WE ARE LEWES

2026 ANNUAL REPORT

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our quarter-century year was extraordinary, and 2026 will follow in kind...

During 2025 the GLF completed its third major community project – raising $8 million to acquire the 30 acre Fourth Street Preserve, then gifting it to the City of Lewes under a permanent conservation easement.

We did this with the extraordinary help of more than 1,200 Lewes community residents and an outstanding leadership team of GLF Board members.

Our plans for 2026 are equally ambitious. Primary among those are raising $2+ million, and creating new ongoing fund development programs to help the Lewes Fire Department meet the essential, increasing costs of providing Fire and EMS services to our City and region.

We do this work with a part-time staff and operating costs that are one-third the average of other non-profit organizations. Thank you for reading about, and supporting the important work of the GLF and its many funds and projects.

OUR 2025 Achievements 2025

Fourth Street Preserve

The generous support of the Lewes community, private foundations and state and City grants helped us complete a 23 month campaign to raise $8 million to purchase Lewes's last remaining forest and open space.

In accordance with the purchase terms, this historic 30 acre site will now include a complete reforestation with native trees and plants, featuring public trails and a new wetlands.

Board Activities

We were pleased to add Lewes Mayor Amy Marasco, Josh Baer and Pamela Costanzi to our board in 2025. Each will provide strong leadership for the implementation of our new strategic plan, which includes increased community outreach and new services for our charitable funds.

Charitable Funds

The GLF's portfolio of community funds continued to grow, with seven new funds and increased activity from our 67 existing funds to benefit Lewes in a variety of ways.

OUR 2026 PLANS

FOURTH STREET PRESERVE Restoration Fund

Fourth Street Restoration

GLF directors Jim Ford, Rodney Robinson and Pam Costanzi will continue to work with the City and with Scott Wilkinson's Master Naturalist group to refine and oversee the restoration of the Preserve, including a fall dedication.

Lewes 250

In addition to administration, promotion and fundraising for Lewes 250, these GLF projects will be prominently featured during the year ahead:

Arbor Day Foundation

- **Arbor Day Event**
  On May 1, a statewide event by Delaware Forest Service will feature the National Arbor Day Director and the dedication of the Lewes Freedom Tree.

- **John Wiltbank Family Cemetery**
  A restoration and re-dedication of the local resting place for John Wiltbank, a prominent Lewes Revolutionary period figure, and his family, will take place.

- **deVries Monument**
  A re-design of this monument, celebrating the "birthplace of Delaware," will be completed and unveiled as another Lewes 250 project.

Lewes Fire Department

The GLF is working with the Lewes Fire Department on a major endeavor to ensure the Department's future self-sufficiency, in response to the continued significant need for fire and rescue assistance. Look for announcements regarding the new Lewes Fire Department Foundation.

GLF Newsletter

Be sure to subscribe to our new monthly newsletter, for the latest about GLF funds, projects, activities – and how you can be involved!

We will also be making a host of new services available to our charitable fund advisors to support our shared missions on behalf of Greater Lewes.

2026

GLF CHARITABLE FUNDS

LOOK AT ALL WE ARE ACHIEVING, TOGETHER

GLF Funds made $600,000 in charitable gifts during 2025, in addition to $8 million raised and distributed for the Fourth Street Preserve Project, for a total of $8.5 million granted via the GLF to benefit Lewes.

Bay Beach Association
Brandywine Creek State Park Fund
Brown/White Fund
Cape Community Fund
Cape Gazette Charitable Foundation
Cape Henlopen Educational Foundation
Celebrate Wellness Fund
Christian & Julie Hudson Family Foundation
Coolie Cares
Darlene K. Rust Scholarship Fund
DE State Police - Community Engagement Fund
Delaware Film Commission Fund
Doo Dah Parade
Dr. David & Linda S. Robinson Scholarship Fund
Dr. Laura M. Leach Memorial Scholarship Fund
First State Pickleball Club Fund
Fitzgerald-Keith Fund
Fort Miles Museum
Fourth Street Preserve Restoration Fund
Friends of the Lewes Canalfront Park Fund
Gallo Gives Fund
George H. P. Smith Scholarship Fund
Go Fourth Lewes
Irish Eyes Foundation
Jamie Parsons Foundation for Culinary Arts
Jim Kiernan Scholarship Fund
John Wiltbank Cemetery Fund
Key Foundation
La Plaza
Lewes 250 Fund
Lewes Beekeeper Club Fund
Lewes Community Gardners Fund
Lewes Fire Department Foundation
Lewes Junction & Railroad Fund
Lewes Police Foundation
Lewes Public Arts Fund
Lewes/Rehoboth Rotary Fund
Lillie Patterson Fund
Lorraine & Steve Walker Fund
Mary Ann Morris Scholarship Fund
Maureen Schab Fund
Milford HS Class of 1988 Scholarhip Fund
Miller Foundation Fund
Miss Liz Meredith Foundation
Newark STAR Rotary Fund
Ocean 98 Foundation
Paul & Beth Bechly Charitable Giving Fund
PCKM Charitable Fund
Pennsylvania Merchant 1733 Fund
Prospect AME Church
Punkin Chunkin Fund
R. Marshall Schell Fund
Shaffer Family / Rally for Our First Responders
Shari Burke Memorial Swim Scholarship
Singers & Songwriters Fund
Sue Watts Marshall Fund
Sunrise Rotary Club
Sussex Cares Fund
Touch of Italy Community Foundation
The Steward Fund
T.W. Becker Fund

GLF PROJECTS:
deVries Monument Fund
Fourth Street Preserve
Lewes Canalfront Park
Lewes Community Preserve
Lewes Public Library
Nassau School Fund

You can support the work being done by the GLF and its funds simply by clicking the DONATE tab on the home page of our Greater Lewes Foundation web site...

greaterlewesfoundation.org

THE Greater LEWES FOUNDATION

WE ARE LEWES

AND HAVE BEEN, FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS

Wherever you go, whatever you do in greater Lewes, chances are you will come across one of the ways the GLF has benefited our community.

- **Lewes Canalfront Park**
  Our very first project saved this priceless waterfront site in Lewes and created a world class canalfront park and tot's playground.
- **Lewes Unleashed**
  Cited as the country's finest dog park, Lewes Unleashed got its start as a fund with the GLF
- **Fourth of July Fireworks**
  Our Go Fourth Lewes fund raises the money and organizes the annual fireworks display at Lewes Beach.
- **Fourth Street Preserve**
  The City's last forest and open space has been acquired and is now being restored for public use with the help of the GLF.
- **Lewes Public Library**
  The GLF found and acquired the land, then raised the funds to construct our magnificent Library, regularly serving thousands of patrons each month and hosting countless community meetings and events.
- **Lewes-Rehoboth Trails**
  The first trailhead, established by GLF at the Lewes Library, helped spur the creation of the Lewes-Rehoboth bike trail.
- **Lewes250**
  The GLF is administering the celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary in partnership with the City of Lewes and scores of local non-profit organizations.
- **Lewes Town Clock**
  Funds to purchase and install our town clock was inspired by the Steve & Lorraine Walker fund at the GLF.
- **History Book Festival**
  The GLF provided a home for the nationally acclaimed History Book Festival as it became established and, in time, its own independent non-profit.
- **Donations**
  The GLF has established more than 60 charitable funds to help our local residents make grants and pursue a broad range of important activities.

From ***Lewes Community Gardens*** to the ***Doo Dah Parade*** . . . from the ***Lewes Police Foundation*** to ***La Plaza*** . . . the list of how GLF and its fund advisors have supported Greater Lewes goes on and on.

And now you can be part of it as well – just call or email us to discuss how we can help you make a difference.

SCAN to subscribe to our new newsletter & stay up-to-date with all the latest Lewes activities!

www.greaterlewesfoundation.org/subscribe

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Consider all the ways you can help Lewes through the GLF

Charitable Funds

You can make a tax deductible gift at any time to any of our dozens of charitable funds, most of which support local causes. Also, consider a donation to the GLF itself as the modest fees we earn from funds only cover 50% of our (equally modest) operating costs.

Create a GLF Fund of Your Own

There is no cost to establish a charitable fund with the GLF, and it can be done at a single meeting. Here are different ways we can help you fulfill your charitable interests and objectives.

Donor-Advised Funds

Why go to the cost and trouble to create and manage a private foundation when you can have the equivalent through a donor-advised fund with the GLF. You make tax-deductible deposits to your fund, we provide an acknowledgement for tax purposes, then you advise us at any time where to make charitable donations. It's as simple as that.

Field of Interest Funds

This is a more narrowly directed type of donor-advised fund in which you identify a specific non-profit organization, or any particular cause (like education, healthcare or open space preservation) for your fund's grants to support.

Scholarship Funds

We can help you design the criteria, and meet other IRS requirements for making scholarship distributions, including the annual notification of applicants through schools. The GLF will then prepare the checks for distribution.

Additional Services for Fund Advisors

As a smaller, regional foundation, GLF is able to provide a host of important services to our fund advisors at low or no cost.

- **Fund logos** – we can help you design an attractive logo for your fund, and refer you to our excellent graphic designer for additional services.
- **Insert cards** – we can create cards with information about your fund to accompany grant distributions.
- **Online reports** – you can track the status of your fund at any time through our online FOUNDANT system.
- **Fundraising** – if you are interested in raising money for your fund and its purpose(s), we can provide advice at no cost, and assist with such things as appeal mailings, events, social media and PR. Our internal grants expert can even help you identify, write and submit requests to private and public grantors.
- **Online giving** – the GLF will provide you with a free online account to enable your fund to receive gifts by credit card at any time.
- **Other gift processing** – we can also accept and acknowledge gifts of stock, ACH transfers, even property to be liquidated in support of your fund.

You Can Create a Permanent Legacy through GLF

In addition to "lifetime" gifts, you may wish to create a permanently endowed fund to make charitable distributions in your name for decades to come. This can be done through donations now and/or via bequests.

We are happy to work with you and your financial advisors – attorney or CPA – to design exactly the type of fund you desire and how it will continue to benefit the causes you care about the most. We will also manage your endowed assets in secure investments that will ensure their permanence.

Never Worry About the Future

One of the many benefits of working with the GLF is the oversight and flexibility we will always provide your charitable endeavors.

For example, should a charitable organization you choose to benefit change or no longer exist in future years, the Board of the GLF will identify another recipient to help fulfill your charitable objective. Want to keep your family members involved? No problem, the GLF will be pleased to work with any successor advisors you, or they in years to come, appoint.

We Can Help Your Fund Assets Grow

Our arrangement with the Delaware Community Foundation will allow your endowed assets to be invested with their hundreds of millions of dollars to receive the highest and most secure return possible.

If you keep assets of more than $50,000 in a pass-through fund (Donor Advised, Field of Interest or Scholarship) for six months of more, the GLF can invest those for you as well in safely layered investment vehicles.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mark Chura
PROJECTS DIRECTOR

Greater Lewes Foundation
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FINANCIALS

Copies of our annual 990 filings, available from our website, greaterlewesfoundation.org, demonstrate GLF's remarkable cost-efficiency. Our annual budget for 2025 was less than 10% of overall revenues – just one third of the national average for non-profit organizations.

This is achieved through our experienced part-time staff, the expertise of our outstanding board, and excellent community volunteer assistance.

EACH PROJECT SUPPORTS THE GLF MISSION:

To maintain & enhance the quality of life in the Greater Lewes Region.

You can support our mission in many ways.
Through annual donations to our operations . . . by volunteering and assisting any of our charitable funds . . . or by creating a fund of your own.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Please call us at **302-644-0107** or email **mjrawl@horizonphilanthropic.com**

greaterlewesfoundation.org

THE Greater LEWES FOUNDATION