



BLACKSTONE VALLEY

TOURISM COUNCIL

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the **Blackstone Valley Tourism Council** is more important than ever. When life returns to normal, there will be an even greater need for our services.

The Tourism Council, which is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), **needs your assistance to ensure the agency can continue the critical work we do** to help: small businesses such as restaurants and historical and cultural attractions with the marketing necessary to bring patrons through the doors; teachers that want to employ our riverboat floating classroom to educate students about the environment; and stakeholders that want to partner with the Council's Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful program to maintain and improve the communities in which we live, work and play.

Since its founding 35 years ago, the Tourism Council has:

- Led efforts to raise \$15 million to complete the Blackstone Valley Bikeway.
- Conceptualized and operated many successful cultural events and recreational attractions such as the Rhode Island Dragon Boat Races and Taiwan Day Festival and the Polar Express train ride, which have attracted thousands of people to our state.
- Launched the Blackstone Valley Explorer educational vessel, which has carried more than 400,000 passengers on tours of the Blackstone River since 1993.
- Operated the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center in Pawtucket and managed visitor services at the Blackstone River State Park Visitor Center in Lincoln.
- Gained access to the Blackstone River in Pawtucket, Cumberland, Central Falls and Woonsocket, which has increased recreational use of the waterway.
- Built the Chocolate Mill Overlook Park in Central Falls.
- Won the Ulysses Prize from the United Nations World Tourism Council and the Destination for Tomorrow Award from the World Travel and Tourism Council for sustainable tourism initiatives.
- Conducted sustainable tourism laboratories that helped civic and business leaders implement sustainable tourism measures that preserved, renewed and improved structural and natural assets throughout the Blackstone Valley.



We know you are being asked a lot these days to help various organizations, but we really need your support to continue to do the boots on the ground work necessary to **keep the Blackstone Valley beautiful and vibrant for residents and visitors**. Please consider becoming a Tourism Council supporter at one of the following levels:

Diamond Hill Society -- \$15,000 and above

Slater Society -- \$10,000 to \$14,999

Blackstone Society -- \$5,000 to \$9,999

Carousel Circle -- \$1,000 to \$4,999

Friends of the Valley -- \$100 to \$999

Friends of the Tourism Council -- \$25 to \$99

Supporters will be recognized on the Tourism Council website and banners that will be displayed at events; and in the Council's annual report. Also, there are opportunities to have banner ads on our website and ads on our Facebook page.

If you are interested in becoming a supporter of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, please complete the attached form.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Billington,
President and Chief Executive Officer