

Hope Taft, as First Lady of Ohio, 1999-2007, transformed the Governor's Residence into a Living Museum to preserve the property's rich heritage and created a showcase of artistic, industrial, political, geological and horticultural histories of Ohio for educational purposes. This project included the Ohio Heritage Garden, Ohio's botanical garden of native plants, designed to replicate the major ecosystems of the state. She still oversees the garden's development and maintenance as chair of the Heritage Garden Committee of the Friends of the Ohio Governor's Residence and Heritage Garden, a non-partisan, non-profit organization and organizes over 100 volunteers to help maintain it on a yearly basis.

She is an honorary Master Gardener and an Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist. She is a trained instructor for the Landscape for Life program developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center, the US Botanical Garden, and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

She joined neighbors to form Little Miami River Kleeners and the Little Miami Watershed Network to help preserve and protect the Little Miami River. A former board member of the Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, she is a member of the Garden Club of Dayton.

Hope married Bob Taft in 1967. They live in the Dayton Ohio area. The Taft's have one daughter, Anna who started the Tandana Foundation in 2006 and recruited her mother to be president of the board. The Tandana Foundation weaves friendships and empowers communities in Ecuador and Mali, West Africa, through scholarships and volunteer vacations focused on health care, gardening and community infrastructure.

