

Helping Big Hearts Make a Big Impact

DCF Donors Make a Difference in Delaware and Around the Country



"It's the community that helps you succeed, and the DCF is a key player in that community."

John Reynolds, Friends of Native Roots Farm Fund



ON THE COVER

Courtney Streett and John Reynolds are dedicated to celebrating Native American cultures, cultivating a public garden, and putting sustainable agriculture into practice. Friends of the Native Roots Farm Foundation Fund directly supports their efforts. Read more on pp. 19-20.

PARTNERSHIPS BUILD OPPORTUNITIES.

By partnering with generous people like you, the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) actively supports donors' unique charitable interests in Delaware and around the country. This report shares some of our donors' inspiring stories and the impact they're making in their communities.

The DCF's philanthropic expertise creates diverse opportunities for giving and investing in the causes and organizations you care about most – whether it's by supporting our work through the annual DCF Leadership Campaign or opening your own charitable fund.

We help generous people build opportunities by creating tailored charitable plans to achieve their unique philanthropic goals and realize their power to make lasting change. In addition to making a positive impact on the lives of others, charitable giving empowers you to establish your legacy, teach subsequent generations about philanthropy, and maximize tax benefits.

The DCF leverages philanthropic financial tools, fosters long-term relationships, and shares community knowledge to help big hearts make a big impact every day.

As you enjoy these stories about the power of philanthropy, consider how you can make a difference, too. Contact the DCF to learn more about charitable giving options and discover what can be achieved, together.

STUART COMSTOCK-GAY

President & CEO

Delaware Community Foundation

Thomas A. and Mary Jo Russo Scholarship

Endowed Scholarship Fund, est. 2020



HISTORY

Tom attributes his interest in the history of business machines to his 17-year-career with Remington Rand. Around 1975, he became very engaged in the National Office Machine Dealers Association (NOMDA) – now the Business Technology Association (BTA) – and served as its president from 1985 to 1986.

In 1998, Tom began collecting these machines – typewriters, computers, telegraphs, telephones, and the like – as well as the manuals, manufacturing documents, and photographs to accompany them.



This personal collection grew large enough to display in the periphery of his three-story office building in Wilmington. In 2000, it was so substantial that Tom and Mary Jo officially registered the building as the Museum of Business History and Technology.

The collection of approximately 3,000 pieces and 60,000 documents was nothing short of encyclopedic and gained international attention. The museum traced the evolution of business technologies and lived up to its reputation as a place of exceptional interest.

ABOUT THE FUND

In 2020, Delaware businessman Thomas A. Russo Sr. and his wife Mary Jo sold their vast collection of antique business machines, intending to use the proceeds to provide scholarships that lessen the financial burden for college students pursuing careers in business. Starting a scholarship fund proved challenging, and the Russos needed reliable, top-to-bottom charitable fund management. A friend who understood their needs recommended the DCF.

“Joan told me everything the DCF would handle, and it was exactly what we were looking for. We can really trust and depend on their expertise.”

– Thomas A. Russo Sr.

The Russos transferred their funds to an endowment with the DCF. The fund provides a \$5,000 scholarship each year and is designed to fund all four years of a student’s education. The DCF even handles recipient selection, allowing Tom and Mary Jo to remain hands-off as they desire.

The Thomas A. and Mary Jo Russo Scholarship not only capstones the Russos’ life’s work, it extends their philanthropic impact and passes down charitable values to their children and grandchildren. Their daughter will eventually take over advising the scholarship fund. With the DCF’s guidance, the Russos hope to make more scholarships available in the years to come.



“Just knowing they can go to college and have their financial worries lessened, that’s all we care about – and the DCF makes it easy for us to make that possible.”

– Mary Jo Russo

Heart to Heart Fund

Endowed Legacy Field of Interest Fund, est. 2021

Photos by: Richard Holloway



HISTORY

Heart to Heart Fund's donor studied folklore and folklife in graduate school to work with people who maintain performance and art traditions that aren't represented on mainstages or the radio. "Folk is 90 percent of the art and music in the world, and it exists within different ethnic groups or smaller groups of identification," he explained. A seasonal job he held at the Delmarva Folklife Festival evolved into his dissertation and, later, a book.

Thanks to smart philanthropic planning through the DCF, this donor will contribute to the preservation of Singing and Praying traditions in perpetuity, keeping them alive for generations to come.



The anonymous donor was referred to the DCF by his friend Anthony Johnson (pictured far left), a professional advisor in Middletown, Del., who is also an active member of a Singing and Praying Band.

ABOUT THE FUND

An anonymous donor approached the DCF with a passion to preserve African-American traditions and culture along the Delmarva Peninsula. With the DCF's help, the donor opened the Heart to Heart Fund, a planned gift that will be funded at the end of the donor's life.

The fund will support African-American cultural, economic and educational empowerment on the Delmarva Peninsula, including Singing and Praying Bands, which practice a form of religious worship predating gospel, blues and jazz. Singing and Praying Bands maintain a ceremony called a ring shout.

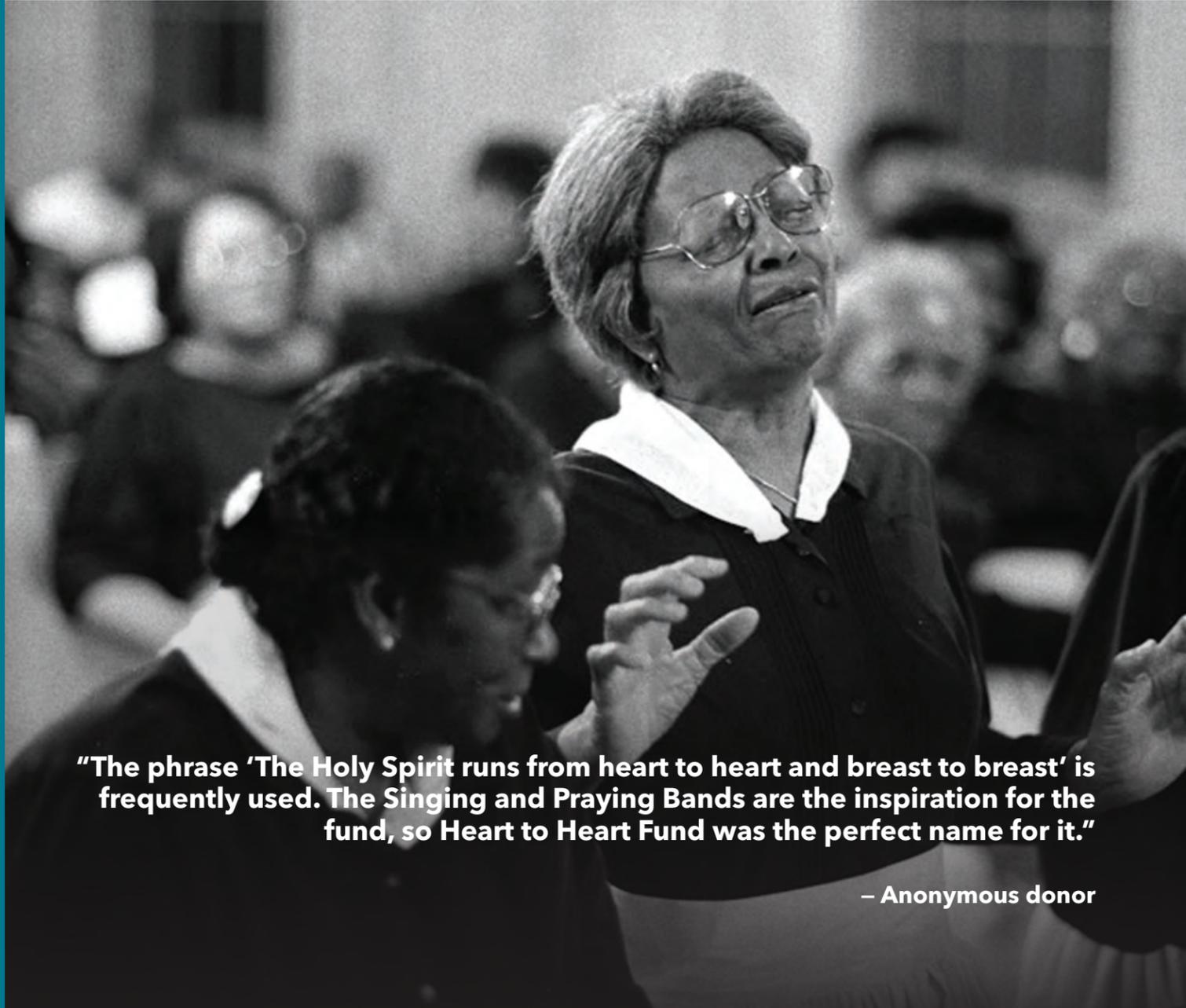
"The DCF is easy to work with and very cooperative. Although I'm by no means independently wealthy, this legacy fund makes it possible to benefit a wider community. I leave it up to the DCF's professionalism to get word out to various agencies that need funds for projects."

– Anonymous donor

Partnership with the DCF made it possible for this donor to make a lasting philanthropic impact in perpetuity while also maintaining his anonymity. He emphasizes that remaining anonymous ensures the focus is on the cause he's supporting, rather than on his support of it.

"The phrase 'The Holy Spirit runs from heart to heart and breast to breast' is frequently used. The Singing and Praying Bands are the inspiration for the fund, so Heart to Heart Fund was the perfect name for it."

– Anonymous donor



Roy Klein Education Fund

Endowed Field of Interest Fund, est. 2006



HISTORY

When Roy passed away, Ed and other friends met to discuss ways to commemorate his life and continue his mission. They ultimately decided to open a fund at the DCF to support causes Roy cared about.

Today, the fund awards grants to a number of organizations that positively impact Kent County, including Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing, which provides men with shelter, help finding employment and other resources.

ABOUT THE FUND

Leroy "Roy" Klein was an educator and civic leader in Kent County, Del., who devoted himself to many worthy causes, including but not limited to the Capital City Rotary Club, the Wellness Community, Delaware Guidance Services, Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware, and the Air Mobility Command Museum.

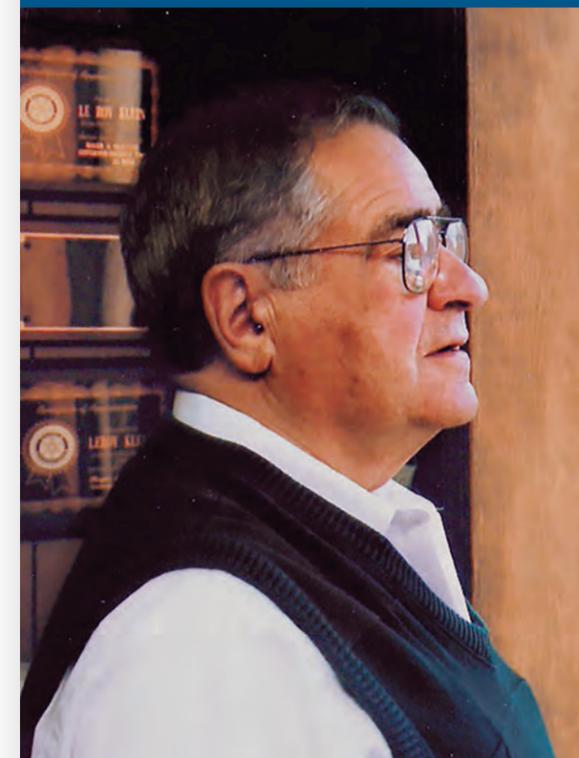
Roy's wife, Marion, and friend Ed Wilchinski opened the Roy Klein Education Fund in Roy's memory to continue his life's legacy through charitable contributions. The fund primarily supports agencies and organizations in Kent County that provide education and training opportunities, such as adult education, entrepreneurship and junior achievement programs.

"Establishing a fund is a truly wonderful way to remember the special people in our lives. You're creating a situation where others are touched by the memory of that person, long after they're gone."

– Ed Wilchinski

Since it was founded, the Roy Klein Education Fund has made 60 grants totaling \$116,000 in scholarships to the Entrepreneurship Program at Delaware Technical & Community College, Terry Campus and the practical nursing program at Polytech Adult Education, as well as contributions to the Delaware AeroSpace Education Foundation, the Dover Library Foundation, and more.

The fund awards grants to nonprofit organizations that help many individuals pursue an education. Ed fondly recalled a single mom who was supported by a grantee organization providing childcare so that she could complete her education.



"The DCF takes the hassle out of philanthropic giving, leaving the 'fun part' for the donor. They simplified everything. So, we made an initial contribution of \$10,000 and have been affiliated with the DCF ever since."

– Ed Wilchinski

Janosik Family Charitable Foundation Fund

Donor Advised Fund, est. 2002



HISTORY

If "compassion and charitable generosity are the true marks of success," as Lori described, then her father was certainly successful. To launch the Janosik Family Charitable Foundation Fund back in 2000, Johnny teamed up with John Hollis, then a DCF employee. John fondly recalled what Johnny said when he was starting his fund with the DCF:

"If you want an hour of happiness, take a nap. If you want a week of happiness, take a vacation. If you want a lifetime of happiness, help someone else."

— Johnny Janosik

In addition to the family fund, Johnny Janosik also established the Janosik Scholarship Fund at the DCF in 2005. Every year, the scholarship fund provides \$1,000 scholarships to students graduating from an Eastern Shore high school. For the 2021-2022 school year, the fund awarded scholarships to seven deserving students.

"I would absolutely recommend the DCF as the partner for charitable giving. It's so nice to give back. Because they're helping you, you're able to give funds to more people and make a bigger impact"

— Lori Janosik Morrison

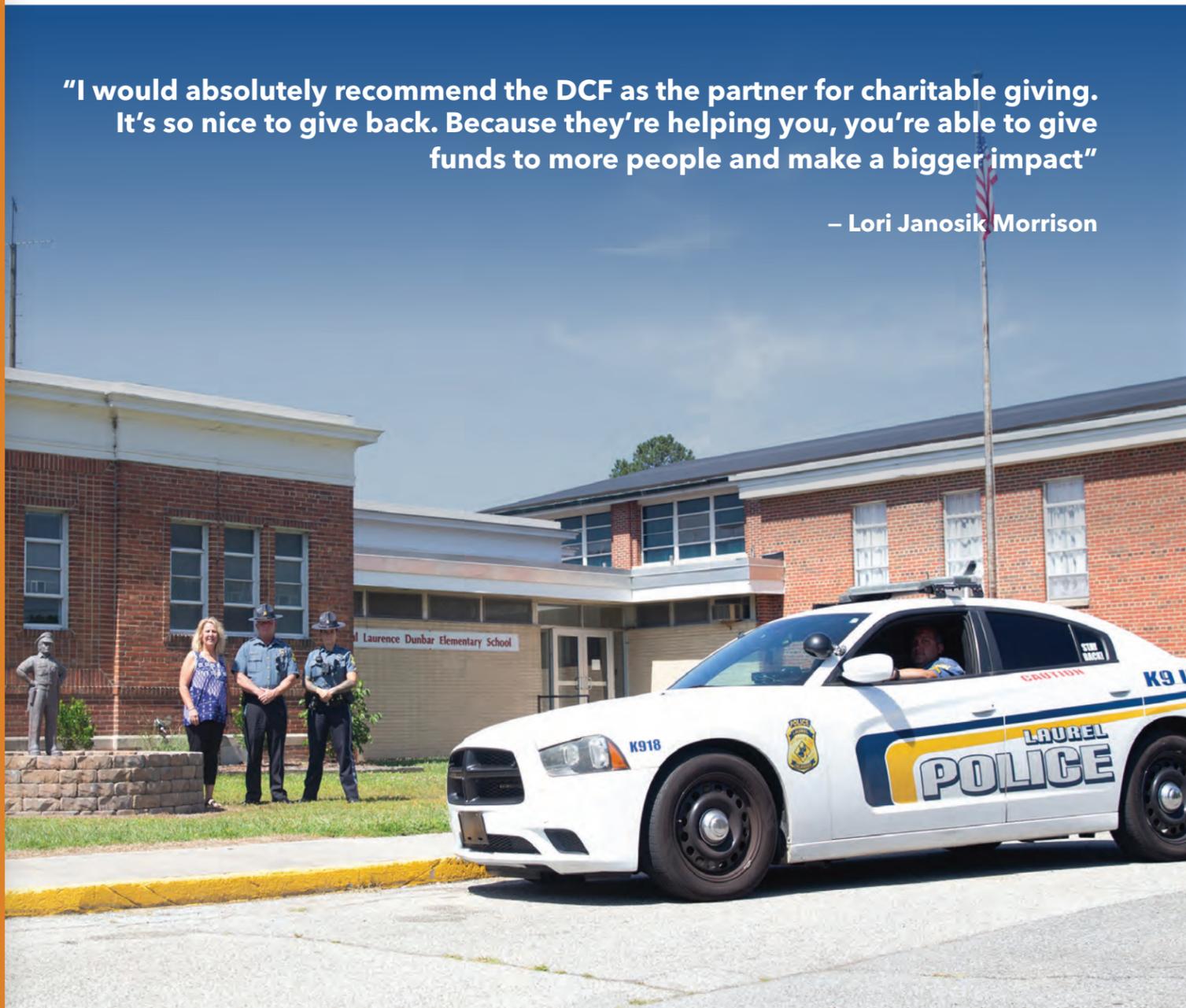
ABOUT THE FUND

Johnny Janosik was very active in the Delaware community, and his daughter Lori does her best to carry out her philanthropic work according to her father's value system. The impact of the Janosik Family Charitable Foundation Funds reverberates across many fields of interest, and the family is proud of the fund's positive effect throughout the community. It provides continued support for six local fire companies, funded the refurbishment of an old school into the new Laurel Police Department, started the Laurel Redevelopment Corporation, helped build the Hope House in Laurel, Del., and contributed \$100,000 for the purchase of a robotic surgical arm that performs heart procedures at a hospital in Salisbury, Md.

"My father raised me to be a giver, not a taker. And the DCF has made it so easy to give. I have a question, and the DCF is ready with an answer. They're kind, understand what my goals are, and it's an incredible treat to work with people who are down to earth and have fun with you."

— Lori Janosik Morrison

Being givers is a huge part of who the Janosiks are, and they have the saying, "If you have the funds, you should help someone else." Causes that are near and dear to Lori's heart include supporting veterans, Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware, and the special needs facilities Benedictine School and Dove Pointe.



Charles and Patricia Robertson Charitable Fund

Donor Advised Fund, est. 2008

“Charles and Pat have been generously donating to our organization since the early 90s. Their support has helped advance our work in conservation, education and advocacy. It’s provided funding for our Youth Education Scholarships, ensuring all children have access to our hands-on environmental education programs. They’re true philanthropists; their giving is all about the impact, and of course the people!”

– Joanne McGeoch, Delaware Nature Society

ABOUT THE FUND

When Dr. Charles W. Robertson, Jr., a retired physicist from DuPont Laboratories, sold his company NanoDrop Technologies Inc. in 2007, he and his wife, Dr. Patricia Orris Robertson, used a portion of the profits to open the Charles and Patricia Robertson Charitable Fund with the DCF. From a practical standpoint, a fund with the DCF is tax advantageous; from a philanthropic standpoint, it’s a chance to do more good for more people.

The Robertsons have been giving back for decades. What started as a project to include native plants in Patricia’s landscaping turned into an enduring partnership of activism and philanthropic support for the Delaware Nature Society. Joanne McGeoch, interim executive director of the Delaware Nature Society, speaks highly of contributions to the organization’s programs and initiatives.

“The DCF is a wonderful partner in connecting people that are philanthropically minded to important causes that matter. Their work with donor advised funds, capital grants and engaging the next generation of youth in philanthropy has made a tangible impact on hundreds of nonprofits in Delaware, including ours.”

– Joanne McGeoch, Delaware Nature Society

The Robertsons focus their philanthropic efforts on education, especially as it pertains to environmental preservation and advancement. They are actively involved in many of the organizations they support financially, including Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Faithful Friends, and Habitat for Humanity.

HISTORY

Charles earned his graduate degree in Physics from Florida State University, and Patricia graduated from Millersville University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. In addition to the local environmental causes they support, Charles and Patricia set an example for students of the future to not only to pursue opportunities through education, but to use their gifts and talents to give back and do good. They give generously to their respective alma maters and to local schools and universities looking to enhance their STEM education programs.

“The DCF is really great at facilitating contributions from the fund quickly, and it’s nice being able to get the funds to charities that need it on fairly short notice.”

– Dr. Charles Robertson



Keisha M. Michael Memorial Scholarship

Scholarship Fund, est. 1996



HISTORY

Dianne and Charles are both graduates of HBCUs, but Keisha's education was cut short.

"Though Keisha was young, she did a lot in her 20 years," Dianne recalled. "The fund's support of African-American students pursuing higher education honors Keisha's ambitious and generous spirit."

– Dianne Michael

Keisha was an usher and youth group member at the old A Street Baptist Church, played sports, sang in choir, and spoke at her high school graduation. Even after being diagnosed with osteogenic sarcoma, Keisha attended North Carolina Central University (an HBCU), where she founded an activist group to improve accessibility for students with physical disabilities.

ABOUT THE FUND

Firm believers in commemoration, Dianne and Charles Michael agreed the Keisha M. Michael Memorial Scholarship was the perfect way to honor their daughter Keisha's memory. They became the first African-American scholarship fundholders with the DCF.

This scholarship fund provides tuition assistance for first-year African-American students in New Castle County, Del., to attend historically black colleges or universities (HBCUs). The fund awards students who aim to use their continued education to make an impact in their communities, and applicants are required to submit a personal essay that demonstrates how receiving that education will prepare and empower them to do so.

"We read every essay at our dining room table, make our recommendations for the winners, and send them to the DCF. They've been a great partner."

– Dianne Michael

The Michaels have set a minimum of \$1,000 per scholarship, and – at 26 scholarships and counting – the fund has helped cover tuition costs for students who have attended Delaware State University as well as Morgan State, Howard, and Tuskegee University, to name a few.



"We are driven by the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students who dream of completing their education."

– Dianne Michael

Sonia Schorr Sloan Memorial Fund

Endowed Donor Advised Fund, est. 2019



HISTORY

Jonathan described Sonia as “a force of nature.”

With ancestors who walked with the suffragettes, as well as a father who participated in the state legislature and acted as chair of the Board of Elections, Sonia’s political heritage spans generations. Years of experience gave Sonia the knowledge and wisdom to cultivate productive and rewarding relationships with local and national politicians, including former Governor Jack Markell and President Joe Biden.

“The DCF has perspective on the needs in our community and can help the Sloans continue to drive change, just like Sonia did during her lifetime.”

– Jack Markell

Markell recalled, “Sonia was on my side, but she was always carefully aware of what I was doing. I would walk away and say to myself, ‘What would Sonia do?’” Sonia played such a pivotal role in fundraising for Biden’s initial Senate run that he left his presidential campaign trail to speak at her funeral. His opening line: “I’m Joe Biden, and I work for Sonia Sloan.”

ABOUT THE FUND

Sonia Schorr Sloan embodied Delaware activism and philanthropy. In her lifetime, Sonia helped raise more than \$140 million for Delaware nonprofits. Her widower, Gilbert Sloan, and their two sons, Victor and Jonathan Sloan, established the Sonia Schorr Sloan Memorial Fund in her memory.

The DCF sets up memorial funds like the Sloans’ free of charge, enabling the community to donate and build the fund in their loved one’s honor. With the DCF’s help, the fund will perpetuate Sonia’s love for and service to Delaware, as well as the causes she championed throughout her life.

“We really set up this fund to continue the legacy of her commitment and involvement. The DCF allows us the flexibility to make contributions to a variety of interests over time.”

– Jonathan Sloan

The Sloans plan to support causes Sonia cherished most, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood, and the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. The DCF will partner with the Sloan family to provide insight into the state’s evolving needs and advise on effective ways to continue Sonia’s legacy of generosity.

The fund is also a vehicle for multigenerational giving and will pass down Sonia’s love of philanthropy to her grandchildren. Victor and Jonathan’s daughters will soon become more hands-on with the grant recommendation process.



Mildred H. and Ray A. Thompson Fund

Donor Advised Fund, est. 2000



HISTORY

Trudie, her mother Mildred, and her maternal grandmother were all born and raised in Delaware. According to Trudie, Mildred saw Delaware as "the beginning and end of everything." Trudie is the second generation of her family to advise the Mildred H. and Ray A. Thompson Fund, and she ensures it continues to support causes in her home state.

Trudie is very involved with the DCF's Youth Philanthropy Board (YPB) program, which gives high school students the opportunity to research organizations and help make grant recommendations.

"It's really important that these students have the opportunity to meet and discuss where to focus their time and attention and how to give back to the community by supporting the causes that matter most to them."

– Trudie Thompson

Trudie values this early exposure to philanthropic solutions and every year makes a personal contribution of \$7,500 to the grant funds YPBs have to distribute.

ABOUT THE FUND

Mildred H. and Ray A. Thompson were involved with the DCF "from the very, very beginning," according to their daughter, Trudie. Committed to helping the people of Delaware, they opened the Mildred H. and Ray A. Thompson Fund to strengthen their philanthropic efforts and supported causes like Sunday Breakfast Mission, Delaware Hospice, and the Delaware Art Museum's Red Apple Fund for Student Enrichment.

The Red Apple Fund provides scholarships for children to enroll in summer art camp and studio art classes. Trudie, the fund's current advisor, has fond memories of attending the classes offered by the Red Apple Fund, and she provides continued support to ensure the children of future generations have the same opportunities she did.

The fund has grown to support CAMP Rehoboth Community Center, Beebe Medical Foundation, Lewes Public Library, Paws for People, Girls on the Run, and Kind to Kids, to name a few. A longtime donor and supporter of the DCF, Trudie was also quick to contribute to its COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund.

"Early in the pandemic, the DCF stepped up immediately. The Strategic Response Fund provided money for immediate shelter for those experiencing homelessness, most of whom were families."

– Trudie Thompson

Trudie values her partnership with the DCF, as her parents did, and enjoys how easy and convenient the DCF makes charitable contributions. Every year, Trudie gives approximately \$5,000 to her favorite nonprofit organizations. She's arranged scheduled payments through the DCF, much like automatic payments for a credit card, so Trudie never has to worry about forgetting to send a donation.



Friends of Native Roots Farm Fund

Designated Fund, est. 2020



HISTORY

Courtney is Native American, and her great grandparents were members of Delaware's Nanticoke Indian community. Although it was exceptionally difficult for people of color to own land at the turn of the twentieth century, they purchased farmland in Milton, Del., made it their home, and cultivated the land. Since then, it's been passed down in the family.

In Courtney's youth, she visited the land now owned by her relatives and helped harvest blackberries, strawberries, and potatoes. It holds a special place in her heart. With Delaware farmland quickly disappearing, this family farm reinforces the cultural, agricultural, and historical importance of Delaware's farms and farmers. The motivation behind NRFF is not only to support the community and the environment, but to ensure these farms remain for future generations.

ABOUT THE FUND

Courtney Streett and her husband John Reynolds founded Native Roots Farm Foundation (NRFF), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating Native American cultures. NRFF is working to preserve open space, cultivate a public garden for native plants used in tribal communities, and implement Indigenous agricultural practices to feed the community and support the environment.

John's parents, Alister and Mary Reynolds, opened the Friends of the Native Roots Farm Fund with the DCF to support NRFF's mission. The fund will assist with operational costs, such as purchasing space and hiring employees, as well as additional programs the NRFF proposes.

"Handling these things can be intimidating and complicated, but the DCF helps us navigate that process."

– John Reynolds

Still in its startup stage, NRFF will benefit from the fund's support in purchasing farmland in Sussex County, Del. The fund will also contribute to developing NRFF's public garden and regenerative agricultural practices.



Image courtesy of Courtney Streett

Our Donors' Impact:

DCF Donors Drive Change Together

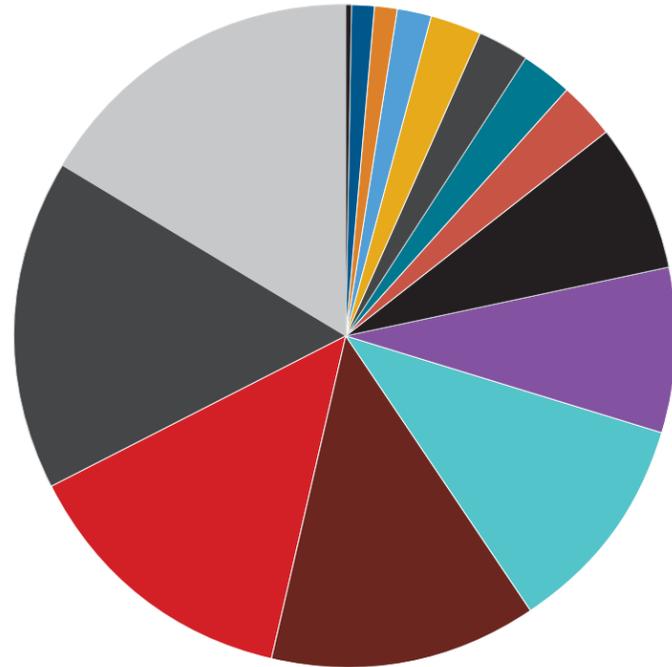
The DCF is proud to work with some of the biggest hearts in Delaware. Whether you wish to honor a loved one, create your own legacy, or make your philanthropic impact now, the DCF is proud to provide the expertise, resources and solutions that help generous people like you reach your charitable goals.

In the 2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021), donor advised funds with the DCF have awarded a total of \$3,960,893 in grant funds to

1,508 programs. These funds support the wide-ranging and evolving needs of the Delaware community and beyond.

Scholarship funds have provided \$465,160 this fiscal year in support of tuition and associated fees from preschool to postgraduate education, impacting the lives of 192 unique students. Some of these exceptional students received more than one scholarship.

Grants from All DCF Charitable Funds FY2021



- Animals - \$487,909
- Arts, Culture, Heritage, Humanities - \$2,683,648
- Basic Human Needs - \$1,636,903
- Civil Rights & Social Reform - \$203,850
- Community Services - \$3,356,233
- Education - \$2,869,257
- Environment - \$3,387,752
- Health - \$2,290,972
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse - \$374,775
- Philanthropy & Capacity Building - \$1,486,520
- Public Safety & Disaster Abuse - \$785,570
- Religion - \$532,738
- Science & Technology - \$51,522
- Senior Services - \$251,452
- Youth Services - \$610,216



Contact us to discuss how you can partner with the DCF to increase your impact in Delaware and around the country.

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