

Generosity that Builds Community

DCF Donors Make a Difference in Delaware





Join our community of givers. Make the charitable impact you aspire to in partnership with the DCF. For a one-on-one consultation, please contact info@delcf.org.



ON THE COVER

Left to right: Joanne McGeoch, DCF vice president for philanthropy; Patrick Carroll, Humane Animal Partners CEO; Marilyn and Nathan Hayward (also on the cover), advisors to the 1916 Fund at the DCF. Learn more about the Haywards on pp. 14-15.





PARTNERSHIPS BUILD OPPORTUNITIES.

Every day, generous people like you partner with the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) to build strong communities here in the First State and around the country.

This report offers a glimpse at some of the ways our inspiring donors are making an impact in our communities. Our donors are passionate about many causes – from education and youth programming to the arts and the environment – and we find great joy in helping them give with joy and impact.

Not only does charitable giving make a positive impact on others, but it also can help donors establish a legacy, teach valuable lessons to the next generation, and maximize tax benefits. As you enjoy these stories, I hope you will reflect on your own philanthropic goals. Our team is always available to discuss charitable giving options to help you achieve your charitable goals and make the most of your generosity.

Whether supporting our work through the annual DCF Leadership Campaign, establishing a planned gift, or opening your own charitable fund, you can make a meaningful difference. Thank you.

Together, we are making lasting change that will benefit our communities for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Comstock-Gay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

STUART COMSTOCK-GAY
President & CEO
Delaware Community Foundation



Creating opportunity through generosity

Omari Simmons: Cynthia and Nathaniel Simmons Memorial Scholarship Fund

As a child growing up in southern Delaware, Omari Simmons knew that two things mattered in his family: education and helping others.

“Education was a huge part of my family and focus,” said Simmons, a Milford High School graduate and law professor at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. “Education can open doors and create change not only in one’s own life, but also in the lives of others around them.”

Through the Cynthia and Nathaniel Simmons Memorial Scholarship Fund at the DCF, Simmons is further working to open doors and create change. The Simmons Scholarship will help fund college for Cape Henlopen and Milford High School graduates who identify as members of a historically disenfranchised or underrepresented racial or ethnic minority.

“Having attended school K through 12 in southern Delaware, I recognize that need and understand that environment,” Simmons said. “There are extremely talented people with tremendous potential who don’t have the same opportunities. What would it be like if they did?”

The Simmons Scholarship honors Simmons’ mother, Cynthia, and his brother, Nathaniel Simmons III. Cynthia, who was an elementary school science teacher in the Cape Henlopen School District, always pressed the importance of higher education, Simmons said. His brother Nathaniel inspired him by fighting through ill health to earn a degree from Pennsylvania State University, shortly before he died in 1995.

After the deaths of Cynthia and Nathaniel III, Simmons and his father, Nathaniel Simmons Jr., started the Simmons Memorial Foundation to help underrepresented and historically disenfranchised students in southern Delaware and beyond to learn about and pursue higher education.

The Simmons Scholarship at the DCF will complement the work of the Simmons Memorial Foundation, with the first Simmons Scholarship to be awarded in May 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year.

“Success in my family was always measured by how many people you helped and building bridges for success,” Simmons said. “I have a strong belief in young people and their potential for greatness when given resources.”

“Education can open doors and create change not only in one’s own life, but also in the lives of others around them.”

– Omari Simmons

Do you want to make a difference in a young person’s future? Open a scholarship fund. For a one-on-one consultation, please contact info@delcf.org.

Giving as a family tradition

Ben Osbun: Josephine C. Osbun Fund

Ben Osbun's commitment to volunteering began when he served as a counselor for a day camp off North Walnut Street in Wilmington.

"When I was in high school, we didn't have to do community service hours, but were encouraged," Osbun said. "Get youngsters involved in philanthropy early, and hopefully it will stick with them and they'll stay involved as they grow up."

That early philanthropic experience really did stick. Now retired, Osbun finds himself in familiar territory and part of a long family tradition of philanthropy. One of the ways he volunteers his time is as a board member of St. Michael's School and Nursery – coincidentally across the street from that day camp of yesteryear.

For Osbun, giving back is a family affair. He serves on the Debley Foundation Board, a family foundation which funds global development and women's empowerment initiatives, with his daughter Katherine.

Closer to home in Delaware, Osbun and his three brothers jointly advise the Josephine C. Osbun Fund at the DCF, a donor advised fund established at the DCF by their late mother. The fund has supported a number of organizations, including the Choir School of Delaware and St. Michael's School and Nursery.

Osbun is particularly passionate about mentorship and creating opportunities for youth to succeed. With the Choir School of Delaware, Osbun, a past board chair, has assisted children with homework as well as filled in as a substitute van driver. It's a point of pride for him to note that 100 percent of Choir School students graduate high school.

"Get youngsters involved in philanthropy early, and hopefully it will stick with them and they'll stay involved as they grow up."

– Ben Osbun

"I'm predominantly interested in children's programming, because those are the nurturing years. I feel especially, with these organizations, it's important to start as early as possible if you're going to have any impact on their lives," Osbun said.

A local connection brought Osbun to the DCF years ago, and he's grateful to have the foundation's expertise and community insights. He even recalls when his own children were teenagers and the DCF helped get them excited about philanthropy through what is now the Youth Philanthropy Board program.

"I've appreciated the DCF throughout the years, because they've been there whenever we've needed guidance," Osbun said. "They've been most helpful with networking and collaborations between organizations."



Do you want to create a family legacy? A donor advised fund is a charitable fund created specifically to support the charities you and your family care about for generations. For a one-on-one consultation, please contact info@delcf.org.



Connecting philanthropy to passions

Supporting environmental education and research for the Delmarva area

On any given day, southern coastal Delaware offers a variety of ways to be immersed in nature. Whether a walk along the beach, a hike in a state park or a tour of the botanical gardens, adventure awaits. For one DCF donor, who moved to the area in retirement, protecting this beauty for all to enjoy was key.

“I want the area to be preserved, with all the wonderful attractions that brought me here, and I think a large part of that is the environment and making sure it’s there for everyone,” the donor said.

With the DCF’s help, the anonymous donor established two legacy funds – one a scholarship for environmental law and sciences, and the other a field of interest fund for environmental education and research about the Delmarva area. In this way, the donor is helping to ensure the causes close to her heart will thrive long after she is gone.

The funds are a decade in the making, and the result of many conversations with the DCF.

Recognizing the DCF was the primary Delaware organization focused on statewide philanthropy, the donor approached the foundation looking for direction. While the donor knew she wanted to leave the money she had accumulated over her lifetime to do good, she was unsure what area to support.

The team at the DCF suggested she volunteer for local organizations and see what struck a chord. It was a very rewarding process, she said.

“I’m always interested in learning new things, and the fact that I got to work with so many really terrific nonprofits in this area opened up my eyes to the area and the people that are here and the needs that are here,” the donor said.

“If someone has an interest, a passion that they want to follow, the DCF makes it very easy to set up whatever vehicle they decide they want to use. It might be a scholarship, it might be a research fund, but the DCF is very knowledgeable and can tailor it to what the person may be thinking about.”

– Anonymous Donor

Choosing to focus her funds on the environment was a purposeful decision, and one that took time. The DCF helped the donor identify her personal charitable goals and tailor the funds to support environmental research and education in the way that was most meaningful to her.

“Whether it’s climate change or pollution, the problem seems to be running ahead of us,” the donor said. “It can be challenging, but then I thought there’s got to be great minds out there and great minds in the future that will want to work on this, and I want to help them do that.”

Establish a permanent source of charitable dollars to support a cause you care about. For a one-on-one consultation, please contact info@delcf.org.

Love and give where you live

David, Ann and I.G. Burton

A simple question guides the Burton family: "How can I help?" That's the philanthropic mindset of the Sussex County family, which has deep roots in the community and throughout the state.

"A lot of times people say, 'Well, I don't have enough money to help,'" said I.G. Burton.

"Well, you do, because every little bit helps. If philanthropy hasn't been part of your life, that doesn't mean you can't start now. You can really help your community today. Every little bit helps through the power that the DCF can bring."

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– I.G. Burton

I.G. Burton inherited his philanthropic tendencies from his parents, David and Ann, who worked to strengthen and establish various local institutions. For many years, the Milford couple invested their time and support locally, including through Catholic Charities and La Esperanza, a crucial Sussex County bicultural and bilingual resource center.

The Burton family's presence in Delaware goes back generations, and their pride in being rooted in Delaware is evident. As a personal project, David Burton is working on restoring a treasured family Bible.

"Having a network of people who care about the same things because they grew up here is important to carry on," David Burton said.

The Burton family's relationship with the DCF goes back decades. Notably, it was David who helped physically bring the DCF to Sussex County and establish the foundation's office in Georgetown's historic Circle. And now, this partnership based on the Burton family's generosity continues as I.G. takes over leadership of the family's charitable funds at the DCF.

"Dad has done this every year and would like to see this continue on for generations to come," I.G. said.



David Burton, the late Ann Burton and their son I.G. Burton

Achieve your unique charitable goals and maximize your community impact. For a one-on-one consultation, please contact info@delcf.org.



Honoring the extraordinary

Hon. Gregory Sleet: Moneta Sleet III Memorial Fund

Moneta Sleet saw something striking in the everyday people and places he encountered. Through his photography, Moneta could elicit those striking elements and transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

“My son was very different in the way he saw things,” said Moneta’s father, the Hon. Gregory Sleet, who is a member of the DCF board of directors. “He had his own vision of things.”

When Moneta died in May 2020 at the age of 33, his parents and family quickly worked with the DCF to establish a charitable fund in Moneta’s honor. The family could not hold a funeral because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the fund offered a way to bring their loved ones together and celebrate Moneta’s life.

“It is our small way of trying to honor our son, to keep his memory alive,” Sleet said. “For me, it provided a little bit of catharsis. We had to figure out all the things we had to figure out, and the DCF made it very easy to set up the fund very quickly.”

The grandson and namesake of a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, Moneta pursued fine art photography throughout his school years. When he was a student at Morehouse College, one of Moneta’s images was the first by a freshman to be selected for publication in the college’s student literary magazine.

One of Gregory Sleet’s favorite shots is a black-and-white image Moneta captured of a saxophonist playing on a Philadelphia street corner in the winter.

Today, the Moneta Sleet III Memorial Fund honors his life and supports scholarships for photography students through the National Association of Black Journalists. Sleet hopes the fund created in his son’s name will help other aspiring photographers pursue their dreams.

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– Hon. Gregory Sleet

Honor a family member or loved one through a charitable fund. For a one-on-one consultation, please contact info@delcf.org.

Addressing many charitable passions, from conservation to conversation

Nathan and Marilyn Hayward: 1916 Fund

Marilyn and Nathan Hayward have an array of charitable interests – from conserving land and protecting animals to fostering the arts and healthy community dialog – and they address many of these passions through the 1916 Fund, which they created at the DCF in 2010.

“We both grew up in a philanthropic tradition,” said Marilyn, a former chair of the DCF board of directors. “The whole notion of service to the community was huge.”

Among the organizations the Haywards support is Humane Animal Partners Delaware. Nathan’s mother, Rosa Hayward McDonald, was a passionate advocate for animals, adopting countless strays and rescue pets during her life. Marilyn, meanwhile, came from an agricultural, animal-loving family and spent summers on her grandmother’s dairy farm.

The Haywards also have championed land preservation in Delaware, supporting state parks and the Mt. Cuba Center’s botanical gardens.

With so many causes close to their hearts, the couple especially values their relationship with the DCF. Through the foundation, the Haywards have found a community of givers with diverse charitable interests and a shared passion for Delaware. It’s a special dynamic, Nathan said, likening it to gathering music lovers for a concert.

“We’re philanthropically inclined, but the DCF brought a whole new audience – a group of people from all across the state and all kinds of different professions,” Nathan said.

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– Nathan Hayward

This year, the Haywards were particularly excited to support the DCF’s Building Opportunity work, which includes book circles and a keynote presentation focused on bridging divides and fostering civil discourse in Delaware.

“Particularly in the last few years, as our society seems to be becoming more and more polarized, I think it’s really important for people to find a way to talk to each other and to try to learn to listen,” Marilyn said. “The DCF is an organization that is well positioned to facilitate those kinds of community conversations.”



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Our Donors' Impact:

DCF Donors Drive Change Together

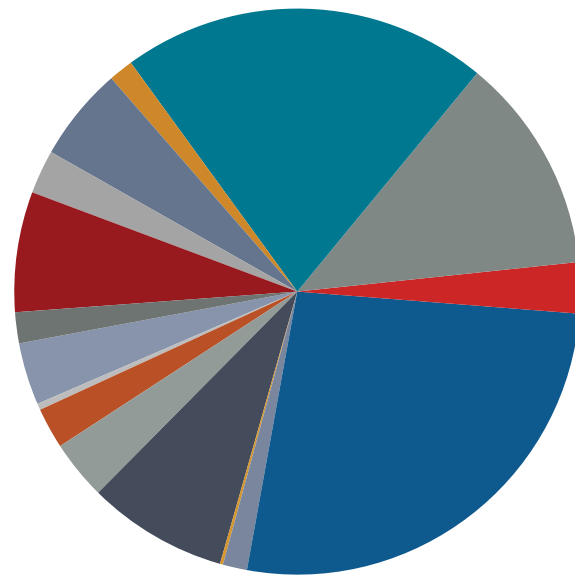
The DCF is proud to work with some of the biggest hearts in Delaware. Whether you wish to honor a loved one, create your own legacy, or make your philanthropic impact now, the DCF is proud to provide the expertise, resources and solutions that help generous people like you reach your charitable goals.

In the 2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022), donor advised funds with the DCF have awarded a total of **\$15,868,042** in grants to

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

Scholarship funds have provided **\$408,388** this fiscal year in support of tuition and associated fees from preschool to postgraduate education, impacting the lives of 157 unique students. Some of these exceptional students received more than one scholarship.

Grants From All DCF Charitable Funds FY2022



- Animal Welfare – \$503,007
- Arts/Culture/Heritage/Humanities – \$1,954,250
- Basic Human Needs – \$711,834
- Capacity Building & Philanthropy – \$1,531,508
- Civil Rights & Social Reform – \$399,466
- Community Services – \$5,968,685
- Education – \$3,518,263
- Environmental & Land Conservation – \$829,327
- Healthcare & Medical Research – \$7,569,881
- Mental Health & Substance Abuse – \$393,806
- Other – \$48,544
- Public Safety/Disaster Prep/Relief – \$2,280,923
- Religious Institutions & Spirituality – \$965,559
- Sciences & Technology – \$663,300
- Senior Services – \$104,235
- Youth Services – \$1,012,470

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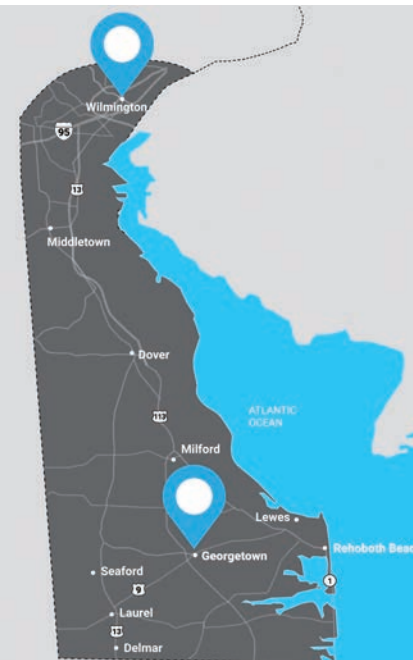
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