely unknown to me, was made available only through my connection to Sotterley. I also have fond memories of walking freshly plowed fields with my father and finding Native American projectile points that a historian remarked likely dated from 3000 BC. One can imagine standing on the portico and witnessing a naval battle during the War of 1812. The preserved slave cabin, located in relative proximity to the manor house, provides an opportunity to viscerally experience the plight of the enslaved in America, being so close to but denied access to the bounty available in this land. The history of Sotterley is emblematic of the history of The United States and its struggles with ethnic diversity. The value of Sotterley lies in its portrayal of the sweep of American history."*

Currently, we have records of descendants living in Maryland, DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, California & Washington State, as well as England, Germany and Australia. As the project progresses and more descendants from more locations are discovered, we look forward to seeing the influence of Sotterley on the world. If you think you are descended from a person at Sotterley between 1699 and 1960, or even share a common surname, we invite you to fill out an official descendant form and return it to us by contacting [education@sotterley.org](mailto:education@sotterley.org).

Year End Appeal/Corporate Giving—Jane

