

**Dianne and Peter Antos ~
Seeding Their Community for the Future**

“I fell in love with the museum,” says Dianne Antos about Stanley-Whitman House. “I love to garden and when a local master gardener was doing her certification there, I pitched in. It was a labor of love and 100 percent authentic to the period with herbals and medicinals.”

Dianne’s role as a founding member of the “Dooryard Garden Society” led her to attend programs with her husband, Peter, a retired investment professional. Both thoroughly enjoy the live enactments of periods in Farmington history, where residents of the time—shopkeepers, preachers, and others—are brought to life in day-in-their-life stories.

Dianne and Peter often contribute, and at times in unusual and thoughtful ways. They donated to the 2009 roof restoration campaign, paid to have their landscaper do work on the museum’s grounds, and help fund needed projects, such as new tables.

One such unusual contribution was given in January when the couple threw themselves a sixty-fifth birthday party at the house and museum and donated their “gifts.” They shared with the 50 friends and relatives who attended what they love about the place, hosted a special celebration and arranged tours for guests. Both the children and several adults enjoyed dressing up in period costumes made available by the museum, and this helped set the party’s tone. Best of all, according to the birthday couple, the event built awareness about this unique venue and raised \$1,060 for the museum.

“They are very special,” says executive director, Lisa Johnson. “They observe and contribute where and when they see a need, and put their intelligence, as well as their hearts, into their gifts.”

Putting their hearts, minds and financial commitment into the SWH is something Dianne and Peter feel strongly about.

“This museum belongs to the community,” she says. “It has a value to Farmington and to Connecticut in what it represents to the history of the state.”