



## Fund Set Up to Preserve Brinkerhoff Home for Centuries To Come

It's been a house, a college, a nursery, a dormitory, a classroom, an office and it's always been a Springfield landmark. The Brinkerhoff Home has been a fixture in Springfield for 140 years.

It's a fixture that the Brinkerhoff Home Foundation strives to maintain and in that effort, the Foundation recently established the **Brinkerhoff Home Fund** through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln

The Fund will be utilized to maintain and upkeep the Home's structure and the surrounding land.

"These funds go to the maintenance of the house, the upkeep, beautifying," said John Bucari, President of the Brinkerhoff Home Foundation. "It's an old structure, and with this type of historic building that regularly holds events, it needs upkeep."

The Home itself is owned by Springfield College in Illinois, which currently utilizes the second floor of the home for office space. However, the home furnishings are owned by the Home Foundation. The Home is regularly rented out for receptions and other public events.

"There is continual traffic, especially during the academic year, through the house," Bucari said.

The Home has a lengthy tradition of activity. Built for the Brinkerhoff family in Springfield, the home later was used as a nursery by the Ursuline Convent Sisters, was the original Springfield College, served as a dormitory at the college and was used for classroom space during the boom of students studying under the GI Bill. The Foundation was established in 1974 to be a caretaker for the Home.

The Foundation hosts a variety of events, including the Spring Craft Fair, a Fall Fair in September, and a Christmas Holiday event. The Home's ornate structure and features are not lost during events, especially to those with a background in building trades.

"It is really something special to demonstrate what was available to the people who built this house 140 years ago," Bucari said. "There is a certain wonder of how those things were accomplished that are now lost talents."

Keeping the history and the knowledge of those talents is part of the Foundation's reasons for maintaining the Home and showcasing its features.

"We don't live in an isolated time, events rely on what happened before," Bucari said. "... This is just one thing that is becoming rarer in our community."



The Brinkerhoff Home on the grounds of Springfield College in Illinois decorated during the winter holidays.  
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