



Miami Valley Institute for Food & Spirits 2023 Annual Report

We want to thank you and all of the MVIFS members for making 2023 a banner year for the organization. Your support in our charitable endeavors as well as your participation in over 28 social events and dine arounds held throughout 2023 have been outstanding. As a direct result of your efforts to recruit new members and retain current members, we're ending the year with 88 wonderful people in MVIFS.

What follows is a brief summary of what happened in 2023 and what we can expect in 2024.

Board of Directors. A new Board of Directors was elected in 2023 and the Board increased in size from 7 to 9 members. It meets once a month at the Five Seasons Sports Club meeting room for about two hours and reviews issues related to finances, membership, Farm to Table charitable activities, program events and dine arounds, and other MVIFS business. The meetings are open to any non-board member who'd like to go, but seating is limited so let a board member know ahead of time if you'd like to attend. The current Board will serve for two years, 2023-2025. If you would like to be considered for the 2025-2027 term, just let one of the current Board members know of your interest.

Finances. We ended 2023 in a solid financial condition with a cash balance of approximately \$12,000.00. For those interested in additional financial details, our year-end financial report is available on the MVIFS website. 2024 will present some new financial challenges for MVIFS. All administrative costs (insurance, tax preparation, credit card fees, website management, etc.) will increase by 10-25%. Costs associated with executing and paying for social events have similar increases. These challenges are compounded by the fact that our long-time Treasurer, John Cloppert, has decided to step down this year as Treasurer. John has done a masterful job managing MVIFS finances, but we have full confidence in his designated successor, Dave Corcoran. The Board extends its sincere appreciation to John for his years of service to the organization, and to Dave for generously accepting the challenging position as Treasurer. The 2024 MVIFS Budget has been developed and, despite the challenges presented, we have a strong financial outlook for 2024.

Membership. As stated in the intro, we ended 2023 with 88 members, up by 11 from 2022. This increase is due to the efforts of Jeanne Evans and Jayne McDougall, who are MVIFS's membership coordinators, and to some of you who brought new members into the organization. As coordinators, Jeanne and Jayne recruit and welcome new members, make sure all new members have sponsors, and follow-up with those current members approaching their renewal date. We fully expect to continue to grow in membership in 2024. The Board has even discussed "capping" the number of active members at 100 and then establishing a Wait List for additional people who want to join. If you have thoughts about this idea, please talk to one of your Board members.

Farm to Table. In 2023, we continued to support Oakview Elementary School's gardening projects with funding and volunteers. This program satisfies the state requirements for MVIFS to retain its 501C3 designation as a charitable organization and has proven to be popular with Oakview students. Teachers established a Garden Club for students and actually had to limit the size because so many wanted to participate. For 2024, we plan to continue supporting

Oakview at current funding levels. We have, however, been approached by Kettering School administrators about expanding our involvement by supporting their Outdoor Learning Environment project. Your Board of Directors has requested a briefing from the project team to determine if the project fits into our Farm to Table program, and then will decide if additional support is warranted and available. Liz Betz is the Board point of contact for Farm to Table and has done an outstanding job supported by Jeanne Evans.

Program Events and Dine Arouds. 2023 was an exciting year for MVIFS social events and dine arounds. Corinne Smith continued to do an outstanding job as MVIFS's dine around coordinator finding new and wonderful places to drink and dine, and sometimes taking us back to a few old favorites. Dennis Cassette now supports Corinne as the Board point of contact for dine arounds. Janet Moland and Rose Barstow did yeoman's work in chairing the Programs Committee. All of the events in 2023 were well received by members attending them. Our thanks to all of you who supported MVIFS by planning, executing, and sometimes hosting events in your own homes. For 2024, we've changed the paradigm for Programs. Rather than most of the work falling on Janet and Rose, now each Board member will sponsor one or more of the 12 events planned for 2024. Board members have come up with great event ideas, organized their support teams, planned the events, and many events are already announced on our website and open for registration. Janet and Rose now sponsor their own events as well as coordinating and advising other Board members and their teams.

Again, thank you for your support in 2023. We look forward to a wonderful and rewarding 2024.

Very Respectfully,
Your MVIFS Board

Charlie McKenzie - President, Rose Barstow - Program Coordinator, Liz Betz - Vice President and Farm to Table co-chair, Terry Brim - Recording Secretary, Dennis Cassette - Dine Around point of contact, John Cloppert - Treasurer (current), David Corcoran - Treasurer (incoming), Janet Moland - Program Coordinator, Jayne McDougall - Membership Coordinator