

The Chester Foundation [www.ChesterRailwayStation.org](http://www.ChesterRailwayStation.org)  
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## ***NEWSLETTER***

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We have been lax in getting this out. Hopefully, this list of accomplishments can go a way toward constituting an excuse. Supporting members need to know what the organization they are supporting is accomplishing. The memberships are very helpful, not only financially, but give us an idea of the level of community support for what we are trying to achieve. And, we hope they will generate feedback and suggestions.

Over the year of 2009, one many people would like to forget, the *Chester Foundation* completed a record number of projects. The *Foundation* is well known for making progress with little more than good will and a strong desire to maintain and improve the Chester Railroad Station and the quality of area life.

With small grants from Amherst Railway Society we began work on adding the correct roofwalks to the antique rolling stock on the premises, adding more perimeter lighting, and building a climate controlled vault in the basement for the proper storage and care of photographs and printed material generously donated to the museum.

With Alson Video productions, we began a series of three short videos to promote the station and its activities (the first of these can be viewed at our web site, under 'rentals'.) The web site, by the way, continues to evolve under the guidance of Peter White of Hinsdale. We also purchased lumber to replace the roof walks on the antique rolling stock on display at the station and hope to begin this project over the summer of '10. Any volunteer carpenters out there?

We held a record-setting luncheon (120 people) hosting the Chester Alumni, Association, and this year's promises to be even larger. We hosted a number of events connected to the Chester Theatre Co. as well as a concert and a very successful Chester On Track, despite the economic downturn. The year was filled out with a number of private gatherings and caboose campers.

Many of you were among the crowds who greeted Santa & Mrs. Claus when they arrived at the station in the beautiful white carriage, courtesy of Angel Mist Farm of Chester. The annual Christmas party is presented free to the community by the Foundation as a thank you for the ongoing support of our neighbors. The '10 season has already begun. We needed volunteers for Chester On Track. We began the day with only five workers, the fewest ever, yet we pulled it out and had a very

successful event. Please keep us in mind as we approach May 21, 2011, to come down and help out. Volunteers are also needed for a number of dinners in the form of servers or dishwashers. It's not totally volunteer, as workers are treated to the same fine cuisine as the guests for their services.

After a year in the permitting process, we will soon be starting on a new hiking trail under the Friends of the Keystone Arches banner. The *C&B Trail* is named for Chester & Becket Railroad, remnants of which, it will highlight. While the *Keystone Arch Trail* can be too challenging for some, the C&B Trail will be within walking distance of the railroad station. It will be a vest pocket trail, about a mile long, meant to showcase a cluster of ruins on the C&B right of way and the Hampden Emery Mill.

Many visitors come to the *Chester Railway Museum* with questions on the Chester & Becket Railroad. While little is left, this segment will give hikers an accurate picture of the infrastructure which supported the road, and the wild terrain it traversed. It will also offer a number of vistas on Walker Brook, often not appreciated as one speeds along Route 20.

Thank you all for your support. Please contact us with comments and suggestions.

Dave Pierce, President  
The Chester Foundation, Inc.  
Friends of the Keystone Arches, Inc.