

WELCOME



Anna Fagan



The Center welcomes Christophe Tulou as its new Executive Director

When I first sat down to write this letter, I didn't know where to begin. 2022 was a whirlwind year, not least because of the tremendous growth and change the Center experienced.

As with any major transition, there were times of uncertainty and frustration. But when tasked with protecting and restoring resources as valuable and as vulnerable as the Inland Bays, there is too much at stake to be melancholy or discouraged. These feelings only serve to distract from our mission. Instead, we must focus on opportunity and what the future might hold if we keep our focus and wits about us.

None are a better example of putting this practice into action than the Center's truly exceptional staff. Amidst all the change and uncertainty, research and monitoring continued, community outreach and education continued, restoration projects were put in the ground, open space was protected—our team never skipped a beat. I encourage you to read on and learn more about these impressive accomplishments.

Of course, they wouldn't be possible without the steadfast support of our Board of Directors, volunteers, donors, and partners. The Center is fortunate to have such intelligent, dedicated people who use their time, resources, and talents to help us realize our vision for a healthy, and resilient watershed, where diverse wildlife and habitats thrive, and all who live, work, and visit contribute to its betterment as informed stewards.

It was an honor to serve as Acting Director for the Center and now, it is an honor to welcome our new Executive Director, Christophe Tulou. Christophe has dedicated his career to the environment and natural resources by bridging science and policy to address challenges like climate change resilience, coastal development, and watershed management. He will be a great asset to the Center and the entire Inland Bays watershed and I'm so excited to be working with him in my new role.

I hope that you all share in my excitement about what 2023 holds. With your continued support, it will be our best year yet.

Anna Fagan

Anna Fagan
Deputy Director



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Mr. James Tully Shellfish Program Specialist

Mr. Andrew Twarowski Shellfish Program Specialist

OPEN SPACE SUCCESS STORY: BUCKS NECK FARM

As development across the Inland Bays watershed continues at a rapid rate, protecting open space is more critical than ever.

Over 50 acres protected in 2022—100 acres within the Inland Bay Watershed, 51 in the Broadkill Watershed

257 acres have been protected in the Inland Bays watershed since 2020

Benefits

of preserving open space

- Outdoor recreation
- Storage of carbon dioxide/ improved air quality
- Stormwater run-off reduction
- Wildlife habitat

In April 2022, the Center identified Bucks Neck Farm as an area with high ecological value—and available for purchase.

The 47-acre parcel, located in the headwaters (i.e., the source) of the Indian River in Millsboro, is adjacent to a property managed by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control's (DNREC) Division of Fish and Wildlife. Headwaters are innately connected to the surrounding landscape and are considered the "lifeblood" of streams and rivers. From supplying key food and nutrients to influencing downstream conditions (e.g., delivering water and sediment) to supporting an array of plant and animal communities, they are essential to the health of the entire river. Unfortunately, these very features make headwaters vulnerable to land-use changes, including urban development, and is why preserving the land surrounding them is a critical component to clean water protection.

The Center quickly engaged members of the Sussex Conservation Partnership, including DNREC, The Nature Conservancy, Sussex County government, and Sussex County Land Trust, to further evaluate the property's value.

"The success of the Bucks Neck Farm acquisition truly shows the power of partnerships," said Michelle Schmidt, the Center's Director of Conservation and Watershed Planning. "Within days of identifying the



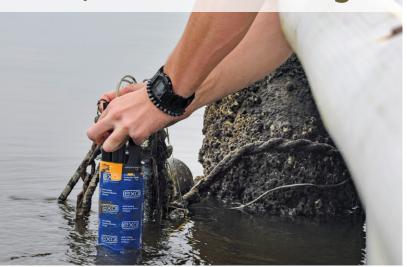
On May 11, 2022, members of the Delaware Land Protection Coalition met with members of the Delaware General Assembly to talk about the importance of open space protection and to request an increase of \$15 million for the Open Space Program in Fiscal Year 23.

property was for sale, the Center began working with Sussex County to visit the site and contact the realtor. We were able to pull this acquisition off quickly, which is important given the recent real estate market. Now we have a beautiful property adjacent to the Midlands Wildlife Management Area that will be protected in perpetuity—we couldn't have done that without partnerships."

In addition to the mature forests located on the property, the open fields offer the opportunity for future reforestation projects. This would further provide wooded habitat for wildlife while filtering harmful pollutants like excess nitrogen and phosphorus from stormwater before they reach local waterways.

SUCCESSES IN SCIENCE RESEARCH AND RESTORE

100,000 data recordings



Reaching a Big Milestone for Water Quality Monitoring

In 2022, the Center celebrated 100,000 data recordings through its Continuous Water Quality Monitoring Program. This data helps us learn about the health of the Bays and measure the effectiveness of actions taken to reduce pollution. Sondes (sensors) placed at six sites across the Inland Bays run nonstop from April through October, recording salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity (clarity), chlorophyll levels, and pH every 30 minutes. The 100,000 recordings represent over 50,600 hours of sonde data since the program's inception in 2020.

26,300 trees planted



Reforesting for People and Wildlife

A total of 26,300 trees were planted in 2022, adding over 19 acres of interior forest to the Inland Bays watershed. These trees will provide valuable habitat, create critical buffers along waterways, and reduce nutrient pollution, leading to healthier waters for generations to come.

8th demonstration living shoreline project



Stabilizing a Community Shoreline

Construction on the Center's 8th living shoreline demonstration project, located in the Angola by the Bay community along Burton Prong, began in October 2022. Using an array of nature-based materials, the installation will promote erosion protection and shoreline resiliency, filter pollutants, and maintain a natural habitat for fish and wildlife.

1 of 4 Best Restored Shores Awards 2022



Best Restored Shore Award

The Center's living shoreline and wetland enhancement project at the Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek was awarded one of four 2022 Best Restored Shores Awards by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association. The project, completed in 2021, stabilized over 300 feet of eroding shoreline, restored 10,000 square feet of tidal wetlands, and removes nearly 20 pounds of nutrient pollution each year from Pepper Creek.

VALUABLE VOLUNTEERS:

2022 BY THE NUMBERS



Volunteers at the Center are our "secret ingredient!" They enrich our mission and make our work a delightful experience.

—Nivette Perez-Perez, Manager of Community Science



Horseshoe Crab Survey

77 volunteers

363 hours

22,775 horseshoe crabs counted

6 sites



James Farm
Ecological
Preserve:
Maintenance,
Docents, &
Demographic
Surveys

30 volunteers 1,240 hours

Shorezone Fish & Blue Crab Survey

65 volunteers 789 hours 31,500 fish & 3,968 blue crabs 45 different species counted

Volunteering at the Center gives me a sense of purpose and giving back to the community. The work being done at the Center is a great legacy to the entire Inland Bays region!

—John Hanson, volunteer

Diamondback Terrapin Survey

27 volunteers

64 hours

1,656 diamondback terrapins counted

128 surveys



I want to try to help restore the Bays to a more productive environment so future generations can have the enjoyment that I did growing up. I believe the work being done by the Center is starting to have a positive impact on this unique environment.

—Gary Nennstiehl, volunteer

Don't Chuck Your Shucks & Oyster Gardening

63 hours

Volunteering is a great way for me to contribute to the Center's important work. I get to enjoy the beautiful outdoors while learning from people who genuinely care about Delaware's Inland Bays.

-Scott Allen, volunteer

Derelict Crab
Pot Removal

20 volunteers

84 hours

5

EDUCATE

Watersheds are all about connections—between the land, water, and a variety of life. Interwoven within this dynamic system are people. Human health is directly linked to the health and function of watersheds, and at the core of the Center's efforts to ensure all those that live, work, and play within the Inland Bays watershed are engaged stewards is education. In 2022, the Center hosted and participated in over 80 education and outreach programs and community events.

Total number of people engaged in 2022: 1,607





A YEAR OF FIRSTS

- In collaboration with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, the Center hosted the Water Family Fest & Native Plant Sale at the James Farm Ecological Preserve (Preserve). The family-friendly event featured environmental exhibitors, local nurseries, educational tours, and hands-on activities.
- The Center expanded the reach of its community education programs by hosting several beyond the grounds of the Preserve, including a series of specially-curated programs at the Inland Bays Garden Center.
- The Center launched its new Winter Lecture Series.
 The three-part series kicked off in November with a scientific presentation highlighting oyster aquaculture from Dr. Ed Hale of the University of Delaware Sea Grant College Program, followed by an oyster shucking demonstration and tasting led by Chef Asher Truitt.
- The Center continued its partnership with the Maryland Coastal Bays Program and held the third annual Journey Up the Coast youth program in July. Unlike previous years, learners had the opportunity to get their feet wet and explore not just the Inland Bays at the Preserve but also the Coastal Bays at Assateague State Park during this two-day "bay-hop" experience.









The following funds/donations were received during the 2022 Fiscal Year (10/2021–9/2022). Thank you to all donors/funders that wish to remain anonymous. If you believe there is an error, please contact the Center at your convenience.

\$10,000 AND UP

Carl M. Freeman Foundation **Rock Harbor Foundation** Truitt Environmental Solutions LLC

\$5,000-\$9,999

Collins Charitable Foundation Michael and Carolyn Curry Dogfish Head Craft Brewery Patti Drago and Rich Weissmann Ecobay Kayak and SUP Bill and Ginny Hitz Austin Okie

\$2,500-\$4,999

Ashton Pools by Design Delmarva Power, an Exelon Company Espo Enterprises, LLC Farm Credit Foundation Ken and Susan Sigvardson Sussex Conservation District Waste Industries, Inc. Jennifer D. Wright

\$1,000-\$2,499 All Saints Parish Thrift Shop Julie Anderson and Chris Strong Joe and Nicole Ashton Walter Bahr Susie Ball and Susan Delaney **Dennis Bartow** Christopher Bason and Archer Larned Marc Bastow Big Chill Surf Cantina BioEnergy DevCo Becky Brewer and Greg Pfister Sarah Bronson Pam Brown and Dawnel White Coastal Plant Care Pat Coluzzi and Dale Sheldon Samantha Davis Heather DeMarie James and Holly Dempsey Dewey Beach Lions Club Rich and Julie Dimmick Mary Louise Embrey Marty Geier Reaves Goehring John and Cheryl Grandy Jim Grav Lori and Craig Hardwick Jay and Mary Headman Jaime Howard Eugene and Aimee Isaac David and Karen Jayne Lynn Kroesen Robert and Jeannine Laughman The Martin Family Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Piper Moffatt

George C. Murphy

NRG Indian River Power Plant Ocean Atlantic Sotheby's International Realty Jane O'Leary and Jonathan Ruckdeschel The Sierra-O'Connell Family Fund Claire and Michael Simmers

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Mildred H. and Ray A. Thompson Fund

Tidewater Utilities, Inc. Joyce Keller Uy Windward Associates, LLC

\$250-499

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Inland Bays Garden Center

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Gail and Seth Warner Brian Warnock

David A. Wiecking Brendan Wiggins and Lauren Wisely Cecelia Wyatt Bill Yemc and Karen L. Pascale

UP TO \$250

AARP - South Coastal DE Chapter Charles and Tina Abrachinsky

Frances and Sergio Acle

Terry Acra

Buzz and Kathy Adkins Jennifer Adkins and Andy Cloud

Al and Sue Allenspach Mark and Marisa Amberg

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Amy G. Coombs Susan and James Cooney William Cooper Ruthie and Robert Cope Lisa and Mac Cosgrove-Davies Steve and Colleen Costa Michael Craia Pamela Cranston Suzanne Culin Susan and Mark Cummings Joanne and Bill Cunningham June Currinder Custom Mechanical Doug and Terry D'Ascoli Gerald and Anna Daugherty The Davenport Family Anna Davis Jim and Jeanie Deleo Faith Denault Sharon Denny Carolyn DePew-Swayze Michael Dick and Priscilla Church Jane Diller Letty and Larry Diswood James Dodd Chris Dominic Ed and Abby Donnelly Kevin Donnelly Eric Doroshow Kaitlyn Dosier Robert and Jane Dowler Zita Dresner Alex and Janine Eaton Brenda Eden and Reagan Breitenbach Tarvin Lisa Jo Elias

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Decked Out raised over

Community Church at Ocean Pines

Erika Cook

Jacquelynn Cook and

Tina Wailgum

\$45,000 for the Bays

Sarah Ellison

Gerard Esposito

Barbara Faculjak

Marina Feeser

Maureen Ewadinger







The Center's development team spearheaded two successful fundraising events in 2022: the annual Decked Out and Dogfish Dash.

Combined, these events

Richard Jensen and Lori Grimes Elizabeth and William Johnston

George Irwin

Peter Jayne

Combined, these events raised over \$86,000 for the continued preservation, protection, and restoration of Delaware's Inland Bays.

The impressive and ongoing support the Center receives from its enthusiastic "Friends of the Bays" facilitates all of the work featured in this report—and so much more.

To learn more about how you can support the Center's work, visit inlandbays.org/donate. **Anthony Jones** Dorothy Jones and Patricia Jones Paula Kasteran Terri and Donald Kendrick Stephen and Sandra Kern Tom Ketterman Rena Kieval John and Barbara Kiker Lew Killmer Emma King James King Kathleen Kirby Tom and Lisa Kiracofe Elizabeth Kiviat Kathy Klein Caje Knight Jackie Knoll Chuck and Terry Kopple Terri and Greg Kordal Vincent Kornmeyer and Helen S. Searles Mitzi and Paul Kratt Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Krause Kim Krause Michael J. Krieg Ken and Judy Kulakowsky Mary and Mark Kunst John and Christine Kurtz Mark Kurtz Pam and Scott Lackman Lisa Laird Lynn and Barry Lambertson Marty and Elly Lampner Jennifer Lamson Lyla Larouche Patricia and Dale Larrimore

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Amanda Pasquale Karash Payne Greg and Barbara Pearsall Anthony and Elizabeth Pegg James Pegg Alan Perantoni and Tracie Bunton Nivette Perez-Perez Christopher Perreca Larry and Sally Persa Monica Peterschmidt Susan Petze-Rosenblum Frederick and Nancy Phillips Debra and Robert Pierce Karen Pillets Judy Pinsdorf Janice Pinto and Lori Swift Frank and Lauryn Piorko Ann and Steve Piron Richard and Mary Pointer Cindy Popovich Chris Powers Jim Pritchett Louisa Pollack Pruitt Patricia Puritz Quiet Resorts Charitable Foundation Jonathan Ragan Jason Rager Robert Rahsman

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Gail Russell John Russell

Sara Russell

Nicole Ryan

John and Christine Sadowski Elizabeth Salonick

Ray Sander and Sheryl Swed

Neil Anthony Sands

Don and Connie Santarelli

Richard Sargent **Barry Saunders**

Susan Savarese

Sue Scaglione Cheryl Scalzi

Joe and Mindy Scango

Natalie Scarlata Michael Schaber John Scheurer Lisa Schmidt Rick Schnatz

Dogfish Dash raised over

Donna Lee

Susan Lee

Mr. William Swain Lee

Anna Mae Legates

\$41,000 for the Bays

Mark and Rachel McWilliams

Michael McLaughlin









SAVE THE DATE DECKED OUT

09 · 21 **2023**

HYATT PLACE DEWEY BEACH

Paula Schneider John Schultz Robert Schumm Jay and Maria Schwab Max and Regina Sewald Amy Shammas Scott Shaughnessy Ms. Kathy Sheetz Donald and Lorraine Shipp Ken and Andrea Silverstein Linda Simon Dennis Sipe Susan Skelly Charles Skinner Pauline Smale Loretta Smith Suzanne Smith Bob and Barbara Sohenuick Sol Systems, LLC Boyd and Liane Sorenson Carlene Spangler **David Spitzer** Nancy Steckel and Mark Caraccia Karen Steenhoudt Samantha Stevenson Stewart Properties I, LLC

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IN-KIND DONATIONS

Dennis Bartow

Breakthru Beverage
Big Chill Beach Club
Dogfish Head Craft Brewery
Chesapeake & Maine
Revelation Brewery
Thompson Island Brewing Company
Ocean View Brewing Company
Dewey Beer Company
SoDel Concepts
Vintage Imports
Rehoboth Bay Oyster Company
Toadfish Outfitters
Bayshore Marina
Indian River Marina

Pam Aquilani Tony Pratt Salt Provisions **Bethany Books** Su Casa 3BB Cafe Rehoboth Art League Henlopen City Oyster House Pat Carlson Henlopen Trading Company 302 Horseshoe Crab Fifers Market Top Sail Steamer R. Chris Clark Lynne McKay Soulfire Collective Delaware State Parks Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles New Hope Canoe Club EcoBay Kayaking Adventures Avenue Inn Sea Spa Skin Bar Arena Sians Coastal and Estuarine Research, Inc.

The Ocean is My Guru

Quest Adventures

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

IN HONOR

In Honor of Center for the Inland Bays' Volunteers Robert Brownell Esq.

In Honor of Chris Bason Center for the Inland Bays' Board of Directors Ms. Sue Claire Harper

In Honor of Bob and Naia Bonnet Almeda "Dee" Cole

In Honor of Richard and Michel Davis and Michy's Relaxed Dining Susan Nyden

In Honor of James and Susan Ellison Sarah Ellison

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In Honor of Jean Purcell Marchese Robert And Kelly Collins

In Honor of Elizabeth and Tony Pegg James Pegg

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In Honor of Pat and Bob Ragan Natalie Scarlata

In Honor of Chris and Pat Rigney

Megan Rigney
In Honor of

n Honor of Brenda E. Breitenbach Tarvin Christopher Perreca

In Honor of Patricia and Roger Truitt Jere L. Stephano

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Bill Tinklepaugh

TiBest Philanthropy

IN MEMORY

In Memory of Jim Alderman Judy Pinsdorf

In Memory of Ronald Swain Baker, Jr.
Gale Bucher
Coleen and Bryan Chew
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Al and Joan Herklotz
Joyce McDowell
Amanda J. Reid Morris
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In Memory of Jim Craig Bill and Ralph Baker Mr. Craig Fraser

In Memory of Jim Elliott Wayne and Lois Mitchell

In Memory of Bill Holt Samantha Stevenson

In Memory of Sophie Pyle Homsey AR Homsey Charitable Fund

In Memory of Herschel Hudson Chuck and Terry Kopple

In Memory of Barbara Jayne **Dennis Bartow** Barbara Breckel Jose Colquitt Margaret and August Gassinger Denise Hoeksema and Cheryl Rehrig Inland Bays Garden Center Peter Jayne Mark and Rachel McWilliams **Betty Moffett** Frank And Debbie Moody **Barry Saunders** Ken and Susan Sigvardson Diana Strohecker Town of South Bethany Pat Voveris Dr. Marianne Walch Janet and Bill Walczak

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In Memory of Rose Marie Lloyd Spence Debbie Rubelman

In Memory of Carol Thomas
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In Memory of Greg Thompson Christine and David Thompson

In Memory of Nolan Witman Sandra and William Cohee

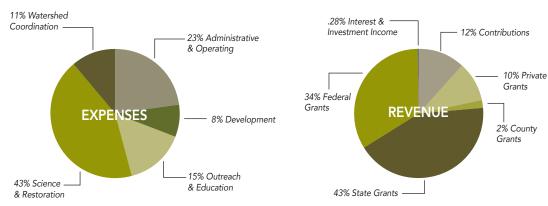
Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balances

September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2021

ASSETS		
Current Assets	2022	2021
Cash	\$ 1,717,509	\$ 1,129,866
Grants Receivable	_	268,751
Prepaid Expenses	13,036	36,074
Accounts Receivable	159,515	48,986
Total Current Assets	1,890,060	1,483,677
Property, Plant and Equipment (at cost)		
Land	125,000	125,000
Building	907,257	907,257
Furniture and Equipment	372,586	345,603
	1,404,843	1,377,860
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(665,622)	(634,231)
Net Property, Plant and Equipment	739,221	743,629
Other Assets		
Endowment Fund	266,538	200,176
Total Assets	\$2,895,819	\$2,427,482
Iotal Assets	\$2,073,017	\$2,427,402
	\$2,073,017	Ψ Ζ, 427,402
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$2,073,017	\$2,427,402
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities		
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable	\$ 36,918	\$ 16,068
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits		\$ 16,068 34,618
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes	\$ 36,918	\$ 16,068 34,618 994
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes PPP Loan	\$ 36,918 35,261 - -	\$ 16,068 34,618 994 163,265
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes	\$ 36,918	\$ 16,068 34,618 994
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes PPP Loan	\$ 36,918 35,261 - -	\$ 16,068 34,618 994 163,265
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes PPP Loan Total Current Liabilities (all current) Net Assets Unrestricted	\$ 36,918 35,261 - -	\$ 16,068 34,618 994 163,265 214,945
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes PPP Loan Total Current Liabilities (all current) Net Assets Unrestricted Board Designated*	\$ 36,918 35,261 - - 72,179 266,538	\$ 16,068 34,618 994 163,265 214,945
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes PPP Loan Total Current Liabilities (all current) Net Assets Unrestricted Board Designated* Invested in Property and Equipment	\$ 36,918 35,261 - - 72,179 266,538 614,221	\$ 16,068 34,618 994 163,265 214,945 200,176 618,629
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes PPP Loan Total Current Liabilities (all current) Net Assets Unrestricted Board Designated*	\$ 36,918 35,261 - - 72,179 266,538	\$ 16,068 34,618 994 163,265 214,945
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes PPP Loan Total Current Liabilities (all current) Net Assets Unrestricted Board Designated* Invested in Property and Equipment	\$ 36,918 35,261 - - 72,179 266,538 614,221	\$ 16,068 34,618 994 163,265 214,945 200,176 618,629
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS Current Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Salaries and Benefits Accrued Payroll Taxes PPP Loan Total Current Liabilities (all current) Net Assets Unrestricted Board Designated* Invested in Property and Equipment Undesignated	\$ 36,918 35,261 - - 72,179 266,538 614,221 327,607	\$ 16,068 34,618 994 163,265 214,945 200,176 618,629 269,950

^{*} Endowment Fund

Total Liabilities and Net Assets



\$2,895,819

Total Expenses \$1,789,958

\$ 2,427,482



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inlandbays.org

Rehoboth | Indian River | Little Assawoman

39375 Inlet Road Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

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DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE INLAND BAYS

2023 EVENT LINEUP

GREEN SCREEN FILM FESTIVAL

Ocean View

May 6 WATER FAMILY FEST AND NATIVE PLANT SALE

Ocean View

May 10
CONSERVATION
DAY

Dover

June 3 STAND UP FOR THE BAYS PADDLE RACE & FESTIVAL

Indian River Bay

September 21 DECKED OUT

Dewey Beach