





Dear Friends,

Together we have grown to become an educational and cultural destination in Delaware. Through generous philanthropic support and community partnerships, the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation (KNF) is making hands-on learning experiences and events accessible to under-served youth, our region, and ports along the Eastern seaboard. This year, we reached a new record by touching the lives of 35,000 people!

The key word in our mission statement is "education." As we remain committed to this journey, in fiscal year 2023, KNF reached new milestones with programs that embraced learning and our maritime heritage, supported our community, and inspired our visitors and volunteers.

- MARITIME HERITAGE: Kalmar Nyckel, The Tall Ship of Delaware, hosted over 16,000 people for sails and tours from Wilmington, Historic New Castle, and seven ports on the Eastern Seaboard.
- LEARNING: 11,000 children and adults participated in our field trips, classroom, and community outreach programs. We offered free field trip and classroom programs to all K-12 Delaware public and charter school students thanks to generous donors and sponsors.
- **COMMUNITY:** 8,000 visitors toured our campus including 5,000 children and adults from Wilmington and the region who attended LEGO Shipbuilding Day, Captain Kidd's Pirate Day, Halloween Ghost Ship, and Underground Railroad Superhero Day.
- NEW EXHIBIT: BATTLE OF BUCHAN NESS: Epitaph for an Exceptional Ship, our stunning new permanent exhibit, features a painting by renowned marine artist Patrick O'Brien and a wall-sized depiction of the original Kalmar Nyckel's last voyage.
- **VOLUNTEERS:** Our volunteer program includes 250+ devoted friends who sail and maintain our ship, deliver education programs and events, and support our growth.

We are grateful for the partnership and philanthropic support of the community. We invite you to review this annual report and explore how we can collaborate to make a historic difference.

With deepest appreciation,

Cotheine Parsells andrew I. Cloud Catherine Parsells **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Andrew Cloud **BOARD CHAIRMAN**







Passengers and quests on ship sails and tours.

......



11,000

Children and adults on field trips and classroom programs (both in-person and virtual)

.....



community programs



2023 Education Highlights











1 OUR FLAGSHIP FIELD TRIP FUND made KNF's innovative hands-on learning accessible for free to all Delaware K-12 public and charter school children in FY23 — thanks to generous donors, including Godmother Tatiana Copeland and Arkadi Kuhlmann who presented a generous challenge match at the Gala.

2 STH ANNUAL LEGO
SHIPBUILDING DAY arrived
with 1,000 fans building STEM-based
ship models and fantastic creations
in our free-play rooms, plus prizes for
ships built at home and the event.

3 HALLOWEEN GHOST SHIP brought 1,200 visitors, many in costumes, to celebrate our

maritime twist on spooky ships and fun activities.

4 CAPTAIN KIDD'S
PIRATE DAY in July,
attracted 1,000 visitors for the 3rd
annual event with ship tours,
cannon demonstrations, chantey
singing, sword school, crafts,
and more.

5 UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SUPERHERO

PAY returned to Fort Christina
Park in August with families
making freedom schooners
and masks plus a riveting
performance of Harriet Tubman
by actor-historian Dr. Daisy
Century from the American
Historical Theatre.







Service hours given by active volunteers, to sail and maintain our ship as well as deliver educational programming

......



Devoted friends are part of our volunteer program. They sail and maintain our ship and support our growth.

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Children and adults on field trips and classroom programs (both in-person and virtual)

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SHIP STAFF

Jim Fitzgerald, Chief Mate/Engineer · Aida Morgan-Russell, Second Mate/Education Officer Greg Brown, Ship's Chef

COPELAND MARITIME CENTER & FORT CHRISTINA PARK

Museum Educators: Kathleen Hall-Ditchfield, Kit Melnik, Peter Neiner · Weekend Visitor Services: Marika Levine Interpreters: Herb Conner, William Harrell, Evan Royston



Workforce Development Program Partnership

or six years, the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation and neighboring Challenge Program (CP) have partnered to deliver a workforce development program for CP trainees during the ship's winter maintenance season. From November through mid-March, Challenge Program trainees learn and contribute to the maintenance of Kalmar Nyckel under the supervision of KNF staff.

Refinishing wood pieces including sanding, scraping, and varnishing, the trainees develop skills and contribute to various ship projects. They support critical ship maintenance while also learning "soft" skills working with KNF staff and a regular group of seasoned volunteers.

This workforce program is highly successful for the trainees and a great benefit to both organizations. KNF provides excellent job skill development, and with the Challenge Program building located in the shipyard, trainees can easily access other aspects of their program. It is a winning solution that we hope to continue for many more years.

If you are interested in supporting this work, and would like to learn more, please contact Amy Bielicki, Director of Development at dev@KalmarNyckel.org or 302.429.7447.





2023 Volunteer of the Year: Kat Caudle

n active volunteer since 2007, Kat Caudle, was honored as KNF's 2023 Volunteer of the Year at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party. In the words of Captain Sharon, "She is the type of person that we can call when we need something — whether it's on the ship, or for crew training, or something totally random. At festivals she steps up to help with anything, like shifting the entire gift shop from ship to shore or buying a tarp at the store! Need a main chief for almost every single day sail on weekends or evenings in Wilmington or New Castle — she's it. Need a crewmate picked up from the airport, "I got you" is her reply! Need a cook in a pinch? You got it! That's Kat."

As Captain Lauren says, "Just like me, she revels in that 'edge of chaos' feeling that is running a complicated deck on a windy sail with a full boat of passengers and crew — and in doing it well. She has put serious work into becoming excellent at our moderntraditional 'blend' of personal experiences and technical boat handling. She's organized. She studies. She works hard to communicate clearly and consistently when she trains others... she is excellent at what she does."

Kalmar Nyckel Foundation is not Kat's only volunteer commitment, but she goes "above and beyond" to make her schedule work for the ship and the crew. This year, she devoted three full weeks on the ship before starting a new job commitment. "We count on her, and she does not disappoint," says Captain Lauren. Kat, congratulations and thank you for all you do for KNF!

2023 **VOLUNTEER OF** THE YEAR,

Kat Caudle on the ship's rig.

VOLUNTEER

Chris Brooks helming on the whipstaff (our ship pre-dates the invention of the captain's wheel by about 70 years).

OUR FALL MAINTENANCE

includes sanding and finishing the bowsprit thanks to a big crew of volunteers.











Volunteer Program

The Kalmar Nyckel Foundation recognizes our volunteers as the heart and soul of our organization. We thank each one of you, who not only sailed and maintained Kalmar Nyckel, but also taught and guided our programs and events in Fy2023.



Jean Ashe Victoria Astley Elaine Autry Sharon Baker Chris Basler Liz Berke Doug Blair Chris Blidan Mark Blythe Joe Bodnar Tony Bosworth Barry Bowen Chris Brooks Leon Brooks

Tim Burroughs, Sr. Joe Butera Vinny Caputo Ellen Carter Rob Carter Jon Caspar Kat Caudle Kathy Caudle Frank Cebula Chris Chambers Dawn Cheshaek Mark Chesney Christine Cintron Jim Clark **Tucker Cobey** Herb Conner Herschel Connor Angela Cosenzo Dave Costa Paul Deevy Gary Deshong Moe DeSousa Joanna Dimondi Allegra DiNetta Sandy Dounce Glenn Dracopoulos Antonie Dvorakova John Eastlund Bev Eccles Blue Eng Terri Eros Mark Eschbacher Don Feeney Mike Fernbacher Taylor Fiederlein Mike Fiore Sadie Fiore Gerry Forney Nellie Forwood Jodi Frank Stephen Franklin Bill Gail G.G. Garth Steve Gaston Steve Gee **Andy Gogates Bob Goldsmith** Mark Goncalves Charles Grav Fran Green Phil Gross Jen HagenCharles Harm Peter Harrington **Dustin Harvey**

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VOLUNTEER ELAINE AUTRY is the first woman to receive the epic 10,000 Volunteer Hours Award for service at KNF. She was honored in December with an "angel head" carved likeness that will be mounted on Kalmar Nyckel's stern gallery this year. She joins 11 men who have reached this goal.



2023 Program Highlights



THE KEY TO KALMAR, a stunning gilded carving, was unveiled on the stern of our ship to mark the 25th anniversary of her commissioning in May, thanks to many skilled volunteers.

CAPTAIN SHARON DOUNCE was inducted into the prestigious Delaware Maritime Hall of Fame. We congratulate Kalmar Nyckel's Port Captain (USCG licensed 200-ton Master) for more than 20 years of outstanding service!





EPITAPH OF AN EXCEPTIONAL

SHIP, opened with a ribbon cutting attended by Senator Tom Carper, benefactor Arkadi Kuhlmann, and KNF supporters. Featuring a KNF-commissioned oil painting by renowned marine artist Patrick O'Brien, the exhibit depicts the original Kalmar Nyckel's final battle in defense of the Dutch in 1652. "Developing cultural and historical programs that connect the community to our heritage will impact today and tomorrow in immeasurable ways," noted Mr. Kuhlmann.



VASA MUSEUM VISITORS

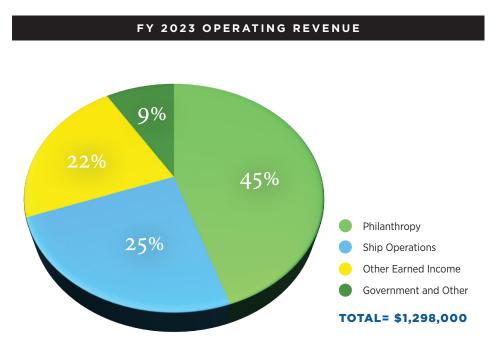
Fred Hocker, Director of Research and KNF Trustee/ crew member and Ana Silwerulv, Costume and Textile Researcher (in yellow) presented "Dress for 17th Century Success" for KNF volunteers. Pictured (left to right) Hocker, Captain Sharon, James Knowles, KNF's Sam Heed, Silweruly, and Captain Lauren.



Fiscal Year 2023 Financials

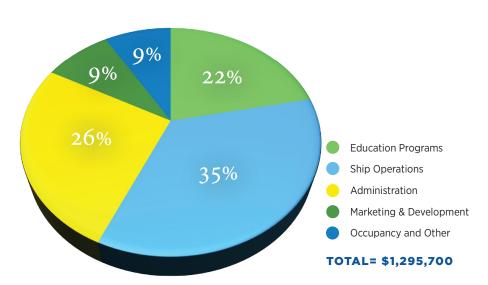
uring the 2023 Fiscal Year (from November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023), KNF operated with a \$1.3 million annual operating revenue and 31 employees (9 fulltime; 23 part-time/seasonal). We were supported by 200+ active volunteers who gave 40,240 service hours (valued at \$1,279,500) to sail and maintain our ship as well as deliver educational programming in 2023. Overall, FY23 delivered our best results since 2019 and greatly exceeded our expectations. Capital expenditures totaling \$176,800 were covered entirely by specific foundation and individual gifts.

KNF continues to develop a long-term strategy to expand our partnerships and improve our maritime campus. The organization has been a significant contributor to Wilmington's Christina Riverfront, with a 6.8-acre riverfront campus and more than \$15 million invested in the ship, Copeland Maritime Center, multiple permanent exhibits, the dock, and shipyard improvements.



In addition, the value of volunteer time (40,240 hours) is \$1,279,500.

FY 2023 OPERATING EXPENSES



Depreciation and other non-cash expenses are not included.



Community Partners

The Challenge Program City of Wilmington Council of American Maritime Museums Delaware Department of Education Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs The National Park Service **New Castle County** NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary

Old Swedes Historic Site Riverfront Development Corporation of Delaware Swedish Council of America Tall Ships America UGR3Day Underground Railroad Experiences, Inc. Vasa Museum, Stockholm, Sweden Wilmington City Council





OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS make free community events possible (above, left) The Forney Room (above, right) is evidence of the Family's strong belief in philanthropy. Inset, Bob and Marilyn Forney, who, along with son Gerry Forney donate time, talent and treasure to KNF.

A Forney Family Tradition of Giving

love of sailing and a passion for travel were the nexus of Bob and Marilyn Forney's collection of 73 model ships and boats that now resides in the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation's "Watercraft of the World" gallery which opened in 2015. While this is a remarkable collection that follows their travels across the globe, the Forney Family has also volunteered for many years and made generous philanthropic gifts including a variety of financial resources, from cash to donoradvised funds, appreciated stocks, matching gifts, and a family foundation.

We are so grateful to Bob and Marilyn and all the Forneys, and it is with great sadness that we recognize the passing of Marilyn on December 29, 2023. Marilyn will be remembered for many wonderful qualities and particularly her generous philanthropic spirit - which she passed down to her family. Multi-generational giving is part of their family's passion.

Their son, Gerry Forney, is an active member of both Kalmar Nyckel's volunteer crew and the Board of Trustees (just elected Trustee Emeritus in January 2024). He gives his time, talent and treasure to our education mission and prgrams. "Our family has a strong belief in philanthropy," says Gerry. "We also have managed our giving strategies to help our funds grow

and serve more causes over the years." At KNF, we are thankful for the leadership and inspirational

philanthropic support of the whole Forney Family.

Please contact Amy Bielicki, Director of Development, dev@KalmarNyckel.org at 302.429.7477 to discuss planned giving or seek the advice of your financial or tax advisor to make sure your philanthropic giving fits your goals.



We celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Kalmar Nyckel's commissioning and had a wonderful party in spite of the tropical storm that moved us inside. With the generous support of our sponsors, host benefactors, donors, guests, committee, and winning bidders, our 16th annual King Neptune Gala was a great success. Many thanks to everyone who supported our Gala!

Gala Sponsors

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Staff

Cathy Parsells Jan Ross Mary Ann Connelly



King Neptune Gala













1 Emcee Michael Waite, KNF Executive Director Cathy Parsells, Auctioneer and State Senator Dave Wilson, and Captain Sharon Dounce.

2 Ashley Cloud, FY23 Board Chair Andy Cloud, and Captain Lauren.

4 Chip and Tracy Rossi

5 KNF Director of Education & Senior Historian Sam Heed, Teacher at Bancroft School Karen Eller, and Governor Carney.

6 Kristopher Knight, Deputy Secretary of Delaware Department of State and guest.

³ Ambassador of Sweden to the United States Urban Ahlin



Report on Giving

We extend our gratitude and deep appreciation to the individuals, foundations, and organizations who donated funding to the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation from November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023 (Fiscal Year 2023). Your gifts support our education mission and represent a meaningful affirmation of our work. Thank you!

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

- · Arkadi Kuhlmann Family Trust
- Longwood Foundation
- · Welfare Foundation, Inc.

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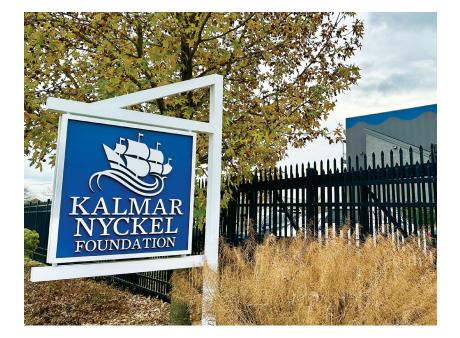
\$500 - \$999

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- Joseph Fader · Jackie and J. Harry Feldman





Report on Giving



SHARING **WILMINGTON'S**

Underground Railroad history, playing pirate with our ship's crew, learning to build a boat, and exploring the life of a 17th-century sailor are all possible thanks to our generous donors and sponsors.



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- James Smigie · Thomas Washbon
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- · Deryn and Joseph Zakielarz





2023 In-Kind Donations

Special thanks to these individuals and organizations that donated in-kind goods and services to the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation in FY2023.

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The Annual Report is a KNF publication. If there are any omissions or corrections please contact Amy Bielicki. 302,429,7447 or dev@KalmarNyckel.org.



