

The Kettering Fund donates a major gift to Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum's Historic Chapel Restoration and Preservation Project

DAYTON, OH –Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum has recently received a significant grant from The Kettering Fund. The grant will be used for the restoration and preservation of three historic structures on the cemetery property, namely the historic Chapel. The 132-year old structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the cemetery itself is listed as a National Historic District by the U. S. Department of the Interior.

“This contribution from The Kettering Fund is such a wonderful legacy gift, especially considering all of the Kettering family members who are interred at Woodland,” said Tony Huffman, board member and campaign chair of Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum. “Mrs. Virginia Kettering, especially was dedicated to the cemetery and its history, beauty and mission. We cannot thank the family enough for their continued support of Woodland and to the entire Dayton community.”

The Cemetery trustees approved a multi-phase capital campaign in 2016; phase one is for \$3.5 million and will ensure the complete restoration and preservation of the historic Chapel, front gates and administration building. The Chapel houses a one-of-a-kind Tiffany hand-cut tiled floor, seventeen Tiffany windows and Tiffany painted frescoes on the walls. The Chapel also has original woodwork cut and installed by the Barney and Smith Car Company from Dayton.

“This generous grant from The Kettering Fund allows us to start the restoration of Woodland’s beautiful Tiffany influenced Chapel,” said Sean O’Regan, president and CEO of Woodland. “Woodland, in addition to being an active cemetery and historic landmark, is also a cultural resource for the greater Dayton community. Woodland’s long established arboretum, in the heart of Dayton, provides a beautiful backdrop that is open to all who want to explore an outdoor museum, and learn the history of the men and women who have influenced our society via innovation, literature, music, politics, philanthropy and much more.”

The Kettering family has its own place in Woodland’s history. Charles F. Kettering, his wife Olive, their only son, Eugene, and his wife, Virginia W. Kettering, are all entombed in the Woodland Mausoleum. The Kettering Room is the only room in the Mausoleum that has marble quarried in America.

“Woodland’s prominence in Dayton history is well documented by the list of those persons for whom it is their final resting place,” stated Kathy Reed, administrative director for Kettering Family Philanthropies. “The chapel serves as a tribute to the founders and is a significant work of art, in and of itself, as well as a gathering place for community friends, celebrations and memorials. It is the Kettering family’s privilege to participate in the rejuvenation of the historic chapel for the benefit and solace of future generations.”

The Woodland Arboretum Foundation continues to seek donations from the community and the families of those resting peacefully at Woodland Cemetery. “We are confident that the Dayton community will come together to save these important historic buildings that grace the entrance of our 178-year-old cemetery,” said Huffman.

To receive additional information about the cemetery and the campaign to restore the historic buildings, arrange a private tour of the project or how to you can support the restoration projects, contact Angie Hoschouer, Woodland Arboretum Foundation, ahoschouer@woodlandcemetery.org.

About Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum sits in the heart of downtown Dayton on over 200 verdant acres of rolling hills with over 3000 trees on the property. This historic cemetery, founded in 1841, welcomes thousands of visitors who tour the grounds each year to visit the grave sites of inventors of powered flight, Wilbur and Orville Wright; poet Paul Laurence Dunbar; Matilda and Levi Stanley, Queen and King of the Gypsies; writer Erma Bombeck; Gov. James M. Cox; inventor Charles F. Kettering; and entrepreneurs John H. Patterson (NCR); George P. Huffman (Huffy Bicycles); and George Mead (Mead Paper Co.).

About The Kettering Fund

The Kettering Fund, a sub-fund of the Kettering Family Foundation, was founded by Charles F. Kettering in 1958. The Kettering Family Foundation was founded by Eugene W. Kettering, son of Charles and Olive Kettering, and his wife, Virginia W. Kettering in 1956. Today, the Foundation supports a broad range of charitable activities of interest to the Board of Trustees, which is composed of members of the Kettering family.

For further information please contact: Angie Hoschouer, Woodland Arboretum Foundation, ahoschouer@woodlandcemetery.org; and/or Kathy Reed, Kettering Family Philanthropies, kreed@ketteringfamilyphilanthropies.org.