

# Annual Gratitude Report

*Fiscal Year*

*July 1, 2024— June 30, 2025*

2025



Remembering The Past While Celebrating Our Future

## A Message from the Chair...



**Rosanne McGuire**

Dear *Friends of Old World Wisconsin*,

Chairing the Old World Wisconsin Foundation board for the last three years has been an honor. Being part of the board when we helped support and provide furnishings for the building of the Brewhouse was a joy. Watching the Wittnebel Tavern come back to life with the support of so many *friends of Old World Wisconsin*, and helping furnish the interior is something we all should be proud of. Delighting our Wisconsin friends when we tell them there is a Brewhouse, Tavern and Biergarten at Old World...priceless!

A lot has changed since that 4th grade field trip you either attended as a student or chaperoned. As the new Welcome Center is built and sites continue to be more interactive in keeping with today's historical displays around the country—there will be changes. What won't change is the future the Old World Foundation Board of Trustees has envisioned: *A future where lessons of the past ignite curiosity, inspire learning, and foster a deeper understanding of our diverse cultural heritage through impactful giving.*

I wanted to thank several of our outgoing trustees for their guidance. Jennifer Johnson and Jennifer Motzko have fulfilled their terms as trustees, and we will miss the input they have provided over the past three years. Kris Koeffler left the board earlier this year, after establishing one of our endowment funds. Jean Theis, a fantastic ambassador for the foundation is leaving after six years on the board.

Jean has been a constant presence at Old World Foundation events, with her husband Ron at her side and she has worked tirelessly on Sunset Soiree each year.

I can't close this without extending my gratitude to Old World Foundation Executive Director Gwen Griffin and Bookkeeper Robin Oldenburg. Their hard work and responsible stewardship of the foundation is remarkable. Most of all, thank you for your support of Old World Foundation. As we head into our 42nd year, we look forward to the 50th anniversary of Old World Wisconsin and continuing to tell the stories of the past as we shape the future.

*Rosanne McGuire*

Rosanne McGuire  
Chair of the Board  
Old World Foundation

## Old World Foundation Board of Trustees

Board Retreat  
March 2025



### 2024-2025

Rosanne McGuire, Chair • Ron Buchholz, Vice Chair  
Larry Martin, Treasurer • Kristin Koeffler, Secretary  
Beth Heaney, Kathleen Hurley,  
Jennifer Johnson, Jennifer Lasky,  
Paul Marshall, Jennifer Motszko, Jean Theis

#### *Honorary Trustees:*

Terry Dignan and Jo Ann Villavicencio

#### Old World Foundation Staff:

Gwen Griffin, Executive Director  
Robin Oldenburg, Bookkeeper & Executive Assistant

# Thank You from Old World Foundation



Gwen Griffin

As we conclude our 41st anniversary as the independent, non-profit partner of Old World Wisconsin, we look forward to the future. In 2026, Old World Wisconsin will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of their opening and we are proud that our *Friends* have provided over \$10 million in support since our inception, but the need continues. I can't help but wonder if Old World Foundation's founders ever imagined the impact our *Friends* would have on this dynamic historic site.

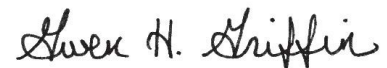
History is comprised of facts, but it is the stories of people and communities surrounding the facts that bring history to life. Old World Wisconsin's mission is to create immersive spaces and interactive experiences that are memorable, inspire curiosity, and foster understanding. They recognize that the stories of the past share universal themes of perseverance and forming community. Looking to the future, these stories remain relevant and must be accessible to all guests. Conserving the heritage breeds, planting heirloom gardens, maintaining historic buildings and creating new, engaging programs that explore different cultures and stories will continue, and the need for financial support will continue.

I am proud of Old World Foundation's mission to responsibly fund the advancement of Old World Wisconsin. I share our vision where lessons of the past ignite curiosity, inspire learning, and foster a deeper understanding of our diverse cultural heritage.

YOU, my *Friends*, make an impact with your gifts.

We are honored that you have trusted Old World Foundation to be good stewards of your gifts. As you look through this Annual Gratitude Report, I hope that you will get a sense of how your support has enhanced programs and completed projects at Old World Wisconsin this past fiscal year. I am looking forward to Old World Wisconsin's 50th anniversary year, and I am looking forward to your continued *Friendship*.

Cheers to the future of history at Old World Wisconsin!



Gwen H. Griffin  
Executive Director  
Old World Foundation

## Trustees in Action

The OWF Trustees helped greet guests at OWW on *Independence Day* and during the *Halloween Legends and Lore* & *Home For The Holidays* events this past fiscal year.



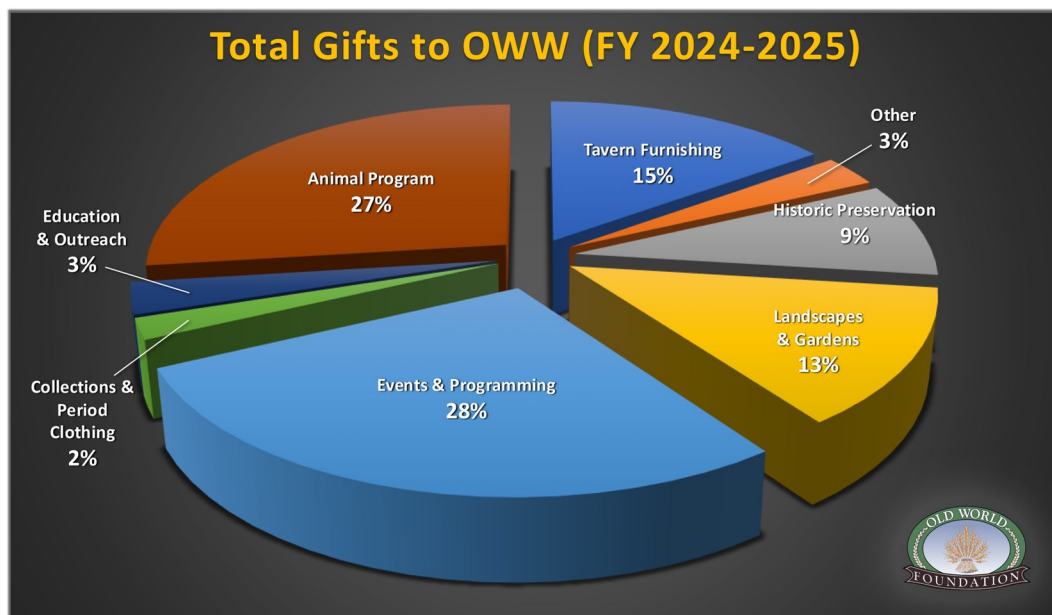
## Your Impact this Past Year...

Old World Foundation exists to fill the funding gap between what Old World Wisconsin receives in state support and earned revenue and what is needed to enhance programs and complete projects. Each year, the foundation applies for grant funding, hosts an annual fundraising event, develops partnerships with area companies, and accepts donations from individuals who are passionate about OWW. Gifts can be restricted to use for specific projects at Old World Wisconsin or unrestricted to use where needed most. Unrestricted gifts give the foundation the flexibility to direct funds to different projects and programs at Old World Wisconsin as needs and priorities change.

Old World Foundation typically fills needs in the following areas:

▪ Animal Program (conservation of heritage breeds) ▪ Gardens & Landscapes (heirloom gardens, herb gardens, trail enhancements) ▪ Historic Preservation (building maintenance needs) ▪ Events & Programs (special events on site and daily programming) ▪ Education & Outreach (school tours, summer camps, community outreach programs) ▪ Collections & Period Clothing ▪ Other immediate needs, such as furnishing the Brewhouse and Tavern.

As you can see from the chart below, this past fiscal year, the majority of our support was used for events and programming and the animal program. **A total of \$140,711.28 was given to Old World Wisconsin by Old World Foundation based on their requests for funds in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.**



YOUR SUPPORT feeds animals, educates children, plants gardens, maintains buildings, and creates lasting memories for families all while preserving and sharing the rich stories of our ancestors.

**Thank you!**

## Fun with the DockHounds...OWW & OWF Outing

OWF treated the OWW team & their families to an outing at a DockHounds game in 2024. This was a great way to unwind and connect. We were also able to sell raffle tickets and raised money for the Animal Program!



Selling Raffle Tickets & Meeting Mascot, Louie



Meeting Packer Legend, LeRoy Butler!



Fun with Friends & Family

## Your Impact...a few examples



### Wittnebel's Tavern Opens!!

In 2022, our Chair's Challenge Fundraiser raised money to fund the furnishing of the Wittnebel's Tavern that was built in 1906, and moved to Old World Wisconsin in 2022. After almost three years of exterior and interior restoration, the Wittnebel's Tavern opened this spring!

### Animal Program

- Animal Encounters Sponsorship
- Feed
- Veterinary Care
- Farrier Service
- Bedding
- Purchase of new chicken coop



### Gardens & Landscapes

- Garden Intern
- Compost and Soil
- Plants & Seeds including seeds for Prairie Restoration
- Tools, gloves, fence supplies
- Limestone for Trail Enhancement



### Historic Preservation

- Benson Summer House Cleaning & Sealing
- Historic Building Repairs
- Building & maintenance supplies for winter prep



### Education & Outreach

- Outreach Programs in Winter Months
- School Tour Supplies
- Summer Camp Supplies

### Events & Programs

- Independence Day Sponsorship
- Halloween Legends & Lore Sponsorship
- Home For The Holidays Sponsorship
- Butter-making & other Dairy Stories Supplies
- McGuffey Books
- Immigrant Programming Supplies
- Registration for American Indian Studies & Culture Keepers Conference
- Replica Desks for Ward School

### Other Needs

- Memorial Benches
- Marketing Support
- Food and Drinks for Staff and Volunteers

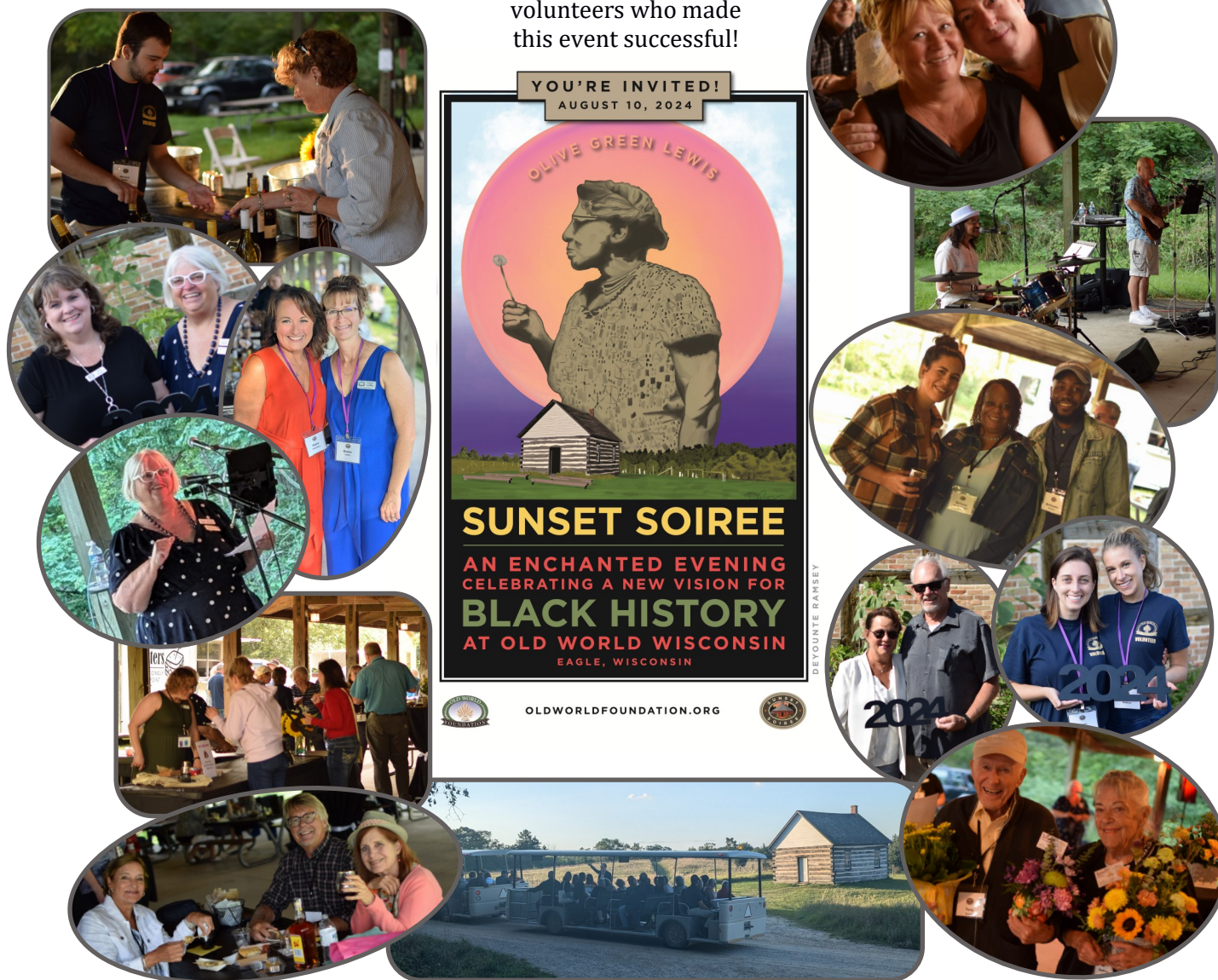
# Chair's Challenge: A New Vision for Black History



Old World Wisconsin opened in 1976 as a living history museum that shared stories of settlers who came to Wisconsin. There are many culturally diverse stories to be told. Enslaved and free African and African Americans lived, worked, and built community in Wisconsin. Old World Wisconsin is now revisiting stories from the Pleasant Ridge community in Grant County's Beetown Township. A reproduction of the United Brethren Church along with a cemetery chapel from Pleasant Ridge are located at Old World Wisconsin. Old World Wisconsin would like to enhance this experience into a dynamic attraction and celebrate the many stories of the rural Black families whose bounty, labor, and livelihood made this place home.

Thanks to the generosity of our *Friends*, the 2024 Chair's Challenge raised \$36,166.39 before the event and an additional \$15,000 after the event for a total of **\$51,166.39** to enhance the stories told in the Pleasant Ridge area of Old World Wisconsin.

We are thankful for our  
Sunset Soiree Committee  
and additional  
volunteers who made  
this event successful!



**With Sincere Gratitude**, we recognize all who donated to the **Chair's Challenge** to enhance the Pleasant Ridge area and the stories of Black History at Old World Wisconsin!

Anonymous  
Colleen & Alan Ball  
Dan Richardson & Pat Blackmer  
Kevin & Nancy Brunner  
Anthony & Andrea B. Bryant  
Ron & Luann Buchholz  
Hayes & Jill Davis  
Gerald & Ellen Schuh DeMers  
Terry & Nancy Dignan  
William Flemming  
William & Donna Granger  
Nate Gubin  
Pete & Sarah Harvey  
Beth & Dwight Heaney  
Donald & Emily Henderson  
John & Jean Henderson  
Beverly Karweik  
Amy Kinosian  
David Konczak  
Joanne Kraut  
David Leef & Michelle King  
Jolayne Lindberg  
Alice Lundstrom  
John & Julie Mann  
Sandy Matson

Julie & Bob McGill  
Rosanne McGuire  
Jennifer Motszko  
Mary Mowbray & Roland Schroeder  
Cindy & Jim Nelson  
Angela Nerby  
Kathy Papenfus  
James Pennington  
Barbara Pinekenstein  
Cheryl Rausch  
Randy Reddemann  
Charles & Irene Roberts  
Kathy & Ken Sadowski  
Justin Schaefer  
Carole & Gordon Segal  
Sandra Shorr  
Deb & John Silker  
Rachel Snyder  
Jean & Ron Theis  
Angela Titus  
Jennifer Von Ruden  
Roger & Marianne Anich Walsh  
Sheri Watkins  
Amy & Daniel Young

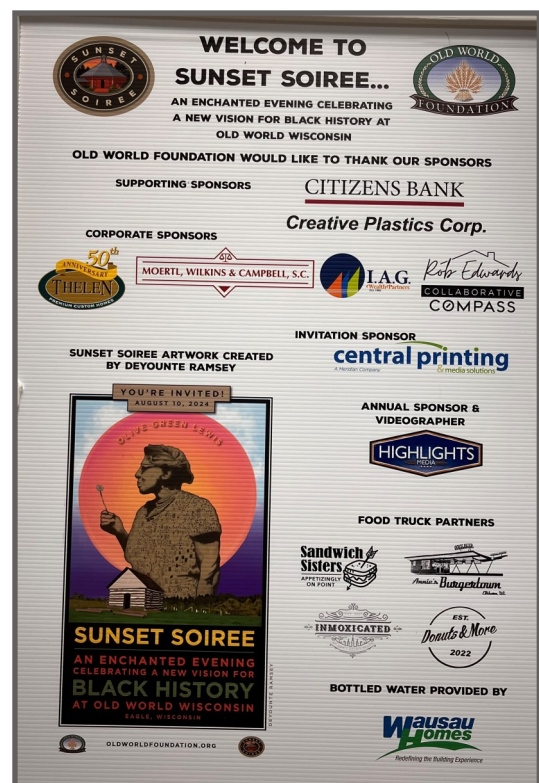


## Floral Sponsors



## Sunset Soiree Partners:

Citizens Bank, Supporting Sponsor  
Creative Plastics Corp., Supporting Sponsor  
Moertl, Wilkins & Campbell, S.C., Corporate Sponsor  
Thelen Total Construction, Corporate Sponsor  
Rob Edwards Collaborative, Corporate Sponsor  
IAG Wealth Partners, Corporate Sponsor  
Central Printing, Invitation Sponsor  
DeYounte Ramsey, Poster Artist  
Highlights Media, Videographer  
Wausau Homes-Elkhorn, Bottled Water



## We acknowledge the organizations and foundations who have given generous support this fiscal year...Thank You!

Associated Bank  
 Brookbank Foundation:  
 Charles and MaryAnn LaBahn  
 Citizens Bank  
 Creative Plastics Corp  
 Findorff  
 Four-Four Foundation  
 Greater Milwaukee Foundation Funds:  
 Anthony and Andrea Bryant Fund  
 The Herb Society of America WI Unit  
 Hooper Corporation  
 James & Karen Hyde Foundation, Inc.  
 IAG Wealth Partners  
 Kettle Moraine Garden Club  
 The Arthur C. Kootz Foundation  
 Kusch Tree Service LLC.

The Camille A. Lonstorf Trust  
 Lorton Data Inc.  
 LUMW Foundation  
 Maihaugen Foundation  
 Milwaukee Tool –  
 Mukwonago Operations  
 Moertl, Wilkins & Campbell, S.C.  
 The Janice & Raymond Perry  
 Community Fund, Inc.  
 Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust  
 Schwab Charitable  
 Segal Family Foundation  
 Standard Process Inc.  
 Thelen Total Construction  
 Waukesha State Bank

## Thank You corporate partners for your support this past year!



There are many ways to partner with Old World Foundation to benefit Old World Wisconsin. Visit the Corporate Partner page on our website for more information:



Blacksmith Experience Sponsors  
 In-Kind Tool Donations and  
 Volunteer Support



Token Sponsor and  
 OWF Annual Sponsor



OWF Annual Sponsor



Support for trail enhancement  
 -to make the trails at OWW  
 accessible for all



The Bank of Friendly Service™

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



Our Thanks to Generac for  
 providing Volunteer Support!

## 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  
Linda Bachowski  
Bernice A. Balicki  
Bonnie Barber  
Ramona L. Barwick  
William & Linda S. Bauer  
Bonnie Birk  
John Bjork & Kelly Cornelius  
Michael J. Bruch  
Karen & Harry Carlson  
Tom & Lynda Curl  
Gerald & Ellen Schuh DeMers  
Terry & Nancy Dignan  
Setsuko Owan &  
David Dobson  
Sandy & Peter Douglas  
Joanne & Dan Dugenske  
Fred & Anne Ehle  
Linda A. Fahrenkrug  
Sue & Larry Ferry

Patricia Fjetland &  
Linda Newton  
William Flemming  
Claire Gadbois  
Jim Gramentine  
Vivian Guzniczak  
Robert Hanley  
Eunice & Warren Hansen  
Norris & Nancy Harstad  
Donald L. & Emily J. Henderson  
John & Jean Henderson  
Earl W. & Eugenie Hildebrandt  
Father Jack Hopka  
Mary Claire Huck  
Karen Hyde  
Marilyn W. John  
Chad & Jan Johnstone  
Peg Jopek  
Eunice & Warren Hansen, Jr.  
Beverly Karweik  
Michael & Joyce Kastern  
Brian & Terrie Knox

Marilyn Koepsell  
Rick & Mary Kokan  
Veronica Wallace-Kraemer  
Joanne Kraut  
John & Dee Krugler  
Tom & Deb Longtin  
Peter Lovance  
Robert & Donna Lucht  
John & Julie Mann  
Sandra K. Matson  
Carol Mayer  
Donald & Margaret McCollum  
Sally Mundt\*  
Daniel R. & Gwynne Napientek  
Steve Nass  
Sharon Nelson  
Marilyn Neumann  
Richard A. & Sherene Nicolai  
Kenneth A. Nieman  
William & Jean O'Loughlin  
Robert & Holly Ottum

Phyllis L. & Donald  
Scharfenberg  
Carolyn Schloemer  
Joan R. Schultz  
Carole & Gordon Segal  
Jacqueline & Robert Smith  
Jerome L. Stefaniak  
Fred & Shelley Stich  
Prudence L. Sullivan  
Terri Sundberg  
Marilyn Swiontek  
Carol Taylor  
Jan Tweeden  
Phillip & Mary Tygum  
Richard Veed  
JoAnn & Paul Villavicencio  
Veronica Wallace-Kraemer  
Sheri Watkins  
Martina and Allen Wegner  
Dennis and Helen Williamson  
Charles & Sandra Yanke

*\*In Memorium*

## Sharing the story of Lavinia Goodell

In August 2024, Old World Foundation hosted a program celebrating Lavinia Goodell's admission to the Wisconsin bar 150 years ago, making her the state's first woman lawyer. The program featured a historical reenactment of Lavinia Goodell's groundbreaking challenge against Chief Justice Edward Ryan, debating a woman's right to practice law versus remaining confined to domestic duties.

We were honored to have Governor Tony Evers and Justice Ann Walsh Bradley with us for this event.

*Our thanks to the performers!*



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

Associated Bank • Jan Bilgen • Central Printing • Jerry & Sherry Janiszewski  
Milwaukee Tool—Mukwonago Operations • Studio Winery

**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	Sandra Horst	William and Jean O'Loughlin
Wesley Adams	Mary Claire Huck	Robert and Holly Ottum
David and Sarah Allen	Kathleen and Robert Hurley	Louise Pacholik
Sandra K. Anderson	Jerry and Sherry Janiszewski	Sarah and Matt Pancheri
Bernice A. Balicki	Joel and Karen Jeanson	Kathy Papenfus
Bonnie Barber	Marilyn John	John Peters
William G. and Linda S. Bauer	Allen Johnson	James and Margaret Polglaze
Thomas and Karen Binder	Jennifer Johnson	Joe Quinn
Bonnie Birk	Michael and Joyce Kastern	Joan Radtke
Michael J. Bruch	Lynn Kasza	Joe and Marie Rakoczy
Kevin and Nancy Brunner	Brian and Terrie Knox	Donna Rehbeck
Ron and LuAnn Buchholz	Cecilia Kowalski	Zachary Reynolds
Linda Butkus	Rick and Mary Kokan	Pat and Dan Richardson
Marilyn Campbell	Joanne Kraut	Sandy A. and Randy Sannes
Karen and Harry Carlson	John Krugler	Kathy Sadowski
Joanne Carpentier-Kasner	Bernard and Karen Kubale	Allison Scardino
Kristin and Matt Carroll	Amanda & Justin Kutka	Dennis James and Gena
Stephanie and Dave Chapman	Linda Lane	Schachtschneider
Tom and Lynda Curl	Allen E. Last	Phyllis L. and Donald Scharfenberg
August and Sally Dahl	David Leef	Jean and Gary Schaefer
Thomas A. Day	Jolayne Lindberg	Carolyn Schloemer
Gerald and Ellen Schuh DeMers	Tom and Deb Longtin	Joan R. Schultz
Bettie Petersen-Dicks & James Dicks	Peter Lovance	Leonard Sobczak
Joanne and Dan Dugenske	Robert Lucht	Jerry Stefaniak
Fred and Anne Ehle	Alice Lundstrom	Frank Stekel
Michael Ellsworth	Gene Malanche	Darlene and John Sterzinger
Gerald H. and Signe Emmerich	Paul & Karen Marshall	Edward Stevenson
Jeff Enders	Martha and Larry Martin	Fred and Shelley Stich
Sue and Larry Ferry	Sandy Matson	Lori and Vaughn Stock
Linda Newton and Patricia Fjetland	Rose Mary and Francis W. Matusinec	Debra and Bernard Stritzke
Virginia Follstad	Andrea Gonstead & David McCabe	Terri Sundberg
Rita Giles	Paul & Karen McCarty	Donna and Sherman Swanson
Thomas and Mary Grossman	Fr. Michael McElwee	Roy and Donna Swedlund
Vivian Guzniczak	Maxine McGovern	Marilyn Swiontek
Robert Hanley	Dennis Meyer	Carol Taylor
Eunice and Warren Hansen, Jr.	Courtney and Lance Miller	Jean & Ron Theis
Beth Heaney	Jennifer Motszko	Phillip and Mary Tygum
John and Audrey Hebert	Mary Mowbray & Roland Schroeder	Lois Vail
Michael Hecker	Lori Muzatko	Susan & Brian van Helden
Sandra and John Heyer	Sharon Nelson	Richard Veed
Earl W. and Eugenie Hildebrandt	Pat Castelli and Peter Newman	JoAnn and Paul Villavicencio
Gregory Himebauch	Richard A. and Sherene Nicolai	Angela Villela
Joanne and Gary Himebauch		Diane Voit
Fr. Jack Hopka		Veronica Wallace-Kraemer
		Terry Wandsnider

Sheri Watkins  
David and Mary Welnetz  
Nancy Wilhelm  
Andrew Willett  
John Williams  
Dennis and Helen Williamson  
Diana Wood  
Charles & Sandra Yanke

*We sincerely apologize if anyone was accidentally omitted from this list.*



## With Stewardship and Integrity

Old World Foundation presents its year-end Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2025 (reviewed)	2024 (audited)
Cash & equivalents	\$ 410,009	\$ 441,130
Pledges receivable	\$ 10,000	\$ —
Prepaid expenses	\$ 1,914	\$ 1,194
Finance lease right of use asset	\$ 2,225	\$ —
Investments	\$ 830,836	\$ 768,989
Other	\$ —	\$ 5,086
<u>Property &amp; Equipment</u>		
Office equipment	\$ 14,074	\$ 14,074
Accumulated depreciation	\$ (13,128)	\$ (12,672)
Property & equipment, net	946	
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,255,930</b>	<b>\$ 1,217,801</b>

Draft Reviewed for June 30, 2025

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 fully funded through state support and earned revenue.

We invite you to partner with us to fulfill **Our Mission: *Enriching lives through the preservation and celebration of history, Old World Foundation is dedicated to responsibly funding the advancement of Old World Wisconsin.***

***Our Vision is a future where lessons of the past ignite curiosity, inspire learning, and foster a deeper understanding of our diverse cultural heritage. We can achieve our vision through impactful giving.***

***Have you considered leaving 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.

***Visit the Planned Giving page on our website for more information:***



*Scan me*



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[oldworldfoundation.org](http://oldworldfoundation.org)