The good news is we’re going to be able to do something for Delmar year after year,” said Mike DiPaolo, DCF vice president for southern Delaware. “That’s the beauty of an endowed designated gift. It makes a difference to the organization you care about forever.”

A designated fund is a charitable tool for the sole purpose of supporting specific charities you care about. Contributions to these funds are typically tax deductible.

If a specific charitable organization has touched your life – a favorite nonprofit, your church, your alma mater – it’s simple to ensure that it receives charitable support forever through a designated fund at the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF).

If at some point in the future one or more of your designated charities cease to exist, the DCF will ensure that your fund continues to support charities with programs similar to the ones you named. Once your fund is established, you can trust that the DCF will honor and implement your charitable wishes.

Nina Wildman Fund: A Gift Designated to Empower Future Generations

Nina Wright Wildman had fond memories of her years at Delmar High School.

To help ensure that future generations of students have powerful classroom experiences there, she created the Nina Wildman Fund, an endowed designated fund at the DCF, to benefit Delmar High School forever.

Although Wildman died in 2006, her support for her alma mater lives on.

The Wildman Fund continues to generate money every year to boost technology at the Sussex County school. In recent years, Delmar High has used the annual gift from the Wildman Fund to purchase a laptop cart, Apple Air computers and other equipment.

The technology purchases made so far are just the beginning. Because the Wildman Fund is endowed, it’s expected to provide the high school with about $50,000 a year in perpetuity, so the students will always have access to updated equipment.

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HOW A DESIGNATED FUND WORKS

• OPEN THE FUND with an initial gift of $25,000 or more in cash or other assets, such as appreciated stock, mutual funds or real estate. Most gifts are tax deductible.

• NAME THE FUND for yourself, your family, or your business, or create a name that provides anonymity. The DCF can ensure your grants are made anonymously if you wish.

• NAME BENEFICIARIES. Select up to 5 public charities to benefit from one fund. Beneficiary designations are permanent.

• CHOOSE AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY from the DCF’s investment pools, or ask about ways to keep your personal financial advisor involved.

• ADD TO YOUR FUND AT ANY TIME to take advantage of additional tax benefits while increasing the amount available for grants.

• THE DCF AWARDS GRANTS TO THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE FUND EACH YEAR.

• REVIEW YOUR FUND ACTIVITY ONLINE.

The DCF handles all the administrative requirements of the fund, from investments to paperwork.

A designated fund at the DCF is a giving tool that empowers you to support a personal area of interest while recognizing that needs change over time. To begin the process of establishing your designated fund, please contact us at info@delcf.org or 302.571.8004.