

# THE WEST DES MOINES HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT INITIATIVE



With this initiative, the Society will be in a position to preserve two important historical legacies found in West Des Moines, while incorporating other inspiring and powerful stories of Iowans making a difference.

## THE COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT INITIATIVE (CEI)

The WDMHS CEI will:

- Continue to preserve and protect two historic properties for the education and enjoyment of future generations
- Provide greater access to the properties for more area residents and out-of-town visitors to enjoy and appreciate
- Increase programming and access for visiting schools from across the state as learning laboratories in early Iowa history
- Develop new exhibits, collections, and programs that showcase other aspects of the cultural and historical heritage of West Des Moines and the Metropolitan area.

“There is nothing that solidifies and strengthens a nation like reading the nation’s history, whether that history is recorded in books, or embodied in customs, institutions, and monuments.”

J. ANDERSON

## RESULTS / REACHING THE GOAL

The WDMHS CEI will provide an exciting opportunity to reach and more fully serve an increasing population of students, teachers, residents and tourists who desire to learn about the area’s rich heritage. **The CEI has set the following goals to be achieved by December 2015:**

- Increase annual local and out-of-state visitor numbers from 2,000 to 5,000
- Increase visiting schools from 40 to 100
- Raise public visibility for two important cultural and historic sites as part of an area-wide effort to increase tourism and contribute to quality of life in Central Iowa.
- Increase Society memberships from 85 as of December, 2012 to 300 by the end of 2013; 450 by December, 2014; and 600 by December, 2015.
- Increase participants in new cultural programs and seasonal events from 250 in 2012 to 1,000 by the end of 2015.
- Complete immediate deferred maintenance needs for the Jordan House and the Bennett School properties and provide adequate funding for regular maintenance.

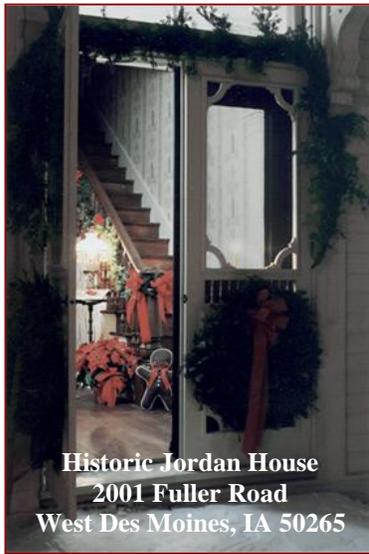
**Contribute to the cultural and historic quality of life in West Des Moines, the metropolitan area of Des Moines and the state of Iowa by supporting the Community Enrichment Initiative.**



West Des Moines Historical Society  
PO Box 65563  
West Des Moines, IA 50265  
515.277.6652  
[www.wdmhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wdmhistoricalsociety.org)

City of West Des Moines Contact:  
Linda Schemmel, Development Services  
[Linda.schemmel@wdm.ia.gov](mailto:Linda.schemmel@wdm.ia.gov), 515.222.3625





Historic Jordan House  
2001 Fuller Road  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

# Christmas Time at the Jordan House

Sunday, December 1 & Sunday, December 8  
1:00-4:00 PM with guided tours at 1:00 and 2:00  
Price: Adults, \$5; Children under 12, \$3

The West Des Moines Historical Society invites you to visit the Historic Jordan House for our Holiday Open Houses. Come for cider, entertainment and a tour of the circa 1850 Jordan House.

The Jordan House, a stately Victorian home of Italianate Gothic design, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places .

The Jordan House is also a member of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program.

For more information, visit [www.wdmhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wdmhistoricalsociety.org) or call 277-6652.

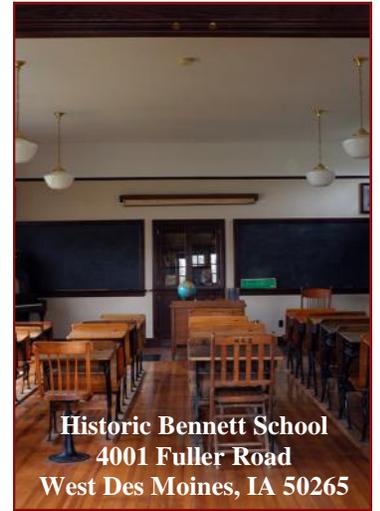
# Christmas Time at the Bennett School

Saturday, December 7  
9:00-11:00 AM and 1:00-3:00 PM  
Price: \$5 per child, FREE for parents!

Join us for a family-friendly experience at the Historic Bennett School for our holiday activities. Families will enjoy making ornaments, decorating holiday desserts, and other activities. Activities are appropriate for children ages 4 - 9.

The Bennett School, built in 1926 or 1927, was one of the last one room schools to be built in West Des Moines and was in use until at least 1941.

For more information, visit [www.wdmhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wdmhistoricalsociety.org) or call 277-6652.



Historic Bennett School  
4001 Fuller Road  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

## Get involved with WDMHS today!

### Volunteer

Do you have a knack for telling stories? Become a tour guide for the Jordan House or Bennett School!

For more information or other volunteer opportunities, please call 515.227.6652 or email [wdmhs@valleyjunction.com](mailto:wdmhs@valleyjunction.com).

### Become a Member

In order to keep the West Des Moines Historical Society thriving, we need your financial support!

For membership information, visit [www.wdmhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.wdmhistoricalsociety.org) or request a membership form by calling 515.277.6652.