



What is the Harvest Feast project?

The Harvest Feast project is comprised of two parts. The first is an actual feast, to be held on the brick street in downtown Baroda in September 2011. This dinner will celebrate the area's great bounty (food and wine) and be prepared by local chefs for approximately 100 diners.

The second part is a 30-minute documentary-style video to capture the legacy and specialness of Baroda and the surrounding area. This area has a rich history as an agricultural center going back to the 19th century. Locally grown and consumed foods and wine – known as the “farm-to-table” movement – is currently a growing force in the US and around the world and the documentary will highlight the area's contributions to this effort. The video will be shown at the feast, with the feast event filmed as the video's final chapter.

Why is it being done?

This is a unique opportunity to showcase the Baroda area. In fact, by 2015 we hope Baroda is known as the center of Southwest Michigan's outstandingly rich agriculture and wine industries. In short, the project is being done to celebrate the area's rich agricultural legacy and to invite others to experience it by visiting and sampling. It's time to tell our story!

What are the benefits of the project?

The project will be of value to people who are long-time residents, newcomers and people who may choose to visit the area. It is an educational project as well as one focused on encouraging tourism and agri-business. The project will:

- Create an experience (feast) and artifact (video) that showcase the community's accomplishments and challenges.
- Surface issues, ideas and conversations among community members to further promote the area, identify appropriate growth opportunities and maintain the integrity of the area's legacy.

What are opportunities to be involved? (Funding and Volunteer Support)

The project has gained the support of the Village of Baroda and Baroda Township in the form of resolutions from the respective governing bodies. Additionally, the steering committee welcomes more help! We need volunteers to:

- Help plan and promote the project; e.g. distributing brochures, posters, etc.
- Make the dinner happen by helping set up, serve and tear down the site.

Financially we will be seeking support from:

- The community itself beginning at the 2010 Barodafest.
- Agricultural, food and wine related businesses, trade and professional associations
- Tourism boards
- In-kind support (e.g. media, chefs, printers, sign makers, etc.)

How do I get more information or volunteer?

For more information, call the Baroda Village office at 269.422.1779 or email harvestfeast2011@gmail.com to contact the project's steering committee.