



making more good possible

DCF
Delaware
Community
Foundation
delcf.org





Table of Contents

Making Lemonade	3
Meet the Moment	4
Funding for a Cure	5
A Season of Milestones	6
Our Year in Pictures	8
Scholarship Impact	10
Young People Making a Difference	11
Our Team Makes More Possible	12
Leaving a Legacy	14
Nonprofit Funds	15
Legacy Society	17
New Funds	18
Leadership Campaign	19
Board Members & Committees	20
Financials & Investments	22
Our Team	23

Dear Friends,

The world is very different today than when we wrote this letter for the last report. And while changes are impacting nearly every aspect of American life, it is no secret that no industry is under more pressure than the nonprofit sector.

Yet ... while life has given us a full harvest of lemons, our donors, fundholders, board and staff have been focusing on what can be done ... which is to make proverbial lemonade.

Our goal has been and continues to be helping nonprofits “Meet the Moment” through education, networking and grants. You can read about our efforts to help our communities secure a better future on page 4, from webinars and seminars to coaching and funds.

Efforts such as this are not new for us – think back just a few years ago to our COVID response program. For nearly four decades we have served Delawareans in a wide variety of ways – helping donors meet their goals, helping nonprofits serve their constituencies, and providing civic leadership that helps guide the state.

When we celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2026, we will honor the past, do the work of the present and plan for the future of our state. And for now, as we work toward that, we recognize the work of 2025. We hope you enjoy reading about some of these highlights.



Stuart Comstock-Gay
President & CEO



Chanta Howard-Wilkinson
Chair, Board of Directors

PS: I hope you will join me in welcoming Chanta Howard Wilkinson (A) to her new role as Chair – we know she will lead with vigor and strength – and offer Drew Fennell (B) our tremendous thanks for serving in that role for three years. - SCG

Meeting the Moment

The DCF is investing in Delaware nonprofits as they adapt and thrive in a changing landscape.

The nonprofit landscape has changed radically – funding sources, donor priorities and the legality of services are more uncertain than ever. In response, the DCF, in partnership with Healthy Communities Delaware (HCD) launched “Meet the Moment,” an initiative providing access to education, networking and grants to help organizations adapt.

“Our goal is to provide supports that can help nonprofits move forward with more confidence. While we cannot make it better for everyone, we can and will make a difference wherever possible,” said Kate Dupont Phillips, Executive Director of HCD, which is itself an initiative of the DCF, the Delaware Department of Human Services and the University of Delaware.

This spring, the DCF opened a \$545,000 grant program to nonprofits, offering grants up to \$20,000 through a structured process. The response was overwhelming. More than 175 nonprofits applied with requests totaling above \$3.3 million.

“The volume of applications underscored the tremendous hurdles nonprofits of nearly every size and shape are facing,” said Sarah Hench, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at the DCF. “While we do not have the financial resources to fund every request directly, we are also creating free education, network-building and skill development opportunities which any Delaware-based nonprofit can take advantage of.”

Working with the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Associations (DANA), workshops on scenario and contingency planning have attracted hundreds of attendees. Equally successful seminars provided by the DCF and HCD have focused on senior leadership skills as well as professional storytelling development, with more to come this fall.

“We continue to dialogue with nonprofits, providing them with opportunities to learn and grow, and work with our donors and partners to navigate this new normal as best we can,” said Dupont Phillips.



Sarah Hench and Kate Dupont Phillips

“While this initiative is called ‘Meet the Moment,’ nonprofits are turning it into lasting impact — strengthening their capacity to thrive into the future.”
- Sarah Hench

Funding for a Cure

At the DCF, the Borkee-Hagley Fund and the Paul H. Boerger Fund support clinical research aimed at finding cures for devastating diseases.

The DCF's Boerger Fund Awards \$13 Million to Advance UD's Research



(Fr. Left) Sands, Martens and DCF Director of Advancement Maribeth Przywara during a visit to UD's Delaware Center for Cognitive Aging Research

the DCF Board of Directors approved new funding of \$13 million over five years. This will allow scientists at DECCAR to continue their Alzheimer's research, including the purchase of the center's first permanent MRI machine for brain scans.

"Alzheimer's disease is so complex because there is no single cause," explained Chris Martens, Ph.D., associate professor in the University of Delaware's College of Health Sciences and the director of DECCAR. "Genetic risk research for Alzheimer's only explains some of the disease and is often compounded by environmental influences. There is so much work to be done, and these funds will make much more of it possible."

Michele Sands, a study participant, is grateful for the support and growth of DECCAR. "My hope is that this research will pave the way for new treatments and preventative measures, giving my children and their generation a fighting chance against Alzheimer's disease."

In 2023, the Paul H. Boerger Fund at the DCF granted \$575,000 to the University of Delaware for its Delaware Center for Cognitive Aging Research (DECCAR). This became the seed money the center needed to attract millions more in funding from other sources, such as a \$3.9 million grant from the NIH to study how cardiovascular function impacts the brain.

Results from this work have been so compelling that in June 2025



Borkee Hagley – A Holistic Focus on Neurodegenerative Diseases

The Borkee Hagley Fund at the DCF supports comprehensive care and clinical research for individuals and families affected by neurodegenerative diseases, including Huntington's disease, ALS, Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's.

The fund was one of two donor advised funds created in 2005 through the dissolution of a private foundation. The family members advising on this fund made the decision to focus their grants on support related to these illnesses, based on personal experience. The other fund, called the BHA Fund, supports a wide variety of causes and prioritizes prior grantees.



"Borkee Hagley underwrites not only medical research and treatment, but also vital social and emotional support services," said Hench. "Spouses, partners, families ... they not only must deal with the impact of a loved one receiving the diagnosis, but also with becoming a support system that can be overwhelming. This fund helps with some of those needs."

A Season of Milestones

The DCF value “Serve with Joy” is rooted in our DNA, so we were excited to celebrate major milestone anniversaries for five funds and organizations in the DCF universe. From 20 years of impact to 50 years of mentorship, each has made and continues to make tremendous contributions to our state.



Want to see more? View our Milestones video on our website



Dr. Jennifer Fuqua and Dr. Christine Cannon

Today it celebrates 20 years of impact, having created many long-term relationships with nonprofits that serve these communities, supporting education, arts, advocacy and small business.

ACF's recent grants of \$570,000 to 25 nonprofits has brought the total given over two decades to more than \$12 million. Dr. Christine Cannon, who has steered the fund for nearly all that time, retired at the end of June, handing the reins to Dr. Jennifer Fuqua at the DCF.

Arsht-Cannon Fund - 20 Years of Impact

Endowed by the Honorable Roxana Cannon Arsht, appointed as Delaware's first female judge, and her husband, S. Samuel Arsht, a prominent corporate attorney and founding partner of Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell, the Arsht-Cannon Fund was established to preserve, support and defend the best interests of a civil society.

Their daughter Adrienne Arsht helped focus the fund to serve Hispanic communities in Delaware through educational opportunities.



2025 Latina Business Summit

Rodel
A GREAT EDUCATION
CHANGES EVERYTHING

Rodel - Representing the Best in Education Since 1999

For more than 25 years, Rodel has partnered with Delawareans and educational innovators from around the world to transform public education in the First State, with the goal of making Delaware a global leader in education.

Rodel, a DCF supporting organization, works with community leaders, legislators, funders, and educators to make policy changes that can improve students' lives. Current areas of focus include increasing both funding and equity across all aspects of education.



Delaware Pathways connects education to workforce development



Rodel is working to assure universal Pre-K across Delaware

Rodel's work in early childhood education has helped drive efforts toward adopting universal Pre-Kindergarten in the state. It is engaged in several district- and state-wide partnerships working to help Delaware recruit, train and retrain a diverse workforce. For example, Rodel helped scale Delaware's Career Pathways program from 27 students in 2014 to more than 30,000, or 70% of all public high school students today. This innovative approach helps students obtain meaningful work experiences and access to post-secondary credits and credentials while still in high school.



The most recent Grants Dinner provided \$227,000 to nonprofits

"Girls Can Do Anything" club and the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition's efforts to provide culturally competent navigation, translation, and transportation services, among many others.

Fund for Women's 30+ Years of Creating Opportunities

In 1993 a small group of women were concerned about a lack of support for women and girls in poverty in Delaware. Their goal: to gather 1,000 women from across the state and ask for each to pledge \$1,000 to fund opportunities for women and girls.

Fund for Women (FFW) is the is the largest and oldest of the DCF's giving circles, a philanthropic structure in which a group of people pool their funds for a cause. Today the nearly \$5 million fund has more than 2,300 members, called "Founders" who have made more than \$4.2 million in grants.

Recently FFW held its annual Grants Dinner, providing \$227,000 in grants to 20 organizations. The uses were diverse, for programs such as One Village Alliance's



Growing 40 Years of Success with the Delaware State Parks Funds

In 1984, Delaware State Parks launched efforts to enable residents to support both the overall park system as well as specific parks. In 2002, Parks leadership came to the DCF to launch a group of charitable funds to make it even easier to do just that.

Today, residents and park lovers across the country can support the parks through 28 different funds at the DCF, many of which are endowed to ensure resources are available long into the future.

The system is a two-time winner of the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, presented by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). It hosts more than eight million visitors annually.

In addition to celebrating more than four decades of giving, in 2026 the park system itself will celebrate its 75th anniversary and the difference it has made to the lives of residents and visitors alike.



New accessibility chairs put beach and mountain trails in reach

MERIT Makes STEM Possible in Sussex for 50 Years

The Delaware Community Foundation's initiative MERIT (Minority Engineering Regional Incentive Training) which became part of the DCF in 2011, has marked its 50th anniversary of impacting youth in Sussex County.



Mr. Hollis at the Boys & Girls Club pool

MERIT was founded in 1974 by visionary educator John Hollis. Created in collaboration with engineers from DuPont's Seaford plant, it offered minority students from Sussex County academic enrichment and college preparatory opportunities rarely found at the time.

Thousands of students have graduated from the program, and hundreds have continued on, earning bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. MERIT is one of Delaware's most successful programs for fostering excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) among minority youth.

Our Year In Pictures

While the DCF is well known for our funds and grants, we're just as committed to our work in the community. During any given year we host, sponsor and participate in dozens of convenings. We bring together diverse groups of community members, donors and grantees, speakers and other professionals, all in service to listening to, responding and supporting our communities. Here are a few photos from some the dozens of gatherings from the last year.



July 2024: Members of the DCF Staff gather at SEI, our OCIO (outsourced chief information office) firm. The campus, nestled in the hills of Oaks, Penn., includes a world class art collection and beautiful meeting spaces such as this renovated barn original to the property.



September: As a sponsor of the Lewes History Book Festival, we were thrilled to meet Pulitzer Prize winning author Doris Kearns Goodwin and escort her to meet students in the Milford School District. Her new book is *A Leadership Journey*, for middle school students.



September: CEO Stuart Comstock-Gay spoke with a full house at the Newark Morning Rotary Club about the DCF's mission. Seen here with Stu, from left: members Eric Cannon and Cindi Viviano, and Chapter President Lynn Mey.



October: We hosted sociologist and best-selling author Eric Klinenberg at the 2024 Building Opportunity event to discuss his book *2020: One City, Seven, People, and the Year Everything Changed*. Highlights included a dinner with Board members and donors, and an afternoon meeting with University of Delaware sociology students.



October: Cutting the ribbon on our new Lewes office.



December: DCF Holiday Receptions are busy evenings hosting donors, grantees and other VIPs. (From left) DCF's Jessica Gordon, Kelly Sheridan and Robbie Tarpley Raffish, and Fund For Women Vice Chair Kathy Keirnan, take a moment just before the doors opened.



February 2025: DCF was thrilled to host a theater filled with people who came to see *Join or Die*, a movie about the importance of community by Robert Putnam (front row, right) – who surprised the crowd with a Q&A session after. He also was the guest of honor at a DCF dinner that evening.



May/June: All over Delaware it's scholarship season, and DCF awarded a record-setting \$836,500! Many of our staff members attend high school award ceremonies, as Mike DiPaolo did at Cape Henlopen High School.



June: Members of our team speak on panels and at conferences often. Here, Stu presented on a panel about resilience at the Council on Foundation's annual meeting, Leading Locally 2025. Kate Dupont Phillips who heads the Healthy Communities Delaware initiative was also chosen to lead a session.



Northern Reception



Southern Reception

June: Our Spring Receptions, held this year at Delaware State Parks system locations, offered a wonderful way to close the fiscal year. At our Northern reception (left), held at the Blue Bell Barn, DCF celebrated milestone anniversaries of five funds (see pages 6-7), and highlighted scholarships, including Amrutha Veeramachineni (right), a scholarship recipient, and her family. At our Southern Reception, held at Cape Henlopen State Park, incoming Chair Chanta Howard Wilkinson welcomed guests.

Our Scholarship Program has a Record-Breaking Year!

Thanks to the contributions of generous donors, the DCF awarded a record \$836,500 in scholarships to 245 new and renewal students for the 2025-2026 school year, a 28% increase from the previous year. These scholarships create opportunities for students from communities across Delaware to further their academic careers without the burden of excessive student debt.



Valeria Tamayo

Valeria Tamayo is the first student from Aspira Academy High School in Wilmington to win a scholarship from the DCF. Prior to receiving the newly established Michael J. & Hannah Koziski Scholarship, Tamayo feared she could not afford to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse through the University of Delaware program.

“Without this scholarship, I would not have been able to accept my University of Delaware offer, as the tuition was far out of reach for my family,” said Tamayo. “Upon receiving it, I felt joy, relief, but most importantly, gratefulness. I immensely appreciate this help and am will be attending the University of Delaware’s nursing school in the fall.”

Alessandra Broussard

Alessandra Broussard is a junior at the University of Delaware studying biology and international relations. Her goal is to attend medical school after she graduates which means doing the absolute best she can as an undergrad. She is the winner of both the African American Aspire to Greatness Scholarship, which awards \$1,000 to a current African American college student, and the Philip L. Bartlett Scholarship, a \$2,500 scholarship for a student demonstrating financial need at the University of Delaware.



“This helps me focus more on my studies and goals,” said Broussard. “I am truly grateful for the investment in my future. These scholarships have inspired me to work harder and give back to my community. I hope to one day support students the same way I have been supported.”

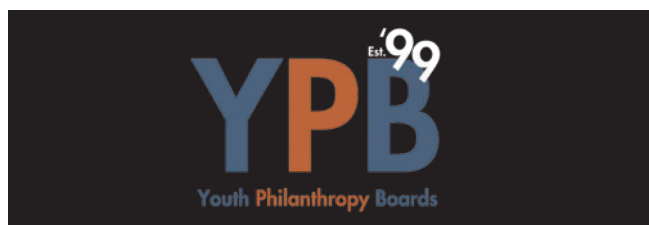


Deionte Swiggett

Deionte Swiggett, a graduate of Caesar Rodney High School, is now pursuing his dream of becoming an elementary school teacher by attending East Carolina University. He is the recipient of both the Dr. Jill Biden Scholarship and the John J. & Rita D. Ryan Scholarship.

“These scholarships will provide me with financial assistance and also motivate me to continue working hard and achieving success in my future endeavors. Your support will always be appreciated. Thank you again for believing in me and awarding me these scholarships.”

Young People Making a Difference



DCF's Youth Philanthropy Boards Announce \$65,000 in Grants at 2025 Receptions

The Delaware Community Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Boards (YPBs) bring together students from public, independent, and diocesan high schools in each county to make grant recommendations in support of impactful projects that address local needs.

To do this, each county board chooses a focus area, solicits and evaluates proposals, conducts site visits and ultimately award grants.

This year the YPBs announced a combined \$65,000 in grants, demonstrating their continued commitment to fostering leadership and civic engagement among Delaware's youth.



DCF's YPB program is helping to foster a future generation of philanthropists

The 2025 Grant Receptions – one in the north end of the state and another in the south – were inspiring celebrations of these young leaders, bringing together student grantmakers, nonprofit partners and supporters for a heartfelt showcase of youth-driven generosity.

Attendees heard powerful stories, learned about the projects made possible through the grants, and connected over a shared passion for giving back – a vibrant reminder that when young people lead with purpose, they can spark meaningful change and strengthen our community from the ground up.



A Decade of Impact and Counting

For more than a decade, **Next Generation South** (Next Gen South) at the DCF has built its focus on its mission of addressing critical social challenges in Kent and Sussex Counties.



NGS member gathered at the Starboard in Dewey Beach for a mixer

Established in 2012, Next Gen South began issuing grants in 2012 and has since awarded more than \$100,000 to initiatives that support the region's most vulnerable populations. Each year, its priorities adapt to the evolving needs of the community. In 2025, Next Gen South proudly awarded \$5,000 grants to both Beebe Medical Foundation and Delaware Futures, underscoring its ongoing impact and dedication to long-term, community-centered philanthropy.

Pickleball + Philanthropy = A Great Day with Next Gen North

Next Generation North (Next Gen North) hit the courts this year with a fun and fast-paced pickleball tournament, welcoming players of all skill levels for a day of friendly competition, all for a good cause.

The tournament brought together community members, young professionals and supporters who weren't afraid to serve up some serious energy. Between the laughs, rallies, and high-fives, the event raised funds to support the important work of Next Gen North at the Delaware Community Foundation. The group plans to make its first grants in the coming year.



Our Team Makes More Possible

The DCF team strove to “Make More Possible” in 2025, through remarkable achievements and leadership. Here we celebrate some of the many milestones.

Promotions



Rebecca Elzey
Director of
Operations



Sarah Hensch
Executive Vice President
& Chief of Staff



Jacqueline Mwangi
Accountant

New DCF Team Members



Mark Arehart
Philanthropy
Officer
for Northern
Delaware



Dr. Jennifer Fuqua
Director of
Community
Partnerships and
Hispanic Initiatives



Nadia Gross
Communication
& Marketing
Specialist



Jordan Hilliard
Accounting
Associate



Katherine Neff
Executive Assistant
& Office Manager



Mari Pack
Director of
Communication
& Marketing

Awards & Honors



Kelly Sheridan, DCF's Grant & Scholarship Coordinator, received the prestigious Driving Force Award for her work as a Founder, Vice Chair and Chair at our Fund For Women (FFW) giving circle. She was honored for her exceptional leadership, unwavering service, and dedication to empowering women and girls.

Maribeth Przywara, who was promoted to Director of Advancement in late 2024, has earned the prestigious Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy (CAP) credential. Advisors with the CAP® designation think both broadly and deeply about philanthropy to help their clients reach their charitable giving goals, while also helping them meet their estate planning and wealth management goals.



DCF President & CEO, Stuart Comstock-Gay was honored by the Delaware Business Times as one of the “222” leaders at the peak of their career, who shape business and communities in every corner of the state. (Spoiler: he made the 2026 list, too!)

Joining the Board



Alonna Berry
Executive Director
Delaware Center
for Justice



Molly Giordano,
Executive Director
of the Delaware
Art Museum



Charles Elson
Founding Director of
the John. L. Weinberg
Center for Corporate
Governance at the
University of Delaware



Chuck Posnecker
Senior Vice President
and Senior Wealth
Advisor Bryn Mawr
Capital Management

Thank You, Drew Fennell & Kelly Firment



We thank Drew Fennell for her leadership as Chair during the past three years and we are pleased she will remain on the Executive Committee, serving as Immediate Past Chair.



We honor Kelly Firment, who contributed the maximum of ten years of service on our board, including serving as Chair. She stepped down at the close of her last term in June 2025. We wish her every success.



Podcast

We revamped our podcast for 2025 to focus on what damages communities and what makes them successful. Branded "How to (Not) Kill Your Community" and hosted by DCF President and CEO Stuart Comstock-Gay, guests included experts from across the state, such as former Agriculture Secretary Ed Kee, U.S. Representative Sarah McBride, CEO of Aspira of Delaware Margie Lopez Waite and many more. The episodes explore what helps communities thrive and what undermines their success, from housing to the arts to how we engage with our so-called "enemies." All episodes are available on YouTube, Spotify, and Apple Podcasts.

Leaving a Legacy

Carolyn Smith opened a donor advised fund (DAF) in her and her husband Phillip's name that granted \$1.5 million between 2006 until she passed in 2020. She left the majority of her estate to the fund, creating a legacy of support for the charities most important to the couple during their lives. Three endowed designated funds, The Phillip and Carolyn Smith Fund, Phillip and Carolyn Smith Fund for Animals, and Phillip and Carolyn Smith Fund for Basic Needs have each already granted \$525,000 and will continue to support the named organizations in perpetuity.



Phillip & Carolyn Smith



The DCF's Chris Chapdelaine, Maribeth Przywara and Mari Pack show Mrs. Smith's portrait and photos.

Hanging on a wall in the office of DCF Director of Advancement Maribeth Przywara is a portrait of a young woman with rosy cheeks and cropped brown hair in a floral sweater.

"I never met her personally," said Przywara, sitting at her desk. "Though I feel as if I know her because I've been so inspired by her."

This pastel drawing features Carolyn Smith, who established a DAF in her and her late husband Phillip's name. It would later support designated beneficiary charities after her passing. This type of charitable gift, made through their estate, continues to provide lasting support for issues they cared about – such as Sunday Breakfast Mission, the National Park Foundation, and Faithful Friends.

The couple did not inherit trusts or assets; they were hardworking "regular" people – a veterinarian and an administrative assistant – who lived modestly.

As recipients of their estate assets, the DCF received the gift of their Newark home, the sale of which went toward the Smiths' funds.

"It takes a very special person to save throughout a lifetime and then to gift such a substantial estate to so many worthwhile causes. It's an incredible legacy."
- Maribeth Przywara



Mrs. and Mr. Smith with beloved pets

That is how a few portraits and photographs found a new home as decorations in the DCF Wilmington office.

Even as staff have come and gone, images of Carolyn's beloved black lab, Misty, and her orange cat, Ochre, continue to be rediscovered and reused by staff members in their offices, offering a direct example of what can be achieved with planning and perseverance.

Nonprofit Funds

Currently, nearly 200 public charities and other charitable entities from throughout the state have established funds at the DCF. We provide expertise and services that make it easy for our nonprofit fundholders to build their endowments and long-term funds for greater financial stability, increase donor confidence, provide donors with a way to make planned gifts, and increase their organization's visibility.

AIDS Delaware Inc
Amanecer Community Counseling Services
American Civil Liberties Foundation of Delaware Inc
American Planning Association - Delaware Chapter
Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware Inc
Biggs Museum of American Art
Bike Delaware
BlindSight Delaware Inc
Blood Bank of Delmarva Inc
Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware
Cab Calloway School Fund
CAMP Rehoboth
Cancer Support Community Delaware Inc
Canine Partners for Life
Careys Church
Catholic Charities Inc
CenDel Foundation
Charter School of Wilmington Inc
CHEER Inc
Child Help Foundation
Children & Families First
Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware
ChristianaCare
City of New Castle
Coastal Concerts Inc
Communities in Schools of Delaware Inc
Community Legal Aid Society Inc
Connecting Generations Inc
ContactLifeline Inc
Corbit-Calloway Memorial Library
DASEF
DE NAHRO
Delaware Agricultural Museum Association
Delaware Bar Foundation
Delaware Botanic Gardens Inc
Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition
Delaware Burn Camp
Delaware Center for Horticulture Inc
Delaware Chapter American College of Surgeons
Delaware City Library

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council Inc
Delaware Division of Libraries
Delaware First Media Corporation
Delaware Futures Inc
Delaware Guidance Services for Children and Youth Inc
Delaware Hospice
Delaware Library Association
Delaware Medical Education Foundation
Delaware Museum of Nature and Science
Delaware Nature Society Inc
Delaware Performing Arts Center Inc
Delaware Preservation Fund Inc
Delaware Recreation & Parks Society
Delaware Seashore Preservation Foundation
Delaware State University Foundation Inc
Delaware Volunteer Legal Services Inc
Delmar Public Library Commission Inc
Del-Mar-Va Council Inc - Boy Scouts of America
DFRC
Duck Creek Regional Library
Easter Seals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore Inc
Eastern Apicultural Society
Elizabeth W Murphey School Inc
Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware
Federation of International Lacrosse
First State Animal Center and SPCA Inc
First State Community Action Agency Inc
First State Robotics Inc
Frankford Public Library Ltd
Fresh Start Scholarship Foundation Inc
Friends of Delaware Veterans Inc
Friends of the Bear Library Association
Friends of the Woodlawn Library
Friends of Woodburn Inc
Georgetown Aid Inc
Georgetown Grace United Methodist Church
Georgetown Presbyterian Church
Georgetown Public Library
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Council Inc
Grace United Methodist Church
Greater Lewes Foundation

Nonprofit Funds

Greenwood Public Library
Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County
Harrington Public Library
Harry K Foundation
Historical Society of Delaware
HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Organization) Delaware
Holy Cross High School
Home of the Brave Foundation
Housing Alliance Delaware Inc
Humane Animal Partners
Immanuel United Methodist Church
In Trust Center for Theological Schools
Ingleside Homes Inc
Jewish Family Services of Delaware Inc
John Wesley United Church Inc
Junior Achievement of Delaware Inc
Junior Board of Christiana Care Inc
Junior League of Wilmington Inc
Justin W Jennings Foundation
Kalmar Nyckel Foundation
Kent County Public Library
Kent-Sussex Industries Inc
Kiwanis Foundations of the Kiwanis Club of Seaford Inc
Kutz Senior Living Campus
Latin American Community Center
Laurel Community Foundation Inc
Laurel Public Library
Lewes in Bloom Inc
Lewes Public Library Inc
Limen Recovery and Wellness
Lutheran Church of Our Savior
Lutheran Community Services Inc
Mary Campbell Center
Mental Health Association in Delaware
Milford District Free Public Library Commission
Milford Housing Development Corporation
Millsboro Public Library
Milton Historical Society
Milton Public Library
Mispillion Art League Inc
Modern Maturity Center
NAMI-DE
Needy Family Fund
NeighborGood Partners Inc
New Castle County Community Services
New Castle Library Commission
Newark Symphony Orchestra Inc
Opportunity Center Incorporated
Overfalls Foundation
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Inc
PAWS for People
Pencader Heritage Area Association
People's Place II Inc
Planned Parenthood of Delaware
Port Penn Historical Society
Presbyterian Church of Dover
Presbyterian Homes Inc
Preservation Delaware Inc
Prevent Child Abuse Delaware
Quiet Resorts Charitable Foundation
Read Aloud Delaware
Reading ASSIST Institute
Rehoboth Beach Film Society
Rehoboth Beach Public Library
Rodney Street Tennis & Tutoring Association
Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Delaware
Salisbury University Foundation Inc
Seaford District Library
Selbyville Public Library
Smyrna-Clayton Heritage Association
South Coastal Library
Spur Impact Association
St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
St. Edmonds Academy
St. Francis Foundation
St. John's United Methodist Church
St. Mark's High School
St. Michael's School and Nursery
STEHM Inc
Sussex County Assoc. of Realtors Community Service Foundation
Sussex County Habitat for Humanity
Sussex Land Foundation Inc
Sustainable Energy Utility Inc
The Arc of Delaware
The Delaware 4-H Foundation Inc
The Delaware Contemporary
The Friends of the Dover Public Library
The Tatnall School
Trinity Foundation
United Way of Delaware Inc
Village Improvement Association Inc
West End Neighborhood House Inc
Westside Family Healthcare Inc
Wilmington Children's Chorus
Wilmington Friends School Inc
Wilmington Senior Center Inc
YWCA Delaware Inc

Legacy Society

Those listed here have worked with the DCF to create new or supplement existing funds through their estate plans. Some include unrestricted gifts to the DCF which allow us to pursue work and address needs that are most urgent at a given time. If you would like more information about how DCF can fulfill your charitable goals through your estate planning work, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Marjorie Adis and Lisa Powell
Barbara Norris Allen and Charles C. Allen, III
Paula Allen
Gwendoline Angalet
Robert and Carol Baker
Larry and Linda Barnett
Thomas and Mona Bayard
Paul and Elizabeth Wells Bechly
Kathryn Beck
James and Rosalyn Bishop
Katherine and Robert Boyd
Louellen and Gavin Braithwaite
Karen Brause and Kimberly Sheaffer
Bobby and Joan Brown
Sarah Brown
Gloria Burton
James Carlo
Patricia Chappelle
Ross Claiborne
Susan Clifton and Kurt Winkler
Valerie and Robert Cloutier
Francis and Addie Cole
Dolores and Richard Colgate
Constance Cooper
Harry Daisey
Andrew and Paulette Davidson
Kathryn Davis
Lisa Diller and John Tobin
Herman DiLuchio
Eugenia Athan Dugdale
Donald and Nancy Edwards
Gary and Cindy Emory
Jean Gandeck
Ajit George
Jane and J. Robert Gibson
Lynn and Harry Glaze
Maria Gonzales
Abigail and Donald Greene
Caren Greisman
Kim and Keith Grube
Lawrence Guthrie
Susan R. Hall

Anne Hampton
Selma Hayman
Gene and Rose Mary Hendrix
Susan and Stephen Herrmann
Robert E. Hickman
Ann Hilaman
Judith Hilton Hyde and Frank Hyde
Fifi Hiotis-Blackburn
Joan Hoge-North
Kusuma and Ramachandra Hosmane
Robert Kovalcik and Robert Howard
Marilyn Hyte and Patricia McGee
Katherine Johnson
Gerald Kaplan
Trena Kelly
Glenn Kenton
Mary Jane Kimmins
Jan King
Renata Kowalczyk
Joseph and Jean Kowinsky
Janet and Brian Kramer
Florence Kvalnes
Keiley and William Lafferty
Andrew Langsam and Cabella Calloway
Langsam
Hugh and Kathleen Leahy
Richard and Mary Legatski
Jack and Patricia Leshner
Peter and Rozlyn Leslie
William D. Luke Jr.
Nancy A. Maihoff, Ph. D.
Elaine Markell
Robert Martz
Robert Ralph McCrone and Nancy Joyce
McCrone
Kathleen Furey and Thomas McDonough
Rosemarie Roth and Susan Miller
Stephen & Maria Mockbee
Mary Jo Moore
Gary C. Myers Jr.
Mark Patzchke and Richard Newton
Philip Nicotra

Brian R. & Linda H. O'Connor
Austin Okie
James and Kateryna Orth
Joseph and Linda Outlaw
Alan and Yvonne Palmer
Donald and Ethel Parsons
Andrew and Michelle Partyka
Benjamin and Laura Phillips
Elizabeth Poole
Brian and Joy Read
Donald and Lois Richards
Karen Ritgert
Charles and Patricia Robertson
Richard Rowland
Sioux Saloka
Michele and Howard Sands
Carl and Doris Schnee
Jeanne Otis Shields
Theresa Silver
Joni Silverstein
Carolyn Smith
Kathleen Duffy Smith
Tina Sonzogni
Sandra Spence
Alma and Howard Swank
Lawrence Sweigert
Fred and Janice Teich
Philip Timon
Sarah and Reade Tompson
Matthew Waschull
Richard and Anne Wier
Beverly and John Wik
Thomas Wise
Thomas and Diane Wren

New Funds

EST. Fiscal 2024

Anne Hampton Fund
 Austin Faucett Okie Charitable Fund
 Austin Faucett Okie Designated Fund #1
 Austin Faucett Okie Designated Fund #2
 Austin Faucett Okie Designated Fund #3
 Austin Faucett Okie Fund for the Nabb Center at Salisbury University
 Austin Faucett Okie Refugee Assistance Fund
 Austin Faucett Okie Sussex Environmental Protection Fund
 Barbara S. Hicks Memorial Fund
 Brian and Joy Read College Scholarship Fund
 Brian and Joy Read Trades Scholarship Fund
 Burton-Geuting Fund
 Charles Crompton Charitable Fund
 City of New Castle Fund
 Constance K. Norwood Family Fund
 Cynthia & Thomas Wise Environmental Fund
 Cynthia & Thomas Wise Sussex Assistance Fund
 Daniel Maurice Wilkinson Fund
 Elaine Conroy Moore Fund
 Fredric and Janice Teich Fund for Animals
 Gary Seiden Charitable Fund
 Gerry Kaplan Fund for Classical Music and Education
 Gerry Kaplan Fund for Science and Technology in Delaware Schools
 Hendrix Family Fund
 Hilton-Hyde Fund
 Holy Cross High School Endowment Fund
 Holy Cross High School Long-Term Reserve Fund
 Imogene Coca Compassion in Care Scholarship Fund
 Ix Fund
 Joni Reich Family Charitable Fund
 Joni Reich Family Scholarship Fund
 Kathryn Beck Fund for Roland Park Country School
 Keith and Kimberley Grube Charitable Fund
 Lentz Trades Scholarship Fund
 Lewes in Bloom Agency Fund #1
 Lewes In Bloom Agency Fund #2
 Lewes In Bloom Agency Fund #3
 Maria Theresa Gonzales Fund
 Marjorie H. Adis and Lisa A. Powell Fund
 Mark Scott Patzschke & Richard Peter Newton, Jr. Fund
 Marty W. Johnson Family Fund
 Michael J. and Hannah George Koziski College Scholarship Fund
 Michael J. and Hannah George Koziski Fund
 Michael J. and Hannah George Koziski Scholarship Fund
 Paul Parets Memorial Fund
 Randy J. Holland Fund
 Robert L. Howard & Robert Kovalcik Cape Henlopen Arts
 Scholarship Fund
 Robert L. Howard & Robert Kovalcik Designated Fund
 Shands Impact Fund
 Sonzogni Animal Welfare Fund
 Sonzogni Charitable Fund #1
 Sonzogni Charitable Fund #2
 Sonzogni Georgetown Library Fund
 Sonzogni Sussex Veterans Support Fund

Sonzogni Wreaths Across America Fund
 St. Mark's High School Fund
 Sussex County Assistance Fund
 Wendy and Jim Emrich Compassion and Justice Fund
 William and Diana Barry Young Adult Fund
 YWCA Delaware Legacy Fund

Charitable Partners

Our Charitable Partners Program helps professional advisors continue to manage client relationships and assets while the DCF provides expertise in tax-advantaged giving, as well as the community knowledge and relationships to help clients achieve their philanthropic goals.

Paul Bechly
Morgan Stanley

Christopher "Kit" Daniels
Jordan Daniels
Creative Planning, LLC

Brian Davis
UBS Financial Services, Inc.

William Dugdale
Bernstein Private Wealth Management

R. Mark Fitzpatrick
Morgan Stanley

Garrett Hadley
Morgan Stanley

Jennifer King
Chase Investment Council Corp

Charles Mitchell
Morgan Stanley

Duane Oakes
SEI Investments

Peter Oldziej
Peter A. Oldziej and Associates

Matthew Perny
Merrill Lynch & Company

Andrew Slade
Glenmede Trust Company, N.A.

Jim Smith
Morgan Stanley

Gary Ulrich
Financial House

Peni Warren
Merrill Lynch & Company

Leadership Campaign

Since 1986, the DCF has been providing community leadership that benefits Delawareans throughout the state. Thanks to the generosity of our Annual Leadership Campaign donors, the DCF has been a powerful force for good for nearly 40 years, serving as a facilitator, connector, cultivator and source of community knowledge.

Community Builders (\$10,000+)

Discover Bank
Thomas Pulsifer

Community Partners (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Richard and Judith Allen
Anonymous
Glenn Hill and Chrissi Rawak
Joseph and Debbie Schell
Wakefield Family Fund, Inc.

Ambassadors (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Jim and Marcia Borel
Stuart and Lucy Comstock-Gay
Aimee and Charles Elson
Kelly and Scott Firmment
William and Megan Goeller
Fifi Hiotis-Blackburn
Keiley and William Lafferty
Edward Soboczenski

Benefactors (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Martha Carper
Daniel Cruce
Drew Fennell
Thomas and Catherine Franceschini
Sara Geuder
Edward and Leslie Goldenberg
M. Lynn Herrick Sharp and H. Rodney Sharp III
David and Elaine Hughes Singleton
Robert and Jan Krapf
Nancy Lomax
David and Sally McBride
Norman Monhait and Marcia Halperin
Tamika Montgomery Reeves and Jeff Reeves
Charles Pohl and Janice Nevin
Nadine and John Noble
Louisa Phillips
Julie and Jonathan Russ
Dennis and Beth Salter
Lorraine and John Seiberlich
Thomas and Linda Shopa
Gregory Sleet
William and Christine Sudell
Cindy Szabo and Brian Ellis
Red Wagon Calagione Family Foundation
William and Barbara Wade
Chanta and Mark Wilkinson

Patrons (\$500-\$999)

Ashley and Shoshana Altschuler
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation

Dave DelVecchio
David Dion
Stanley and Martha Diver
William Dugdale and Sydney Van Dyke
Lynn Evans
Robert Feinson
Donald Gouge
Joanne Hench and Charles Collier
Margo and Howell Wallace
Patricia and Kenneth Hurd
Lynn and Leslie Jones
Peter S. Kennedy
Janet Kilburn-Blanchfield
Robert and Alice Martinelli
John and Peggy McDevit
Mary Miller and William Johnston
Vasanthan Nagarajan
Ben and Carol Osburn
Chuck Posnecker
Kathryn and Brian Preston
Fred and JoAnn Sears
Alicia Smith
Don Sparks
Roberta Tarpley Raffish and Clayton Tarpley
Anne Verplanck
Philip Verplanck
Beverly and John Wik

Supporters (\$250-\$499)

Jeanne and William Allan
Bancroft Construction Company
Rosemary Betts Beauregard
Thomas and Linda Cloud
Michael and Joyce Darling
Catherine and Michael DiSabatino
Alan Evantash and Peggy Lubin
George Mason University
Sarah Hench
Mary and Robert Hickok
Hugh and Kathleen Leahy
Margie Lopez-Waite
Charles and Mary Lou McDowell
Leslie Newman and Bill Wolff
David North and Joan Hoge-North
Donald and Ethel Parsons
Mary and Christopher Patterson
Debra Quinton and Kelly Sheridan
Charles and Susan Salkin
Stanley Sandler and Ellen Pifer
Michele Sands
Stephen and Judy Schwartz
Judith and William Spruance

Philip Timon
Michael and Judith Walls
Ann and Calhoun Wick

Contributors (\$1-\$249)

Afro-American Historical Society of Delaware
Anonymous Donor
Beverley Baxter
Nancy and Jay Blumberg
Deborah and Steven Casey
Arlene Dale Stratton
Robert and Deborah Director
Zita Dresner
Mary Page and Tom Evans
Nancy Fleming and Daniel Weintraub
R. Mark Fitzpatrick
Edward and Maureen Freel
Gail Garbutt
Peter and Susan Gilman
Richard Givens
Rod and Ann Gualtieri
Jason and Jennifer Hann-Deschaine
Richard and Dorothy Harper
Lynne Howard and Don Brown
Edmond and Annmarie Ianni
Dorothy Jacobson and Jon Tumler
Gretchen Kennedy
Rebecca and J. Travis Laster
Allison Levine
Dierdre McCartney
Joseph McDaniel
Neal Meyerson
Microsoft Giving Campaign
Peter Morken
PayPal Charitable Giving Fund
Percent Impact Foundation
Linda Poole
Richard and Maribeth Przywara
Stephanie and Harold W. Purnell
Catherine Seeber
Susan and Wilfred Sherk
Enid Simms
Leslie Slan
Gilbert and Alice Smith
Rita Speakman
Michael and Maria Staman
Lauren and Andrew Stayton
Donna Stinson
Kevin and Danielle Sullivan
Leonard and Barbara Togman
Jan and Michael White

Board Members

Officers & Executive Committee



Chanta Howard-Wilkinson

Chairperson

Human Resources and Workplace Culture & Inclusion
Chanta Wilkinson Consulting, LLC



Dan Cruce

At Large Representative

Chief Operating Officer
United Way of Delaware



Mariah Calagione

Vice Chairperson

Co-Founder, Dogfish Head



Margie López Waite

At Large Representative

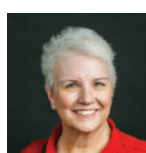
CEO of ASPIRA Delaware



Peter S. Kennedy

Treasurer

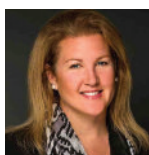
Director, Bonadio & Co, LLP



Drew Fennell

Immediate Past Chair

Senior Advisor, Social Contract



Cindy L. Szabo, Esq.

Corporate Secretary

Partner, Morris James, LLP

Directors



Ashley R. Altschuler, Esq.

Managing Partner
McDermott Will & Emery



Lossie Freeman

Chief of Staff
Cesium



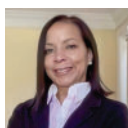
Chuck Posnecker

Senior Vice President and
Senior Wealth Advisor
Bryn Mawr Capital Management



Alonna Berry

Executive Director
Delaware Center for Justice



Frances Gauthier, Esq.

Litigation Director
Legal Services Corporation



Chrissi Rawak

Founder and Principal Consultant
The Stetson Group



Dr. William M. Chasanov

Senior Vice President, Chief
Health Systems Design Officer,
Beebe Healthcare



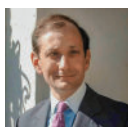
Molly Giordano

Executive Director,
Delaware Art Museum



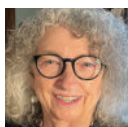
Hon. Gregory M. Sleet

Retired Chief Judge
U.S. District Court of Delaware



Charles Elson

Founding Director of the John. L.
Weinberg Center for Corporate
Governance at the
University of Delaware



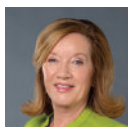
Louie Phillips

Retired Healthcare Executive



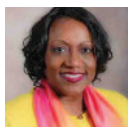
Michelle A. Taylor

President & CEO
United Way of Delaware
(ex officio)



Lynn C. Evans

Director, Women's Leadership
Initiative
University of Delaware



Dr. Vita Pickrum

Retired, Vice President
for Advancement
Delaware State University



Gina F. Ward

Healthcare Professional

Committees

Audit & Compliance Committee

Ms. Kelly Firmment, Chairperson
Mr. Pete Kennedy
Mr. Charles O. Posnecker, IV

Communications Committee

Ms. Mariah Calagione
Ms. Drew Fennell
Ms. Chrissi Rawak

Equity Committee

Ms. Kelly Firmment, Co-Chair
Ms. Alonna Berry, Co-Chair
Ms. Lossie Freeman
Ms. Chanta Howard Wilkinson
Mr. Gregory Sleet

Executive Committee

Ms. Drew Fennell, Chairperson
Ms. Mariah Calagione
Mr. Dan Cruce
Ms. Drew Fennell
Ms. Chanta Howard Wilkinson
Mr. Pete Kennedy
Ms. Cindy L. Szabo
Ms. Margie López-Waite

Finance Committee

Mr. Pete Kennedy, Chairperson
Mr. Ashley Altschuler
Ms. Alonna Berry
Ms. Pam Cornforth
Mr. Charles Elson
Mr. Robert W. Pierce

Investment Committee

Ms. Lynn C. Evans, Chairperson
Mr. Charles O. Posnecker, IV, Vice Chair
Mr. John du Pont
Mr. Charles Elson
Ms. Kathleen Hawkins
Ms. Marilyn R. Hayward
Mr. Hayes A. Roberts
Mr. Gordon Stone

Grants Committee

Ms. Louie Phillips, Chairperson
Ms. Reema Antonelli
Ms. Sherita Belle
Ms. Alonna Berry
Mr. Don C. Brown
Ms. Mariah Calagione
Mr. George Cardwell
Ms. Katherine Cauley
Ms. Gina Cronin
Ms. Melanie S. Daniels
Ms. Yvonne Deadwyler
Ms. Tierra Fair
Ms. Lisa Forever
Dr. Norma Gains-Hanks
Ms. Molly Giordano
Ms. Yvonne Gordon
Ms. Chanda Jackson
Ms. Lu Johnson
Ms. Laura Lloyd
Ms. Jilian Mackenzie
Ms. Katie Millard
Ms. Kimberly Morton
Dr. Vita Pickrum
Ms. Allison K. Pierce
Mr. Charles O. Posnecker, IV
Mr. Frank J. Robinson
Mr. Michael Statman
Mr. Andy G. Truscott
Ms. Margie López Waite
Ms. Dia Williams Adams

Human Resources Consultant

Lauren Russell, Partner
Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP

Nominating Committee

Ms. Chanta Howard-Wilkinson, Chairperson
Mr. Dan Cruce
Ms. Drew Fennell
Ms. Lossie Freeman
Dr. Vita Pickrum
Ms. Chrissi Rawak
Ms. Margie López Waite

Pro Bono Legal Counsel

J. Zachary Haupt, Esq.
Morris Nichols

Scholarship Committee

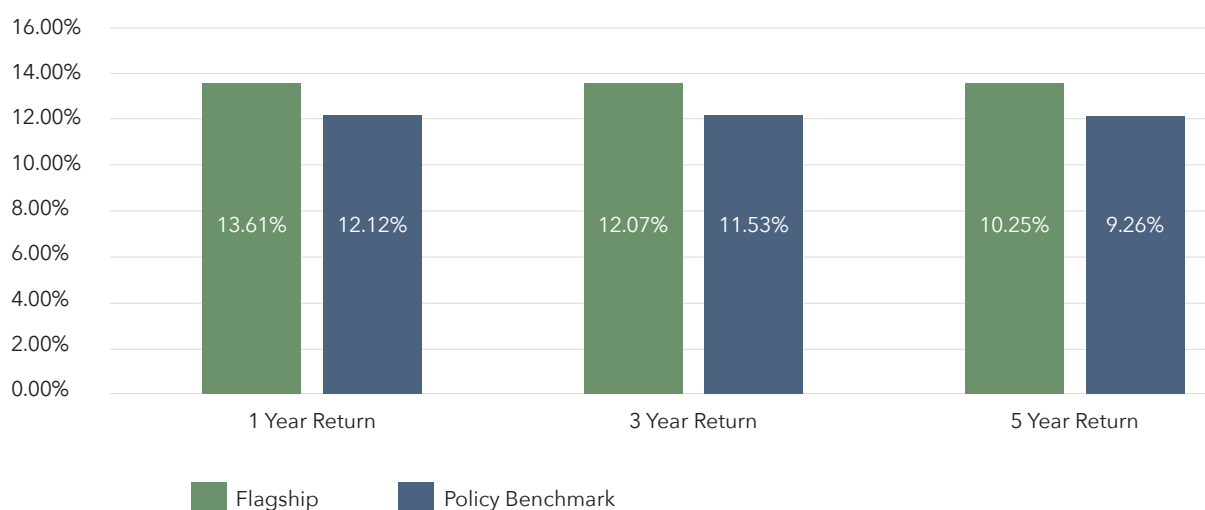
Donna Andrade-Selby
Cheryl Barber
Tanya Bell-Hynson
Dr. Sherita Belle
Rachel Blumenfeld
Christie Briedis
DeShawna Briscoe
Sylvia Brooks
Don Brown
Emily Bryant-Alvarez
Jenine Buchanan
Dr. Amystique Church
Josie Cicerale
Janice Colvin
Jeanne DiAmico
Vincent Farrell
Jessica Gordon
Dr. Nina Graves
Dana Harris
Saundra Hayward
Dr. Jason James
Liz Jordan
Melayna Laosebikan
Dave Leva
Sally Leva
Charlotte Lister
John McDevit
Peggy McDevit
Jane McFann
Alex Meredith
Susan Millard
Robin Morgan
Sabrina Neal
Veronica Oney
David Pitts
Dr. Richard Plotzker
Dr. Linda Poole
Barbara Ralph
Carol Revak
Susan Rigby
Tonya Schaeffer
Kim Sheaffer
Dr. Neysa Smith
Dr. Shawn Stevens
Janine Sorbello
Dr. Angela Suchanic
Travis Sudler
Karen Sundquist
Sharon Walter

Financials & Investments

Assets	2025	2024
Cash and cash equivalents	1,898,964	4,456,131
Investments	402,783,793	354,903,164
Notes receivable	1,350,590	2,121,185
Unconditional promises to give	835,643	1,143,002
Other receivables	163,981	123,282
Fixed assets - net	1,262,828	1,016,834

TOTAL ASSETS	408,295,797	363,763,597
--------------	-------------	-------------

Liabilities	2025	2024
Grants payable	-	-
Other accrued expenses	382,723	383,916
Property Loan	861,932	969,637
Charitable gifts annuities	257,526	257,526
Nonprofit agency funds	49,283,704	45,291,179
Total liabilities	50,785,885	46,902,257
Total Net Assets	357,509,912	316,861,340



Our Team



President and CEO

Stuart Comstock-Gay
(302) 504-5228
scomstock-gay@delcf.org

Executive Office

Katherine Neff
Executive Assistant/Office Manager
(302) 504-5221
Kneff@delcf.org

Community Impact

Sarah Hench
Executive Vice President & Chief of Staff
(302) 504-5267
shench@delcf.org

Yolanda Rushdan
Senior Program Officer, Community Impact
(302) 504-5239
yrushdan@delcf.org

Laura Semmelroth
Project Director, Community Impact
Bezos Earth Fund Fellow
(302) 504-5248
lsemmelroth@delcf.org

Jennifer Fuqua
Director of Community Partnerships
& Hispanic Initiatives
(302) 946-0293
jfuqua@delcf.org

Kelly Sheridan
Grant & Scholarship Coordinator
(302) 889-1907
ksheridan@delcf.org

Finance & Operations

Joyce Darling
Chief Financial Officer
(302) 504-5251
jdarling@delcf.org

Rebecca Elzey
Director of Operations
(302) 504-5234
relzey@delcf.org

Michelle Painter
Finance & Operations Coordinator
(302) 504-5227
mpainter@delcf.org

Jacqueline Mwangi
Accountant
(302) 504-5220
jmwangi@delcf.org

Chris Chapdelaine
Data and Operations Officer
(302) 504-5242
cchapdelaine@delcf.org

Jordan Hilliard
Accounting Associate
(302) 504-5252
jhilliard@delcf.org

Communications and Marketing

Robbie Tarpley Raffish
Vice President of Communications
& Marketing
(302) 504-5226
robbie@delcf.org

Mari Pack

Director of Communications & Marketing
(302) 504-5225
mpack@delcf.org

Nadia Gross

Communications & Marketing Specialist
(302) 918-5958
ngross@delcf.org

Philanthropic Services

Mike DiPaolo
Vice President for Philanthropy
& Southern DE
(302) 889-1884
mdipaolo@delcf.org

Maribeth Przywara

Director of Advancement
(302) 504-5223
mprzywara@delcf.org

Cassie DiSabatino

Donor Services Coordinator
(302) 504-5230
cdisabatino@delcf.org

Jessica Gordon

Philanthropy Officer for Southern Delaware
(302) 889-1913
jgordon@delcf.org

Mark Arehart

Philanthropy Officer for Northern Delaware
(302) 504-5224
marehart@delcf.org

DCF

Delaware
Community
Foundation

PO Box 1636
Wilmington, DE 19899
delcf.org

**making more
good possible**