The year 2009 began rather bleakly for the Bridge of Flowers. In 2008, we had the lowest income from donation boxes in ten years, a drop in the number of visitors, and repeated incidents of theft; it was a risky time to launch an annual giving program. Our first action in 2009 was to make a direct cut to the flower budget. The year might have been a bad year for the Bridge of Flowers. Instead, it was spectacular.

Strong support from our first ever Friends of the Bridge fundamentally changed our financial situation, and by the middle of the season, we were able to restore funds to our flower budget. In short, your generous gifts made this a remarkable year. Here are some of the highlights:

- 34,146 people from every state and 91 countries/islands signed our guest books. This is the largest number of visitors recorded in recent history, and it is a 62% increase over last year.
- The launch of a website, whose flavor and soundtrack are homegrown, marks a first-time venture for the Bridge of Flowers online. The site, bridgeofflowersmass.org, has improved our ability to communicate information about the Bridge of Flowers to people all over the world who want to know more.
- A newly re-designed, four-color rack card now represents the Bridge of Flowers, thanks to our three local banks.
- The new Bridge of Flowers sign and the new Buckland “kiosk” are getting rave reviews. Resulting improvements from the kiosk include universal access, a greater display area for bridge information, the presence of the SFABA town map on the bridge for the first time, and greater donation box security. On the Shelburne side, the new sign has made a noticeable difference in people’s ability to find the bridge. It is lovely in part because it stands out and blends in. These multi-year renovation projects culminated in the work you see this year. They were made possible by the generous gifts of an anonymous donor couple and the talents and time of local designers, builders and artists.
- The bridge path was resurfaced. Carting and raking in 15 yards of pea stone was a lot of work for our volunteers and businesses that helped.
- On a spectacularly sunny summer day, the Bridge of Flowers turned 80 in style. As Last Night’s Fun played some pretty fun music, people took time to visit and mingle, including several tri-generational groups who used the celebration as an opportunity to get together.
- We often tell people who call that there is no real peak bloom on the Bridge of Flowers – it always looks amazing and there is always something new to see. What is remarkable is that this is true. The garden really does look amazing from the day it opens until closing. It seemed particularly lovely this year. Carol DeLorenzo and Tish Murphy, the bridge gardeners, have exceptionally good taste in plants and their placement, and they also have a unique capacity for detail in the work of gardening. The many volunteers who work on the bridge every week know well that it is this detailed work of gardening – the deadheading,
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**GARDENER'S CIRCLE ($250 and over)**

- Austin Design
- The Bank of Western Massachusetts
- Don & Lois Bascom
- Big Y
- Carl's Four Season
- Coldwell Banker Upton-Massamont Realtors
- D.E. Wheeler Trucking LLC
- Foxbard Farm
- Franklin County Technical School
- J.F. George Sr., CPA, CFP
- Greenfield Co-operative Bank
- Greenfield Savings Bank
- Heilman Building
- Home Design, GLM, LLC
- LaPierre's Advertising
- Judith & Robert Lawler
- Peter & Marion London
- Mole Hollow Candles, Ltd.
- John W. Richardson, Attorney at Law
- Rising Sun Forge
- Susan Sharin
- Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club
- Vreeland Design Associates
- Ward Plumbing and Heating

**SILVER TROWEL ($100-$249)**

- Eleanor Baker
- Cynthia & Jeff Boettner
- Peter & Joyce Buell
- Clark's Corvair Parts
- Country Oil
- Eddie's Wheels For Pets
- Susan Garfield-Wright
- Graves Concrete
- Joan Greenfield
- Hope & Olive
- J.W. Wagner Trucking
- Lorraine & Hale Johnson
- Margaret Jones
- Kathleen and Kenneth Kippenberger
- Bill & Lynda Leitner
- Karen O. Moore
- Peter & Eva Otten
- Doris Perry
- Julie Petty & Dave Reading
- Browyn & Hugh Schoelzel
- Stump Sprouts
- Gordon & Marion Taylor
- James Taylor Family
- Wash 'N Wire & My House B&B
- Clifford & Carol Washer
Donald & Elizabeth Ahern  
AJ Day Care  
Nancy Angeris  
Nan Archer  
Ashfield Hardware  
Kimberly Crivellone Barr  
Amy & Craig Barry  
Jacqueline & Norman Beebe  
Janet Binder  
Buckland Pizza House  
Country Scape Landscape  
Country Aire Campground  
Countrypie Pizza LLC

Sharon Glazer  
Nancy Goodnow Hazen  
Joyce Goodwin  
Donald & Penny Graves  
Edith Greenlees  
Carolyn Halloran  
Judy Ann Harlow  
George & Carole Hartling  
W.R. Hillman & Sons  
Basil & Barbara Hoffman  
Bette J. Johnson  
Sally Judd  
Pam Kelleher  
Liz Kidder  
Lucinda & David Lagasse  
Nancy Katz & Mark Liebowitz  
Carol Lofstedt  
Lucille LoMascolo  
Viola Lyons  
Mildred March  
Mary Lyon House  
Nathalie McCormick  
McCusker Realty Trust  
Ted McIntosh  
Madeline McKinnon  
Geraldine Mead  
Memorial Hall Association Inc.  
Lisa Merrill  
L. Alex Merritt  
Edward & Dorothy Miller  
Molly Cantor Pottery  
Michael Naldrett  
Nancy L. Dole Books & Ephemera  
Sarah Neelon  
Nutra Brands, Inc.  
Ollie’s Down Under  
Pamela Parker  
Elaine & Dick Parmett  
John Peavey  
Deborah Phillips  
Maureen & John Pollard  
Elizabeth Radysh  
Pamela M. Roberts  
Mary Robertson  
Joan Rockwell  
Nancy Ryan  

Susan Shearer  
Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op  
Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters  
Steven Shulda  
Karen Shulda  
Bob & Silvia Smith  
Stillwater Porcelain  
Hazel Streeter  
Strongwater Family  
James M. Sullivan  
Bill Sweeney  
Debra Tauber-O’Reilly  
Carolyn Taylor  
Irene, Josephe & Cynthia Tomasini  
Don & Kathleen Upton  
ValleyLists.com

Visionary Healing Arts Sanctuary & Gallery  
Walker-West Family  
Kathy Wall  
Wandering Moon  
Richard Warner, MD  
Josh & Johanna Weinstein  
Robert & Janet Weissman  
Gina & Larry Wells  
Welsh & Associates Accountants  
West End Pub & Café Martin

Deborah Woodsome  
Zoar Outdoor, Inc.