

- Monies raised by the FOHB will be used exclusively for such projects; the current focus is on gaining Michigan Main Street Select Status.

So now you know more about FOHB. We invite you to join us. We can all be Friends of Historic Blissfield, but, more important, we can all be friends of the future Blissfield.

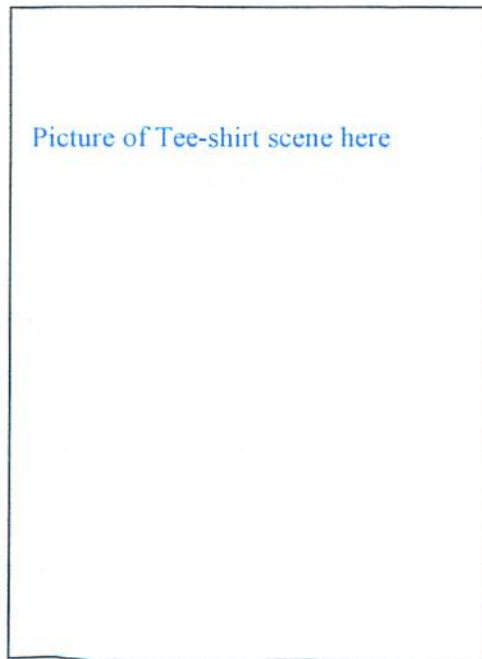
To keep its beautiful past alive, we need to promote and patronize Blissfield today and work toward an even more lovely Blissfield tomorrow. Our goal and our motto:

“Preserving our past to ensure our future” – this is FOHB.



Membership in FOHB costs \$25 per calendar year, and comes with a logo tee-shirt. It is tax deductible. How better could you spend your money than supporting the prosperous future of our Village? Join us. As a member, you will be informed of meetings, activities, programs and events.

Everyone is invited to attend a meeting to learn more about FOHB. You can then decide if you wish to become a member.



Picture of Tee-shirt scene here



*What is FOHB –
Friends of
Historic
Blissfield?*

*And why
does it
exist?*

t seems many people are asking that question these days. The members of **Friends of Historic Blissfield** want to clarify just what we are, how the group came to be, and what we hope to achieve.

Friends of Historic Blissfield is a non-profit organization that operates under the Lenawee Community Foundation. It is a group of dedicated volunteers that has worked together over the past few years to preserve Blissfield's history and recapture the small-town charm and warmth which once typified our downtown. Over the past few years, it planned and executed several beautification and awareness projects, including:

- Planting and upkeep of the mini-park downtown
- Learning Landscape on South Lane Street
- Earth Day 2008 and 2009
- Make A Difference Day 2008 and 2009
- Artwork in second-story windows of downtown businesses
- "Welcome to Blissfield" on barn near town, on westbound US 23
- Culinary Tour (with the Chamber) in 2008

Michigan Main Street

- In 2009, FOHB became aware of a statewide program, Michigan Main Street, that offered assistance to small towns with many of the problems that plague Blissfield.
- The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Village Administrator, with input from FOHB, began to explore this concept, discovering that it is a national program devoted to helping towns throughout the country, whereby such towns may apply for membership in "Main Street."
- After Village personnel and volunteers attended four explanatory training sessions, Blissfield became an Associate Member, which entitled the Village to apply for Select Membership. If successful, Blissfield will receive many benefits in the form of market studies, training, and hands-on assistance in promoting our town as an attractive tourist and shopping destination.

- Blissfield Council approved DDA making application for Select membership in the program. This year, twenty Michigan towns are eligible for this honor; only four will be selected. Notification to finalists will be made in July.
- FOHB offered its services to the DDA to assist in obtaining this desirable designation.
- During the past three months, FOHB has researched historic buildings and conducted meetings with long-time Blissfield residents to glean data and memories of the old-time Village.
- FOHB recently conducted its first fundraiser, a well attended and financially successful art auction, at which event memberships in FOHB were sought.
- Many projects are being considered by this group: a Buy Local campaign, beautification of neglected city properties, compilation of a pictorial history of the Village, a calendar depicting the Village's past, and a historical presentation at one of the schools—among others.