



A community-based organization dedicated to
maintaining traditions and enhancing the future

Kultur Haus Helvetia
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Kultur Haus Helvetia

Mission

The mission of the Kultur Haus Helvetia, Inc. is to assist in preserving the unique culture of the Helvetia community. It will strive to achieve its mission by providing resources to the Helvetia community and its visitors through maintaining historic community buildings, supporting and providing vital services, and making available historical and other information, all of which shall enhance and preserve the Swiss traditions and culture.

What Is Kultur Haus Helvetia?

The Kultur Haus Helvetia consists of five components:

- Helvetia General Store
- Helvetia Post Office
- Helvetia Mask Museum
- Helvetia Alpen Lodge
- Helvetia Research Center



The Helvetia General Store is designed to serve both residents and visitors. It stocks food, beverages, ice cream, and household items as well as t-shirts, postcards, and locally made products such as maple syrup, honey, and soap.



The Helvetia Post Office has served the community for 139 years. It has full business hours on weekdays and services including counter service and post office boxes are available. The rural delivery drivers operate out of the facility.

The Mask Museum is the result of a longstanding interest in preserving the artifacts and history of our Fasnacht celebration. This unique celebration is held the Saturday before Lent in Helvetia. There are currently over 30 masks that have been donated or loaned to the museum.

The Helvetia Alpen Lodge is in the process of restoring sleeping rooms that were once used as a boarding house in the upstairs of the building. Oak floors and trim, solid plaster walls, a wide hallway, and an upstairs porch with a sweeping view of the village are features that make the lodge attractive. When finished, the Alpen Lodge will have 5 bedrooms with private baths plus a shared kitchen and sitting room all with wireless Internet access. One first floor sleeping room is currently available.

The Helvetia Research Center is designed to assist residents and visitors who want to study the history and genealogy of the community. The Research Center will work with the well established community-based History and Genealogy Projects. The center will also provide Internet services to local families who do not have broadband access in their homes during times the Helvetia Library is closed.

How Does Kultur Haus Operate?

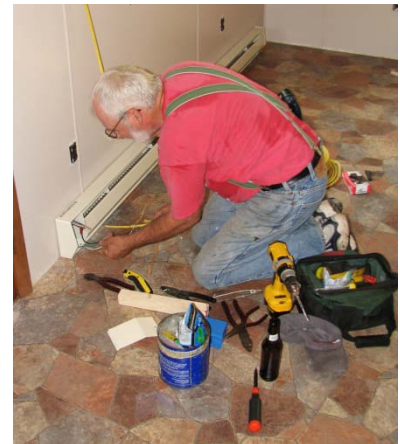
Management is guided through the Kultur Haus Board of Directors. The organization operates as a non-profit corporation incorporated in West Virginia and is currently applying for the federal 501(c) 3 tax status. Kultur Haus is transparent in its finances and operations. Financial information and meeting minutes are available upon request and financial reports will be available on the Kultur Haus Web site in the near future. The organization has actively solicited input from local residents, visitors, and donors.

Kultur Haus has created one position of part-time employment and an employee has been hired to work approximately 26 hours a week. As finances permit, it is a goal to have this become a full time position and to add additional employment opportunities.

What Is Being Done?

Hundreds of hours of volunteer time by dozens of people have been put into cleaning, painting, electrical work, carpentry, plumbing, and repairing the building to get it presentable and safe for public use.

- Money for the down payment of the building and immediate repairs has been donated.
- Legal assistance, accounting and management services are pro bono.
- Donors have provided money, building supplies, merchandise, appliances, furniture, and Fasnacht masks.
- The US Post Office continues to operate and serve the public.
- The main public area has been painted and renovated inside.
- The building is partially painted on the outside.
- The General Store is stocked with food, beverages, household items, t shirts, and local merchandise and is generating enough money to cover employee and restocking expenses.
- Many Fasnacht masks are on display along with various pictures and Fasnacht information.
- A computer center has been set up with wireless Internet throughout the building.
- One sleeping room is ready for lodging accommodations.



Goals and Future Needs

- Replace the roof on the building. The roof has leaks and has been temporarily patched.
- Insulate the building properly.
- Repair and upgrade the heating system for the entire building.
- Finish exterior painting.
- Prepare four upstairs rooms for lodging purposes, including private bathrooms.
- Extend hours for hired employee to full time.
- Increase offerings of items available in general store.
- Provide continued day to day operation of all components of Kultur Haus Helvetia.

How You Can Help



Our budget is very limited. Financial donations are needed and are tax deductible. Please contact us for details.

Volunteers are needed to continue with the cleaning, painting, plumbing, electrical, and carpentry work.

Donations of building, electrical, plumbing, and room furnishing supplies are needed.

Through your support the building, activities, the organization, and the concept of Kultur Haus Helvetia can continue to be integrated into the community and ensure its survival.

Board of Directors

- H. Kevin Betler – Chair
- Thomas Whittier
- Sally Schneider
- Heidi F. Arnett
- R. Scott Betler

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