

# Advancing Equity

A Report on the Impact of Three Years of Racial Equity-Focused Grantmaking



July 2021-June 2023

**DCF** Delaware  
Community  
Foundation™  
Engaging Communities, Empowering Giving™



**Stuart Comstock-Gay**  
President & CEO  
Delaware Community Foundation

**On the cover:**

*Bellevue Farms, 2021  
BIPOC Leaders &  
Communities Grantee*

Dear Friends,

At the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF), we believe communities are strongest when all people have the opportunity to thrive. And it's no secret that many people of color are experiencing extreme barriers and challenges at this moment in our history.

When those challenges prevent our neighbors from thriving, it undermines the success of our community as a whole.

To help ensure that all communities in Delaware have the opportunity to thrive, the DCF board and staff have ramped up our efforts over the last several years to help address the unique needs of communities of color in Delaware.

One of our key strategies is to increase racial equity in our grantmaking. To that end, we launched two grant programs in 2021 to build capacity in communities of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC): the **BIPOC Leaders & Communities Grants** program and the **Equity Partners Grants** program.

We're pleased to share that, over the past three years – through these two programs alone – we've invested nearly \$900,000 in organizations led by and serving BIPOC communities in all three Delaware counties.

We've made additional investments in BIPOC communities through other grant programs and in partnership with our fundholders. It's also been exciting to support a few special initiatives, including providing a fiscal sponsorship for Harambee Delaware, as well as funding for the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement's nonprofit accelerator, which is building capacity in nonprofits led by and serving people of color.

While there is much more work to do, we believe these focused investments are making a difference in advancing equity in Delaware. We're honored to share the stories of our grantees' successes in this report.

Yours,

Stuart Comstock-Gay  
President & CEO

# EQUITY PARTNERS GRANTS PROGRAM

In 2021, the DCF launched the Equity Partners Grants program to provide deeper, longer-term support for three resilient, sustainable, BIPOC-led and -serving organizations in Delaware. These multi-year grants – supported by the Delaware Forever Fund, Wilmington-based Barclays US Consumer Bank and DuPont – have helped these organizations build their capacity to fuel community-driven change and ensure current and next-generation leaders' long-term success.



## Nuestras Raices

With \$75,000 in Equity Partners funding over the past three years, Nuestras Raices ("Our Roots") has been building up multicultural leaders in New Castle County through its Executive Leadership Development program. Nuestras Raices works to help accelerate diverse talent at the entry level, manager and director levels. Equity Partners funding and technical support has proven to be transformational for Nuestras Raices, which has expanded its operations to be statewide.

## Delaware Afro-American Historical Society

The Delaware Afro-American Historical Society is critical to preserving and promoting the history and restoring EAST SIDE PRIDE of residents that live in the East Side of Wilmington. With \$50,000 in Equity Partners funding, the organization has hired consultants to successfully build capacity and bolster programming for the WHGE-LP radio station, created a succession plan to fortify its future and added programming and events highlighting current and previous community leaders.



## Network Delaware

Network Delaware activates change agents for the First State, striving particularly to build power among communities of color, working people, women, immigrants, LGBTQ communities and young people. Thanks to \$75,000 in Equity Partners funding over the past three years, Network Delaware has expanded its existing Change Agent support model and built out its civics coach program.



Want to support our grantmaking to build opportunity and advance equity? Give to the Delaware Forever Fund at [delcf.org/forever](https://delcf.org/forever).

# 2021 BIPOC LEADERS & COMMUNITIES GRANTEES

The BIPOC Leaders & Communities Grants program, a 2021-2023 partnership with the African American Empowerment Fund of Delaware at the DCF, awarded grants each year to build capacity in organizations led by and serving people of color and support programs that strengthen BIPOC communities. BIPOC Leaders & Communities Grants also were supported by DuPont, Corteva and the First State Fund at the DCF.



A \$15,000 grant helped **Bellevue Farms** launch a nine-month garden- and nutrition-based afterschool/out-of-school program for youth grades 6-12 in preparation for continued career training in agriculture, horticulture and nutrition.

- Bellevue Farms**  
\$15,000
- CAMP Rehoboth**  
\$10,000
- Community Education Building**  
\$10,000
- Delaware Shakespeare**  
\$15,000
- Green Beret Project**  
\$15,000
- Habitat for Humanity Sussex County**  
\$25,000
- Harry K Foundation**  
\$15,000
- La Esperanza**  
\$20,000
- Leading Youth Through Empowerment**  
\$15,000
- Literacy Delaware**  
\$15,000
- Mom's House of Dover**  
\$25,000
- REACH Riverside**  
\$10,000
- Supporting Kidds**  
\$20,000
- Teen Warehouse**  
\$10,000
- TeenSHARP**  
\$25,000
- United Way of Delaware**  
\$25,000
- Urban Bike Project**  
\$15,000



**Delaware Shakespeare** received \$15,000 to support its Community Tour, which brought free performances of a new musical adaptation of "Twelfth Night" viewed through the lens of the Latina immigrant experience to locations such as prisons, community centers and medical facilities in all three Delaware counties.



A \$15,000 grant helped the **Green Beret Project** apply the core approach and methods of coalition building utilized by the United States Army Special Forces, the Green Berets. Participating youth develop resilience, empathy, self-discipline and the skills needed to thrive with mentorship, leadership training and career preparation through travel to college tours, historical sites and outdoor activities such as fishing, hiking and camping.

# 2022 BIPOC LEADERS & COMMUNITIES GRANTEES

**4th Dimension Leaders**  
\$10,000

**American Civil Liberties Union Foundation**  
\$20,000

**Center for Structural Equity**  
\$20,000

**Choir School of Delaware**  
\$20,000

**Delaware Adolescent Program**  
\$20,000

**Delaware College Scholars**  
\$19,000

**Developing Artist Collaboration**  
\$20,000

**EDGE for Tomorrow**  
\$20,000

**Harambee Delaware Fund**  
\$20,000

**Love-In-Deed Community Development Corporation**  
\$16,200

**Mom's House of Dover**  
\$2,000

**Network Connect**  
\$20,000

**One Village Alliance**  
\$20,000

**Pathways To Success**  
\$10,000

**Philadelphia Arms Townhomes**  
\$10,000

**Reel Families for Change**  
\$20,000

**True Access Capital**  
\$20,000



With a \$20,000 grant, the **Developing Artist Collaboration** commissioned local artist Terrance Vann to create a historical mural in West Rehoboth, honoring its rich cultural history and uplifting the voices of the original community members.



**Love-In-Deed Community Development Corporation** received \$16,200 to support the RISE Independent Living program for youth aging out of foster care.



A \$10,000 grant helped **Philadelphia Arms Townhomes** in Ellendale conduct strategic and revenue planning, as well as staff and board development, to ensure long-term viability in meeting community needs.

# 2023 BIPOC LEADERS & COMMUNITIES GRANTEES

**ACLU of Delaware**  
\$10,000

**Center for Structural Equity**  
\$10,000

**Code Purple Kent County**  
\$15,000

**Connecting Generations**  
\$15,000

**Harambee Delaware Fund**  
\$15,000

**Delaware College Scholars**  
\$19,000

**Hispanic American Association of Delaware**  
\$15,000

**Imperial Dynasty Arts Program**  
\$15,000

**Leading Youth Through Empowerment**  
\$10,000

**Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League**  
\$15,000

**National Coalition of 100 Black Women  
Delaware Chapter**  
\$15,000

**Network Delaware**  
\$15,000

**Rodney Street Tennis and Tutoring Association**  
\$10,000

**Second Chances Foundation**  
\$15,000

**Students Recover**  
\$15,000

**The Village Tree**  
\$10,000

**True Access Capital**  
\$20,000

**Wilmington Children's Chorus**  
\$15,000

**Wilmington Hope Commission**  
\$15,000



**Rodney Street Tennis and Tutoring Association** received a \$10,000 grant to hire a fundraising consultant to help them expand their work with children in New Castle and Sussex counties.



**Code Purple Kent County** received a \$15,000 grant to train housing-insecure individuals to raise their voices. This project will help refine policy and services by informing policymakers and service providers about the barriers experienced by people exiting prison and experiencing homelessness.

With a \$15,000 grant, **Connecting Generations** is hiring facilitators to provide trauma-informed care in Sussex County schools.



# DCF GRANTS COMMITTEE

BIPOC Communities & Leaders Grants and Equity Partners Grants were selected by the DCF Grants Committee. We are grateful for their leadership!

Louisa Phillips, *Chair*

Sherita Belle

Carolyn Bray

Don C. Brown

Katherine Cauley

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Learn more about the Delaware Community Foundation at [delcf.org](https://delcf.org). Or visit or call us!

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Want to support our grantmaking to build opportunity and advance equity statewide or in Kent, New Castle or Sussex County? Give to the Delaware Forever Fund at [delcf.org/forever](https://delcf.org/forever).

A barbershop reading program is just one of the many successes of **Network Delaware**, a 2021-2023 DCF Equity Partner.

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