

Derby Breakfast

Now in its 29th year, the Annual Derby Breakfast, which benefits Louisville's Historic Homes Foundation, has become the premier event to attend before heading to the track on Derby Day. Always steeped in elegance, history and true southern cuisine, this year's event promises to be extra special. It's the 50th anniversary of the Foundation, and six time event co-chairs Hollace Starks and Susan Maloney have worked together with designers Rick Jenkins and Virgil Vaughn to create a unique atmosphere that will celebrate the work and purpose of the Historic Homes Foundation, as well as the Kentucky Derby itself.

The Historic Homes Foundation is dedicated to preserving three important landmarks of Kentucky history – Whitehall, Farmington and The Thomas Edison House. Each of these historic homes represents a unique aspect of Kentucky's cultural heritage and they require substantial support to keep them open to the public. The Annual Derby Breakfast is the major fundraiser for the Historic Homes Foundation, and is essential to the upkeep and management of these treasures. The event has grown over the years, thanks in part to the involvement of *Southern Accents* magazine, which works with a host of sponsors to make the silent auction exceptional. Also essential to the success of the event are the continued efforts of the many volunteers and donors who offer their assistance.

Held at historic Farmington, which is just a short drive from Churchill Downs, the event begins at 9:30 am on Derby Day. Guests will enjoy a sumptuous, southern buffet-style breakfast, graciously provided by the Kroger Catering and Banquet Hall. In addition, an open bar will be on hand, provided by Absolut Vodka and featuring specialty drinks as well as traditional options. Upon arrival, guests first make their way through the celebrated home, which gives them a chance to see how Kentucky gentry lived in days gone by. Upon exiting the home and entering the gardens to the rear, attendees will be immersed in festivities – from the dulcimer musical entertainment, to the

brightly attired guests in their Derby finest, the day is sure to be one that will be remembered. As always, the Derby princesses will be in attendance, and the Derby trophy will be on display for guests to view before it makes its way to the track.

This year, the theme will highlight 50 years of Derby, with black and white photographs of Derby moments from years past dotting the party for the guest's perusal. In addition, centerpieces on the tables will showcase fine millinery – paying homage to the Derby tradition of colorful and chic ladies' hats in a brilliant way. Colonial Designs in Louisville donates the materials and implements the floral decorations each year and always does a breathtaking job of accenting the chosen theme of the party. A perfect choice for entertaining Derby morning, corporate tents are available in addition to individual tickets.

According to David Kern, the Executive Director of the Historic Homes Foundation, this event is truly essential to the continued operation of the homes it supports. He points out that, in recent years, it has been increasingly difficult to garner support for causes such as theirs, due in part to national catastrophes like hurricane Katrina. Of course, he acknowledges that this trend is quite understandable – even necessary – but it only underscores the need for fundraisers

like the Annual Derby Breakfast. Not just homes open for tour, there are also many educational and cultural programs offered by each home throughout the year that are instrumental to the continued celebration of Kentucky's unique legacy. As Kern so aptly stated, "We owe it to our founders to continue to support these homes, and community support is crucial in allowing us to showcase these exceptional pieces of our heritage."

For more information about the Historic Homes Foundation or the Annual Derby Breakfast, please call 502-899-5079. 



Top: Historic Farmington provides the ideal setting for the Historic Homes Foundation's Annual Derby Breakfast celebration. Above: Guests enjoy true southern-style cuisine that is laid out in a gorgeous spread under the protective canopy of one of the many tents that are raised just for the festivities on Derby morning. Photos by Tim Conaway.