

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Milwaukee County Historical Society Hosts Inaugural Conservation Circle Fundraiser**

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin** – The Milwaukee County Historical Society is excited to announce the first annual **Conservation Circle Fundraiser**, a special event dedicated to preserving Milwaukee County’s rich history. The event will take place on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at 910 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive from 1 to 3pm. The public is invited.

This exclusive gathering will feature a wine bar and highlight six significant artifacts from the Historical Society’s collection in need of conservation funding. Among the items are beloved pieces of Milwaukee’s history, such as *Billie the Brownie* from Schuster’s Department Store, a nostalgic symbol of holiday tradition, and a surviving plaster wall hanging of the *Stations of the Cross # 7* from Our Lady of Pompeii Church previously located in Milwaukee’s Third Ward. Attendees will have the unique opportunity to hear from Curator Janean Van Beckum, who will share the fascinating stories behind these artifacts and emphasize the importance of their preservation for future generations. For those unable to attend in person, the presentation will be streamed live for virtual attendees starting at 1:30 p.m.

“We’re thrilled to launch the Conservation Circle with this unique event,” said Executive Director Ben Barbera. “Preserving and sharing Milwaukee County’s history is core to our mission. With the community’s support we can fulfill our public trust to protect these local treasures so that they can be shared in perpetuity for all to enjoy.”

The Conservation Circle fundraiser is part of a larger initiative to unite history enthusiasts and advocates dedicated to preserving Milwaukee County’s cultural heritage. This exclusive group provides critical resources to conserve and protect the most fragile and significant artifacts in the Historical Society’s collection.

By joining the Conservation Circle with a one-time donation during or after the event, members enjoy unique benefits, including behind-the-scenes tours, private talks with the curator, and invitations to special events where they can see the direct impact of their support.

Reservations, for both in-person and virtual attendance, are limited and available now at [milwaukeehistory.net/conservation-circle/](https://milwaukeehistory.net/conservation-circle/). Don’t miss this opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the preservation of Milwaukee County’s history.

#### **About the Milwaukee County Historical Society**

The Milwaukee County Historical Society was founded in 1935 and has become the place for people to learn about and to celebrate Milwaukee. Through education programs,

exhibitions, the research library, our historic sites, and special events, MCHS offers Milwaukeeans and visitors to Milwaukee a chance to connect with the heritage of Milwaukee. MCHS preserves more than one million documents and photographs and more than 75,000 artifacts.

### **Visual Assets**

High-resolution images for media use attached.

Credit:

Invitation to Conservation Circle.

*Stations of the Cross #7* (detail) from Our Lady of Pompeii Church. Courtesy of the Milwaukee County Historical Society.

*Billie the Brownie* (detail) from Schuster's Department Store. Courtesy of the Milwaukee County Historical Society.

### **Media Contact:**

Samantha Michalski

Development and Communications Manager

Milwaukee County Historical Society

[smichalski@milwaukeehistory.net](mailto:smichalski@milwaukeehistory.net), 414-273-8288