Our Mission

Old World Foundation enhances the preservation of Wisconsin history through local, independent support of museum visitation, educational outreach and maintenance of artifacts and buildings.
Dear Friends of Old World Wisconsin,

What an exciting year it has been for Old World Foundation, Old World Wisconsin, and all of those lucky enough to visit this past year.

The Brewhouse was in full operation, the outside of Wittnebel’s tavern was finished, with work quickly shifting to the interior—and next year the furnishings paid for by Old World Foundation will be put into place as the tavern opens in late summer.

Sponsoring the largest events at Old World Wisconsin this past year has placed Old World Foundation front and center at Home for the Holidays, Legends and Lore and Independence Day festivities. We have been able to connect with our current friends and meet so many more visitors.

Animal Encounters, sponsored by Old World Foundation has been a joy for so many of our Friends. This new program allows guests to learn about the preservation of Heritage Breed animals at Old World Wisconsin and shows visitors first-hand the on-going efforts we make to preserve history. More money was raised for the preservation of historic breed animals at our successful Sunset Soiree.

I would also like to recognize and thank Doug Bruins who will be leaving our board this year. Doug has served as our Treasurer since 2017 and we will miss his guidance.

Thank you for every dollar you donated, for every Old World Wisconsin memory you shared, and for every person you encouraged to visit. Our Friends group continues to grow its support of Old World Wisconsin each year. During Old World Wisconsin’s past fiscal year, we provided over $200,000 to help with education, preservation, the animal program, and the gardens. We couldn’t have done it without your support and the hard work of our Old World Foundation staff and board of trustees.

Rosanne McGuire
Chair of the Board
Old World Foundation

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Special THANKS to our Board of Trustees for their Leadership:

2022-2023 Trustees
Rosanne McGuire, Chair ● Ron Buchholz, Vice Chair
Douglas Bruins, Treasurer ● Kristin Koeffler, Secretary
Beth Heaney, Sue van Helden, Kathleen Hurley, Jennifer Johnson, Larry Martin, Jennifer Motszko, Jean Theis
Dan Freas, OWW Director and ex-officio member

Honorary Trustees
Terry Dignan
JoAnn Villavicencio
Sandy and George Dionisopoulos
Gordon Segal

Staff
Gwen Griffin, Executive Director
Robin Oldenburg, Bookkeeper/Executive Assistant

Trusted in Action

Greeting Guests at Independence Days

Strategic Planning
Thank You from Old World Foundation!

As I look back over the nearly 40 years of support that Old World Foundation has provided to Old World Wisconsin, I am grateful for the generosity of our Friends and partners. Your gifts have impacted Old World Wisconsin in countless ways. While we focused on the animal program and the conservation of the heritage breeds at Old World Wisconsin this past year, your gifts also touched so many other areas of this important historic attraction.

When you look over the pages of this Annual Gratitude Report, you will see the impact your gifts have made at OWW. In addition to supporting Old World Wisconsin by sponsoring Home For The Holidays, Independence Days and Halloween Legends and Lore, your gifts purchased a new riding lawn mower, benches, supplies for the period clothing department, and provided the opportunity for guests to enjoy unique dance performances. Your support also fed animals, planted gardens, maintained historic buildings, and educated children while they experienced hands-on history...THANK YOU!

While Old World Foundation is approaching 40 years of supporting Old World Wisconsin, OWW is nearing their 50th anniversary. The Welcome Center/New Arrivals project will position Old World Wisconsin to expand their programming and welcome even more guests on-site. I look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead meeting more Friends and growing the financial support that Old World Wisconsin needs to enhance and expand their mission.

Gwen Griffin
Old World Wisconsin

Observations from Old World Wisconsin...

Old World Wisconsin’s “animal ambassadors” are regularly mentioned as favorite aspects of the guest experience. For many of our guests coming from urban or suburban areas, the sight of sheep grazing in the pasture of the 1860s Norwegian Immigrant Farm or pigs wallowing in the mud at the 1880s Pomeranian Immigrant Farm may be the first time seeing these animals in a farm context. Our guests are drawn to these animals, which creates opportunities for us to share the stories of these animals, how their stories intertwine with human history, what animal husbandry was like in the past, and what the future might look like if these heritage breeds disappear.

With support from Old World Foundation, Old World Wisconsin has launched a multi-year initiative to enhance animal care facilities, educational programs, and conservation efforts associated with our heritage breed animals. This includes physical improvements to our 25-year-old animal care barn which provides a behind-the-scenes location for animals that need special care and for animals to be housed during the winter.

The animal care barn will also provide a location for a new Java Chicken conservation breeding program. Java Chickens are the second oldest breed of chicken developed in America. The popular homesteading fowl was used to develop many other American breeds, including the Jersey Giant, Plymouth Rock, and Rhode Island Red. Unfortunately, these breeds later eclipsed the Java in popularity and the Java conservation status is considered critical by the Livestock Conservancy.

During the past year, with matching funds provided by Old World Foundation, Old World Wisconsin was awarded a grant from the Livestock Conservancy to launch a Java Chicken conservation breeding program. Beginning next season, you will find the Java chicken and its story featured at our new Animal Encounters experience. Unveiled in June and sponsored by Old World Foundation, Animal Encounters provides a location where guests can get close to some of our animals while learning about their history and conservation from a staff member or volunteer. Animal Encounters is an addition to the Old World Wisconsin general admission guest experience and open at scheduled times every day that OWW is open to the public.

Improvements to the animal care barn, the Java chicken conservation project, and our new Animal Encounters are just a few examples of how Old World Foundation is supporting our heritage livestock care, conservation, and education initiatives. To learn more about how you can get involved, contact Gwen Griffin at Old World Foundation.

Gwen H. Griffin
Executive Director
Old World Foundation

Dan Freas
Director
Old World Wisconsin

“YOU are the Key to our Success” | 2
Your Impact this Past Year...

Thanks to your generous support of Old World Wisconsin through Old World Foundation, **$177,290.05 was paid by Old World Foundation in support of Old World Wisconsin in OWF’s past fiscal year.** Old World Wisconsin’s fiscal year is July 1 through June 30 and in their past fiscal year, $202,516 was gifted to them through Old World Foundation. These dollar amounts do not reflect what is raised by Old World Foundation in support of Old World Wisconsin annually, but instead reflects the amount that Old World Wisconsin requests for various projects and programs. For example, In 2022, thanks to the support from our **Friends** and partners, our Sunset Soiree event raised money for furnishings for Wittnebel’s Tavern. Because the interior restoration work is not yet complete, the furnishings have not yet been purchased.

As you can see in the graph, in the past year, support through OWF was needed in the various ways. Each year OWW’s needs change based on particular projects and programs, but our donors can give general “unrestricted” gifts to use where needed most, or gifts “restricted” to your particular area of interest.

Old World Wisconsin Director, Dan Freas, accepts a symbolic check from Gwen Griffin, OWF Executive Director and Rosanne McGuire, OWF Board Chair. This check represents the financial support given to OWW this past fiscal year, all thanks to YOU!

A New Strategic Plan

**Strategic Plan—April 2023-March 2026**

This past year, the Old World Foundation Board of Trustees embarked on a journey to create and implement a new strategic plan. This plan will help guide our organization for the next three years. The question that guided this process was **“How can the Old World Foundation board of trustees leverage itself to have a bigger impact and increase donations to Old World Wisconsin in the next three years?”**

Our trustees identified 4 areas that we will work on to enhance our mission of supporting Old World Wisconsin, as can be seen in the info-graphic to the right.
Key Areas of Support...a few examples

**Historic Preservation**
- Paint for Thomas General Store
- Historic Building Repairs

**Animals**
- Animal Encounters Sponsorship
- Feed, Veterinary Care, Farrier Service, Bedding
- Purchase of new heritage breed animals including Oxen and Cotswold Sheep
- Tractor Parts
- Fence Rebuild

**Gardens**
- Garden Program Sponsorship
- Compost and Soil
- Plants & Seeds
- Tools

**Education / Public Programs**
- Education Program Sponsorship
- Independence Days Sponsorship
- Halloween Legends and Lore Sponsorship
- Home For The Holidays Sponsorship
- Field Trip & Summer Camp Supplies

Thank you to our anonymous *Friends* who purchased this new mower for OWW. A very necessary and appreciated gift!
In the summer of 2023, Rosanne McGuire, Chair of Old World Foundation’s Board of Trustees, issued a challenge to raise $40,000 to fund the animal program and the conservation of the heritage breeds at Old World Wisconsin.

Our Friends and Supporters accepted that challenge and thanks to donations from individuals and company sponsorships, Old World Foundation surpassed our goal and raised $43,927! We also want to thank the two donors who matched all donations up to $12,500.

We are grateful for the community of Friends and Supporters who are dedicated to conserving the animals which are an important part of living history at OWW. **YOU are the key to our success!**
With Sincere Gratitude, we recognize all who donated to the Chair’s Challenge for the conservation of heritage breeds at Old World Wisconsin:

Anonymous
Bernice A. Balicki
Doug & Paula Bruins
Kevin & Nancy Brunner
Anthony & Andrea B. Bryant
Ron & Luann Buchholz
Kathleen & Mark Conrad
Mary & Brian Cook
Gerald & Ellen Schuh DeMers
Terry & Nancy Dignan
Pat & Roger Greathead
Shane & Gwen Griffin
Beth & Dwight Heaney
John & Jean Henderson
Kathleen & Robert Hurley
Joseph & JoLee Kennedy
Amy Kinosian
Joanne Kraut
Susan Kroll
Susan Lewis & Eric Larson

David Leef & Michelle King
Alice Lundstrom
Julie & Bob McGill
Rosanne McGuire
Meghan Meeker
Julia E. Meyers
Cindy & Jim Nelson
David Porter
Joe Quinn
Cheryl Rausch
Barbara & Bill Rodewald
Kathy & Ken Sadowski
Dennis James
& Gena Schachtschneider
Carolyn Schloemer
Truman & Barbara Schultz
Carolee & Gordon Segal
Gary & Teresa Sommers
Lori & Vaughn Stock

Jean & Ron Theis
Angela Titus
Jan & Bill Tweedend
Susan & Brian van Helden
Justin & Kim Voden
Daniel & Pam Yerke
Amy & Daniel Young

Sunset Soiree Partners:
Citizens Bank, Corporate Sponsor
Creative Plastics Corp., Corporate Sponsor
Central Printing, Invitation Sponsor
Kaitlyn McNamara, Poster Artist
Highlights Media, Videographer
Heidi’s Hobbies, Floral Centerpieces
Wausau Homes-Elkhorn, Bottled Water

“YOU are the Key to Our Success” | 6
We acknowledge the organizations and foundations who have given generous support this fiscal year...Thank You!

Anonymous
Brookbank Foundation:
  Charles and MaryAnn LaBahn
Citizens Bank
Creative Plastics Corp.
Derse Foundation, Inc.
Four-Four Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation Funds:
  Anthony and Andrea Bryant Fund
  The Ceres Foundation Fund
The Evan and Marion Helfaer Foundation
The Herb Society of America--Wisconsin Unit
Hooper Corporation
IAG Wealth Partners
Kettle Moraine Garden Club
The Arthur C. Kootz Foundation
The Camille A. Lonstorf Trust
Lorton Data Inc.
LUMW Foundation
Maihaugen Foundation
Milwaukee Tool - Mukwonago Operations
The Janice & Raymond Perry Community Fund Inc.
Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust
Segal Family Foundation
Standard Process Inc.
Waukesha State Bank
Whitewater Generating Station/NAES

Thank You to our corporate partners for their support this past year!

Support for a trail enhancement, to make the trails at OWW accessible to all AND funding for a garden truck

Sponsorship Support of Santa’s Workshop at Home For The Holidays

OWF’s Annual Sponsors are Partners who offset operating expenses, allowing more funds to be used directly for projects and programs at Old World Wisconsin...Thank You!
With Sincere Appreciation, we recognize our **Friends** who have supported Old World Wisconsin through Old World Foundation for 20 Years or More:

Anonymous  
George Affeldt  
Sandra K. Anderson  
Bernice Balicki  
Bonnie Barber  
William G. & Linda S. Bauer  
Ramona Barwick  
Kelly Cornelius & John Bjork  
Mary Ann & Frank Brazelton  
Michael J. Bruch  
Karen & Harry Carlson  
Tom and Lynda Curl  
Gerald & Ellen Schuh DeMers  
Terrence L. & Nancy Dignan  
George & Sandy Dionisopoulos  
Setsuko Owan & David Dobson  
Joanne & Dan Dugenske  
Fred & Anne Ehle  
Linda A. Fahrenfrug  
Patricia Fjelde & Linda Newton  
William Flemming  
Claire Gadbois  
Jim Gramentine  
Vivian Guzniczak  
Robert & Heidi Hanley  
Eunice & Warren Hansen, Jr.  
Leon & Margaret Harris  
Norris & Nancy Harstad  
John & Jean Henderson  
Earl W. & Eugenie Hildebrandt  
Fr. Jack Hopka  
Mary Claire Huck  
Karen Hyde  
Marilyn W. John  
Beverly Karweik  
Rick & Mary Kokan  
Joanne Kraut  
John Krugler  
Cinda L. Berry & Arthur Krumrey  
Lars & Barbara Larson  
Peter Lovance  
Robert C. & Donna Lucht  
John & Julie Mann  
Sandra Matson  
Sally Mundt  
Daniel R. & Gwynne Napientek  
Steve Nass  
Leon & Sharon Nelson  
Marilyn Neumann  
Richard A. & Sherene Nicolai  
Kenneth Nieman  
William & Jean O’Loughlin  
Robert & Holly Ottum  
Phyllis L & Donald Scharfenberg  
Carolyn Schloemer  
Carole & Gordan Segal  
Jacqueline & Robert Smith  
Jerome L. Stefaniak  
Fred & Shelley Stich  
David B. & Prudence L. Sullivan  
Terri Sundberg  
Marilyn Swiontek  
Carol Taylor  
Phillip & Mary Tygum  
JoAnn & Paul Villavicencio  
Veronica Wallace-Kraemer  
Martina & Allen Wegner  
Dennis & Helen Williamson

Several organizations and individuals donated in-kind items valued over $500 this past year. Your thoughtful donations are deeply appreciated... **Thank You!**  

Central Printing  •  Highlights Media  
Jerry and Sherry Janiszewski  •  Krueger Jewelers  •  Milwaukee Tool  
The Inn at Pine Terrace

**Thank you to our Corporate Partners who shared their time by volunteering for OWW!**

Milwaukee Tool-Mukwonago cut brush in the summer and prepared for Halloween Legends and Lore in the fall.

Associated Bank prepared the garden paths.

Citizens Bank filled candy bags for Halloween Legends & Lore.

“YOU are the Key to Our Success” | 8
It is with great appreciation that we list the following individuals who have made a gift of $100 or more this year (other than to the Chair’s Challenge):

Anonymous
Elizabeth Adelman
George Affedt
David and Sarah Allen
Alice and Richard Appen
Linda Bachowski
Mike Zang and Barbara Bakshis
Bernice A. Balicki
Colleen Ball
William G. and Linda S. Bauer
Carol Berner
Bonnie Birk
Cheryl Bloomquist
Ivan and Elizabeth Bogie
Mary Ann and Frank Brazelton
William A. and Joan Brock
Dean Brown
Michael J. Bruch
Doug and Paula Bruins
Kevin and Nancy Brunner
Ron and Luann Buchholz
Marilyn Campbell
Karen and Harry Carlson
Marcia Carmichael
Joanne Carpenter-Kasner
Kathleen & Mark Conrad
Larry Martin and Martha Cranley
Tom and Lynda Curl
August and Sally Dahl
Thomas A. Day
Mary St. Ville and Duncan Delhey
Gerald and Ellen Schuh DeMers
Ann Derse
Judith Derse
Sally Devriend
Bettie Petersen-Dicks & James Dicks
Terry and Nancy Dignan
George and Sandy Dionisopoulos
Setsuko Owan and David C. Dobson
Sandy and Peter Douglas
Joanne and Dan Dugenske
Lori Duginski
Fred and Anne Ehle
Michael Ellsworth
Gerald H. and Signe Emmerich
Linda A. Fahrenkrug
Sue and Larry Ferry
Tom and Le Ann Field
Linda Newton and Patricia Fjetand
Jane and John Frederick
Kathleen Giesen
Rita Giles
Jim Gramentine
Thomas and Mary Grossman
Vivian Guzniczak
Robert and Heidi Hanley
Eunice and Warren Hansen, Jr.
Norris and Nancy Harstad
Pete and Sarah Harvey
Beth and Dwight Heaney

John and Audrey Hebert
Michael Hecker
Donald L. and Emily J. Henderson
John and Jean Henderson
Mary A. Hennemann
Kathleen and Eric Herr
Sandra and John Heyer
Earl W. and Eugenie Hildebrandt
Gregory and Robin Himebauch
Fr. Jack Hopka
Barbara Houk
Mary Claire Huck
Karen Hyde
Jerry and Sherry Janiszewski
Joel and Karen Jeanson
Allen Johnson
Bradley T. and Pamela J. Johnson
Jennifer Johnson
Yvonne Jones
Beverly Karweik
Michael and Joyce Kastern
Amy Kinosian
Brian and Terrie Knox
Kristin Koefler
Rick and Mary Kokan
Veronica Wallace-Kraemer
Joanne Kraut
John D. and Dee Krugler
Bernard and Karen Kubale
Linda Kutchman
Justin and Amanda Kutka
Lars and Barbara Larson
Allen E. Last
David Leef
Tom and Deb Longtin
Sally Long and Franklin D. Loo
Peter Lovance
Robert C. and Donna Lucht
Alice Lundstrom
Julie Lynn
Kay and Duane Maas
Gena Malenche
John and Julie Mann
Sandy Matson
Rose Mary and Francis W. Matusinec
Paul McCarty
Fr. Michael McElwee
Rosanne McGuire
Meghan Meeker
Dennis Meyer
Courtney Miller
Jennifer Motszko
Charles Mowbray
Sally Mundt
Steve Nass
Pat Castelli and Peter Newman
Richard A. and Sherene Nicolai
Paul Nowicki
William and Jean O’Loughlin
Robert and Holly Ottum
Louise Pacholik
Aimee Palmer
Sarah and Matt Pancheri
Curt and Wendy Paulsen
John Peters
James and Margaret Polglaze
Hans and Cindi Joy Pregler
Joe Quinn
Joe and Marie Rakoczy
Donna Rehbeck
Kathy & Ken Sadowski
Sandy A. and Randy Sannes
Dennis James and Gena Schachtschneider
Phylis L. and Donald Scharfenberg

“We give to Old World Foundation to help preserve the past for future generations. Old World Wisconsin provides an excellent outdoor history lesson for everyone, especially school age children. We feel that donating to Old World Foundation is the perfect way to support and preserve Old World Wisconsin.”

Doug & Paula Bruins
Doug is the Treasurer of the OWF Board of Trustees
You are the Key to Our Success

Carolyn Schlomer
Donna Schmidt
Mark and Colleen Scholl
Joan R. Schultz
Carole and Gordon Segal
Jennifer Smith
Jacqueline and Robert Smith
Leonard Sobszak
Gary and Teresa Sommers
Frank Stekel
Darlene and John Sterzinger
Edward Stevenson
Lori and Vaughn Stock
David B. and Prudence L. Sullivan
Terri Sundberg
Linda Surles
Donna and Sherman Swanson
Roy and Donna Swedlund
Marilyn Swiontek
Joan Takala
Carol Taylor
Ron and Jean Theis
Randy and Nancy Thelen, Thelen Total Construction
Jan and Bill Tweeden
Phillip and Mary Tygum
Lois Vail
Susan and Brian van Helden
Richard Veed
JoAnn and Paul Villavicencio
Angela Villela
Diane Voit
Veronica Wallace-Kraemer

Terry Wandsnider
Sheri Watkins
Martina and Allen Wegner
David and Mary Weinelt
Nancy Wilhelm
Andrew Willett
John Williams
Dennis and Helen Williamson
Diana Wood

“Old World Wisconsin is a ‘Jewel’ right in our own backyard. We feel it’s so important to preserve our history and no place does it better than Old World Wisconsin. It is our pleasure to be of support as OWW continues to grow and provide a unique glimpse into the past for visitors of all ages.”

Nancy & Randy Thelen
Long-time Friends & Supporters
Owners, Thelen Total Construction

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**With Stewardship and Integrity**
Old World Foundation presents its year-end Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Assets</strong></th>
<th>2023 (reviewed)</th>
<th>2022 (compiled)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; equivalents</td>
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<td>Pledges receivable</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td>Accumulated depreciation</td>
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<td>Noncurrent pledges receivable</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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Draft Reviewed for September 30, 2023
Final report available by request from Old World Foundation.
Old World Foundation’s mission began in 1984 when a few dedicated supporters met and resolved to fund projects and programs at OWW that could not be adequately funded through state support and earned revenue.

We invite you to leave a legacy gift to Old World Wisconsin. Your generosity today will allow Old World Wisconsin to continue to share the stories of our ancestors in a fun and memorable way into the future.

You Are The Key To Our Success!

Our thanks to the photographers who provided photos for this report:

Gwen Griffin
Makayla Griffin
Jessica Spitzer
Ron Theis
OWW Staff