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## **\$10,000 Challenge Grant to Support Historic Odessa Foundation Secondary School Education Programming**

ODESSA, Del. – August, 27, 2009 -- Phase two development of the Historic Odessa Foundation's Secondary School Education Programming will get a much needed boost from an anonymous donor who has presented the foundation with a challenge grant to raise \$10,000 by the end of the year.

The nonprofit Historic Odessa Foundation (HOF), which owns and operates the Historic Houses of Odessa, is expanding its Living History Education programming to include workshops and programs for middle and high school students. The foundation has successfully completed the first phase of its education programming for pre-school to fifth graders which is now in its fourth year and offers nine different interactive and hands-on workshops including 18<sup>th</sup> Century Cooking, the Apprenticeship System, 18<sup>th</sup> Century School Days and most recently *Freedom Seekers: The Odessa Story*, part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, that gives students a look into the life of a fugitive slave traveling under the cover of darkness with limited supplies at a historic stop on the Underground Railroad.

“Our mission is to preserve and encourage the use of our historic buildings by the general public, students and scholars,” says Debbie Buckson, executive director of the Historic Odessa Foundation. “This challenge grant to help educate students and broaden the interpretive mission on the role Odessa played in Delaware and America’s colonial past gives me so much hope for the future of our mission in preserving our history and passing it on to the next generation.”

The Historic Odessa Foundation is calling on supporters to help meet the \$10,000 Challenge Grant by the end of the year. Any donation is welcome and can be made by visiting [www.historicodessa.org](http://www.historicodessa.org) or calling Jennifer Cabell at 302-378-4119.

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The Historic Houses of Odessa is an enclave of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century structures located in the town of Odessa, Del. on the Appoquinimink River. The historic buildings along with a well-documented collection of more than 4000 objects and furnishings are owned and operated by the nonprofit Historic Odessa Foundation, and offer a unique picture of Delaware’s colonial period in a rural village that played a vital part in America’s commercial history. For information on the Historic Houses of Odessa, public tours of the properties, and the foundation’s Living History Education program, call 302-378-4119, or visit [www.historicodessa.org](http://www.historicodessa.org).