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Welcome Friends of the Mahanay Bell Tower

FEBRUARY 2026

The **Bell Tower Community Foundation** invites you to celebrate with us the highlights of this past year and asks for your financial support to continue our mission. We deeply appreciate your support in any form.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization whose board oversees the staffing, marketing, and enhancements of the **Mahanay Memorial Carillon Tower**. While the Greene County Board of Supervisors owns the attraction and handles maintenance and property decisions, both entities collaborate closely with the City of Jefferson and Jefferson Matters to promote our vibrant community.

2025: A Year of Resonant Success

Here are just a few of the highlights from this past year that your contributions helped make possible:

- **A Community Hub:** The Bell Tower served as the centerpiece for major events, including the **Bell Tower Festival**, **Market to Market Relay**, and the **Jefferson Matters Great American Main Street Recognition Celebration**. It also provided the backdrop for local weddings, reunions, and seasonal festivities that brought our neighbors together.
- **Welcoming the World:** Nine staff members were employed and trained this year to welcome visitors and share the rich history of the Tower. We were thrilled to host nearly **4,900 visitors** in 2025 from 6 continents, 15 foreign countries, and 48 states.
- **Musical Excellence:** 12 Maestros shared their talents every Wednesday at 12:15 PM during the summer months, filling the air with live carillon music.
 - **The Jefferson Chimes**, an original anthem written specifically for our carillon by local musician **Jennifer Powers**, now plays twice daily at the opening and closing of the Tower.
 - To ensure the full complement of musical notes, the **Verdin Company** completed essential repairs on several bells.
- **In the Spotlight:** **Iowa Public Television's Iowa Road Trip** featured a dedicated segment on the Tower and our community.
 - **Travel Iowa** highlighted the Tower in a widely shared social media reel.
 - **WHO-13 meteorologist Gabe Prough** brought a unique perspective to viewers with a live broadcast from the top of the Tower.
- **Looking Forward:** An updated lobby video featuring a **Mahanay Bell Tower Timeline** is currently in production and newly commissioned **professional photos** will debut for the 2026 season opening.
- **Group Tours & Outreach:** We were proud to host bus tours from *Our Iowa* magazine, regional travel clubs, and various educational groups.
- **Local Partnerships:** Youth Sponsorship for 2025 was generously provided by **Dr. James Teusch** and **Dr. Keith Van Beek**. Additionally, the Foundation made a donation to the **Tower View Team** to support new rooftop art.

Help Us "Ring Out the News"

Please consider a gift to the Bell Tower Community Foundation today. Your tax-deductible donation ensures that we can continue to promote our great Main Street community and preserve this musical landmark for generations to come. Thank you for being a part of our story.

Sincerely,

Bell Tower Community Foundation Board

Don Van Gilder - President, Peg Raney - Vice President, Sherry Palmer - Secretary, David Morain - Treasurer, Pat Richards, Carole Custer, Lindy Lehman, JoAnn Rasmussen, Nancy Teusch, Bob Larson, Matt Wetrich - City Rep; Tim Riphagen - School Rep; Pete Bardole - Supervisor Rep

