

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Hancock Shaker Village announces  
Agricultural Infrastructure Improvements**

Pittsfield, MA—Today, Hancock Shaker Village President Linda Steigleder announced that SABIC's Innovative Plastics business has selected the Village as the recipient of its annual Community Volunteer project. SABIC selects the project based on their charitable giving guidelines, which focus on enhancing science, technology, engineering and math programs in the community. The project provides the winning organization with project management expertise, volunteer labor, and funding support. Hancock Shaker Village proposed an agricultural project focused on building high tunnel greenhouses and creating a learning laboratory for school and community programs. SABIC's monetary donation of \$17,500, along with a donation of its LEXAN™ polycarbonate sheet, and over 600 hours of volunteer services, made it possible for the living history museum to perform the agricultural infrastructure improvements.

In addition, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded two grants totaling approximately \$50,000 to the Village for an additional greenhouse and for a compost pad, which will begin operation in early spring 2013. Each greenhouse measures 30 feet wide by 72 feet long, and the compost pad will measure 60 feet wide by 120 feet long. The three structures will compose a learning laboratory to teach students and visitors about smart and healthy farming practices.

High tunnels, or hoopouses, are unheated greenhouses that can help farmers extend their growing season, which will benefit the Village's community supported agriculture (CSA) shareholders. A compost pad is a cleared surface where the process of composting takes place, and where raw and finished materials are stored. The pads allow compost to "cure"

while staying out of the ground water. The Village will turn waste from its livestock into compost for its farm and, eventually, offer excess for sale to community members.

“The benefits of the high tunnel greenhouses and compost pad are enormous for our agricultural production and for the educational programming and partnerships we pursue with external audiences,” said Steigleder. “Daily visitors and school groups will be able to see the lessons of Shaker farming being implemented in today’s modern agricultural practices at the Village. The tunnels will showcase more fully the agricultural cycle and business practices, e.g. using the seeds saved from previous seasons in starting a new garden, thus keeping within Shaker tradition.”

“We have been touched by the personal commitment and financial investment SABIC has made to our facility over the course of the last several months. They have worked closely with our staff to design and install this important new resource,” Steigleder added.

SABIC’S Innovative Plastics business is a leading, global supplier of engineering thermoplastics with operations in more than 35 countries and approximately 9,000 employees worldwide. The company’s global headquarters is based in Pittsfield, Mass.

Hancock Shaker Village, the Shakers’ “City of Peace” and a 750-acre, 20 building National Historic Landmark, welcomes approximately 70,000 visitors a year who tour the intact village with historic structures, artifacts, farm setting, and gardens. The visitor experience for adults and children explores the Shaker story. Here tenants of principled living are brought to life, as embodied in the faith-based values of the Shakers – equality, community, sustainability, and responsible land stewardship of their resources—values that resonate today. The Village is located on Route 20 in Pittsfield, MA, just west of the junction of Routes 20 and 41. For more information, see [www.hancockshakervillage.org](http://www.hancockshakervillage.org).