



Inaugural Mary Chilton DAR Foundation Dorothy Davenport Grant to help restore historic Tuthill House

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – June 9, 2021 – The Mary Chilton Daughters of the American Revolution Foundation is pleased to announce the inaugural recipient of its \$50,000 Dorothy Day Davenport Grant Award is the Historic Tuthill Park House Restoration Project.

“This is a wonderful first project for our Dorothy Day Davenport Grant,” said grant committee chair Tammy Noordermeer. “It achieves an essential purpose for the Davenport Award with its focus on community partnership and historic preservation, which along with patriotism and education is one of the three primary objectives of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Tuthill House Project fulfills the foundation’s benefactor Dorothy Day Davenport’s wishes that her bequest to establish the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation to help make Sioux Falls ‘a better and happier place in which to live’ for the enjoyment of all its citizens.”

Built in the late 1800s, the restored Tuthill House and gardens will provide a beautiful location for family events and special gatherings for Sioux Falls residents and visitors to use and enjoy while also learning about the history of what is one of the first homesteads settled in Dakota Territory.

“We are thrilled that our Historic Tuthill House Restoration Project has been selected for the inaugural Dorothy Day Davenport Grant Award,” said Tuthill Park Neighborhood Association co-chairs Kathy English and Margaret Blomberg. “This grant will enable us to move forward with our plans to restore the historic Tuthill home for people of our community to enjoy for generations to come.”

The Tuthill House renovations will include restoring the original siding and windows to replicate its original look, and restoration of the second floor, which has been closed since 1993. When restored, the home will once again be used as a unique and historical venue.

“We are excited about the positive impact the Tuthill House project will have in promoting historic preservation as a community asset and a distinguishing quality of Sioux Falls consistent

with our Mary Chilton Chapter and National DAR Mission,” said local Mary Chilton chapter regent Judy Goetz.

“The Mary Chilton DAR Foundation Board congratulates the Tuthill Park Neighborhood Association on their selection for the Dorothy Day Davenport Grant, and we look forward to assisting with their project to make the Tuthill House a lasting gathering place to experience our community’s history,” said DAR Foundation president John Paulson. “We thank all the applicants for their ideas for carrying out Dorothy Day Davenport’s vision. The plans for next year’s Dorothy Day Davenport Grant will be announced early in 2022.”

A plan to present the grant award is being established.

About Dorothy Day Davenport and The Mary Chilton DAR Chapter and Mary Chilton DAR Foundation:

Dorothy Day Davenport was an original founding member in 1915 of the local Mary Chilton Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), a charitable organization established in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Members have an ancestral connection to men and women who had a patriotic role in the American Revolution. Dorothy Day Davenport was a member of the Board of Directors of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and served as its President. Mrs. Davenport’s bequest to the Mary Chilton Chapter made possible the formation of its Foundation in 1987. The foundation administers grants, and awards funds provided by her gift.

Since 1987, the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation has made over 500 grant awards totaling \$3 million. These awards have made a significant impact through community and statewide initiatives, helping preserve South Dakota’s pioneer spirit, and democratic past, honoring veterans, and expanding educational horizons. Grant awards have been made to non-profit and civic organization projects and for educational programs, first-year teacher grants, and scholarships in Sioux Falls and South Dakota.

“Dorothy Day Davenport was a woman of great vision and had a love of her hometown of Sioux Falls,” said Judy Goetz, chapter regent. “We believe the newly established Dorothy Day Davenport grant honors her in a most remarkable way.”

- END -

For more information: Judy Goetz, jgoetz6970@gmail.com; John Paulson, jpaulson50@gmail.com.