Dear Friends,

Another year has flown by, but with it came an amazing milestone; together we’ve now protected more than 40,000 acres of land in our area! That’s 40,000 acres that contain trees that give us the air we breathe, wetlands that filter and protect our water supply, farm fields that yield essential crops to feed our families, habitats to protect our wildlife, and open land that offers us opportunities to unplug and enjoy the outdoors.

We all know how important it is to have farmers who grow our food and the DLC continues to aid farm families in their efforts to protect their land and ensure that it remains viable for future generations. This year we received seven grants to fund purchase of development rights projects on farmland – a DLC record! We’ve also applied for five more in order to assist other farm operations. And remember – it’s not just our food supply that gets protected; it’s the rural feel of our area. It’s the open fields, grazing livestock, and scenic views that are also preserved – those precious qualities that we either grew up with here or which attracted us to Dutchess County in the first place.

Forty thousand acres is no small feat. With the constant push to develop every acre of open land, we’re lucky to have people in our area who care about their land and who have made the decision to protect it forever. We’re lucky to have farmers who understand the value of keeping our farms in agriculture and have protected their land so future farmers can grow our food. We’re lucky to have local, county, state, and federal programs that support land conservation. And, most of all, we’re lucky to have supporters like you, who make it all possible.

Sincerely,

Rebecca E.C. Thornton
President

Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC) is dedicated to preserving the scenic, agricultural and environmental resources of Dutchess County, New York, and the surrounding area.

DLC, as a private non-profit land conservation organization, carries out its mission primarily by obtaining conservation easements on privately held land and monitoring these easements in perpetuity. Conservation easements, acquired through either donation or purchase, are legal agreements limiting future development in order to protect land for conservation purposes.

In addition, DLC provides professional assistance to landowners and municipalities to encourage environmentally sound planning, and educates the public on matters of land conservation and stewardship.

ON THE COVER:
Exploring the creek at the Dover Stone Church Preserve.

Photo: Kathy Landman

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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ON THE COVER:
Exploring the creek at the Dover Stone Church Preserve.

Photo: Kathy Landman
“Let us be good stewards of the earth we inherited. All of us have to share her fragile ecosystems and precious resources, and each of us has a role to play in preserving them. If we are to go on living together on this earth, we must all be responsible for it.” — Kofi Annan

To accomplish our mission Dutchess Land Conservancy works hard to protect important land, responsibly steward it, and educate people about why it’s so important.

We are so fortunate to have people in our area who understand the benefits of open land and strongly support our conservation efforts. Because of this, over the last 31 years, local landowners, working with the DLC, have forever protected more than 40,000 acres of farms, forests, water, habitat, and scenic views.

Our ever-changing landscape now boasts large contiguous blocks of permanently protected land where only minimal changes will occur over time – an amazing feat considering the constant pressure to develop every available acre.

Our focus on retaining our rural character by balancing resource protection with growth that fits in with our natural and farm landscapes helps foster balanced and sustainable communities.

By offering education programs to people of all ages, we help answer the questions about why our land is so important to our lives.

At the DLC we believe that a healthy environment and a healthy economy go hand-in-hand.

Photo: Kathy Landman
“Land is not merely soil; it is a fountain of energy flowing through a circuit of soils, plants, and animals.”

— Aldo Leopold

A Lasting Legacy – Conservation Easements

Land conservation doesn’t happen because of the DLC. It happens because of people like you: people who care about their land, their community, and the rural character of the area that attracted them in the first place. Most of our work is with private landowners who love their land and value it enough to protect it forever.

Landowners who wish to protect the unique character and qualities of their properties can come to the DLC for help. We work with extended families, couples and individuals to create customized land protection plans to ensure that their property’s special scenic, rural, agricultural, forested, ecological, and natural features remain intact for current and future generations.

Why is protecting land so critical? Land conservation provides a public benefit. We learn early on how connected we are to the land. We grow our food there, our trees produce the oxygen we need to live, and the ground filters our water. We share the land with wildlife, use it for recreation, and are beginning to understand how important ecosystems are and how protected land benefits them.

The DLC is widely recognized on a national, state, and regional basis for working with landowners to accomplish our mutual land preservation goals. We worked with numerous landowners in 2016, and protected eight unique properties adding another 1,179 acres to permanent conservation.
Securing a Family’s Future: Protecting Ronnybrook Dairy’s “Home Farm”

In 1941, David and Helen Osofsky started Ronnybrook Dairy on a 208-acre property in Pine Plains, naming it for their eldest son Ronny. Ronny and his siblings, Sid, Rick and Freda (Freddi), grew up on the property, known as the “Home Farm,” and loved the farm life. The siblings eventually took over their parents’ business and now Ronnybrook Dairy is one of the premiere dairy farm operations in the state, with an established brand of milk products that are sold throughout the Hudson Valley, New York City, and the tri-state NY/NJ/CT region.

In June of 2016, with help from the DLC, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and Scenic Hudson, the Osofsky family forever protected the Home Farm by selling the farm’s development rights and placing a conservation easement on the land.

One of five farms that make up Ronnybrook Dairy, the Home Farm is an integral part of the multi-county operation and provides critical support through the pasturing of cows and heifers and the growing of corn, hay, and soy. The farm’s products are a fixture at Hudson Valley retail markets, and at New York City Greenmarkets and retail venues such as Chelsea Market. The dairy is also a significant component of the regional economic engine and employs more than 50 full time permanent staff. Eight members of the staff are from the Osofsky family. The dairy also supports other farmers in the area by purchasing their milk and renting their farmland for pasturing and hay.

Placing a conservation easement and selling the development rights on the Home Farm not only permanently protects the land for agriculture, but also allows the Osofsky family to reinvest in their farm operation and secure its future. The dairy has become a multi-generational family business and the siblings are in the process of transitioning the farm to younger family members. With a smile on his face, Rick Osofsky said, “Universally, my kids and my siblings’ kids have all come back to the farm, some with advanced degrees, but they can still farm and it’s really nice to have them continue the tradition.”

With the preservation of the Home Farm, the Osofsky family has taken steps to extend to their children and grandchildren a chance to experience what siblings, Ronny, Sid, Rick, and Freddi did being raised on the farm. Rick notes, “I remember growing up in a farming community and I feel that we have helped preserve that experience for those family members who didn’t have that opportunity. Now they can really benefit from seeing how the larger farming community once looked.”

PROTECTING THE LAND
WE LOVE

PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES, PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE, PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE
Ensuring Working Farms for the Future – Purchasing Development Rights

It’s no secret that we’re losing our farmland at an alarming rate. We’ve all driven by fields dotted with subdivisions where farms used to be. And once paved over, all of those valuable soils are lost forever. But that’s not the only thing that’s lost.

Our farmers are essential not only to the economic vitality of our rural communities, where they provide jobs and support many local businesses, but to the production of our food – essential to the health and well-being of our communities. This is why the DLC continues to focus a good portion of our work on protecting critical farmland. We are involved with several programs and activities that help establish and promote sustainable food systems. One of our key roles is protecting farms through Purchase of Development Rights (PDRs) projects.

Through a PDR program, a farmer is paid for the value of his development rights in exchange for permanently protecting his land with a conservation easement. This allows a farmer to reduce debt, enhance a family business, or retire and allow other family members to take over. Funds for PDRs are provided in large part by the state and county, with contributions also from the DLC and other partners.

The DLC partners with Dutchess County to implement its Farmland Protection Plan, and with Scenic Hudson Land Trust on its Hudson Valley Foodshed Conservation Plan, which outlines a strategic approach to conserving the agricultural land that supplies fresh, local food to the people of the Hudson Valley and New York City, one of the largest population centers in the world. These protected farms support New York State’s growing $46.7 billion farm and food economy, and help safeguard the area’s “foodshed.”

Beyond providing us with healthy, local foods and contributing to our economy, protected farmland has another advantage for local residents – even after development rights are sold, agricultural lands stay on the tax rolls. Studies show that agricultural lands cost communities significantly less to provide services to than residential lands which ensures that towns can continue to provide critical services to all of their residents.
Great Song Farm: Preserving a True Community Farm

For more than 18 years, Larry and Betti Steel “have had many cherished experiences with friends, neighbors, and family members hiking, sleigh riding, holding large family events, swimming, and picnicking” on their land in Milan. But from the time they purchased their 88-acre property, Larry and Betti always envisioned the farm in active production and using sustainable growing methods. Introduced to farmer Anthony Mecca through the Dutchess Land Conservancy/Columbia Land Conservancy Farmer-Landowner Match Program in 2010, they were able to realize this dream and Great Song Farm broke ground on their property in 2011.

While the land is owned by the Steels, through a unique long-term partnership, the farm is leased to Anthony and his partner Sarah Hearn, who have created a thriving CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) business providing over 100 families with a wide variety of produce year-round. The CSA program grows a direct connection between consumers and their food. As they get to experience firsthand the land and people growing their food, and even pick some crops like cherry tomatoes, beans, peas and flowers, people recognize the value of farms, farmland, and good food. The match has been a great success and has been going strong now for six seasons.

In September of 2016, Larry and Betti ensured that their land will always remain open and available for farming by partnering with the DLC, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and Dutchess County to sell their development rights and protect the land with a conservation easement.

While Anthony and Sarah manage the farm operation and farm store business, Larry and Betti participate in many different jobs on the farm. According to Larry, they are involved in: “saving seeds, transplanting, seeding, weeding, washing vegetables, harvesting, building fences, caring for chickens, horses and cows when necessary, and promoting and marketing CSA shares.” They set up events like puppet shows, music concerts, and writers’ workshops as well.

Great Song is farmed using organic and biodynamic methods. Much care is taken in working the land to produce delicious and healthy vegetables, while protecting and enhancing water and soil quality along with wildlife habitat. Work is being done to prepare for the planting of raspberries, blueberries, and a small mixed orchard of apples, pears, peaches, and plums on some of the hills too steep for vegetable cultivation, and a herd of cows grazes the remainder of the open land.

The farm store provides items from other area farms for CSA members to purchase, including honey, eggs, breads, yogurts, cheeses, and more. Educational programs are offered teaching sustainable, low impact living in connection with the land. Workshops and study groups cover activities and topics such as canning, permaculture, bee keeping, stewardship, and spirituality. Monthly farm tours are attended by 20 to 50 people, and the annual Community Day regularly draws over 100 people.

Happy with their decision to permanently protect their land, Larry and Betti say, “We are filled with pride and joy when our CSA members and their children come to the farm and pick up their vegetables, walk the land, and visit the cow herd and laying hens. We’re not sure if there is any higher calling than growing healthy food and introducing people to sustainable farming methods. Our intention is to remain supportive and active in the operation of Great Song Farm as long as we live on this planet. It is the best thing we have ever done.”
PROTECTING THE LAND
WE LOVE


If you’re like most people, you love your land. Maybe it’s the memories it holds – that time your child saw their first deer or rabbit grazing for food in your field or when you were stressed and took that long walk in your woods and felt at peace and one with nature. Maybe it’s simply that you’ve owned it forever – it’s where your children grew up and you can’t imagine living anywhere else so you want it to remain intact for their children to enjoy.

Whatever your reason may be for wanting to protect your land, you may not know where to start. That’s where we come in. We can guide you in examining what exists on your property – agricultural, scenic, and environmental resources – and work with you to decide the future of your land and whether permanent conservation is right for you.

We work with landowners to help them understand the conservation value of their property. We use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities to map important features such as farmland soils, wetlands, forest lands, habitats, and other natural and scenic resources. Our staff can identify important resources on a property, opportunities for well-placed home sites for future planning purposes, and strategies that help landowners visualize their options, while maintaining value in the marketplace.

Our professional land analysis has helped hundreds of landowners achieve a better understanding of the unique resource values of their land before making decisions on house siting, protection, sale, or subdivision. We believe so strongly in the benefits of conservation land planning that we provide these services even if it doesn’t ultimately result in a conservation commitment.

Towns also can benefit from the DLC’s conservation expertise. We continue to work with municipalities to incorporate conservation land planning techniques into their land use ordinances to help achieve the protection of those areas identified locally as important.

Numerous landowners in 2016 obtained guidance from our professional land analysis helping them achieve a better understanding of the unique resource values of their land before making decisions about its future. We also continued to provide conservation and land planning expertise to towns that are updating their open space plans or are considering development proposals.

“Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.”
— Stewart Udall

Photo: Kathy Landman
The DLC understands that Dutchess County’s open land is vulnerable to development pressure. It’s critical that the public has the opportunity to have access to high quality natural areas for passive recreational use. While many local towns want to enhance the quality of life for their citizens by conserving important natural resources and providing recreational opportunities, often they lack the resources to acquire important open land.

With its competent staff, local relationships, and transactional experience, the DLC is uniquely positioned to help communities establish public conservation areas. Towns can turn to the DLC for help to successfully achieve the acquisition, protection, and management of important public recreational land.

Sometimes, however, a town will acquire a property for its ecological value and environmental benefits to its citizens. For example, a property may have unique habitat not found elsewhere or may lie over an aquifer and have value by protecting the town’s water supply. While passive recreational activities might not be allowed there, there is still a significant benefit for the town’s residents.

In November, Arthur and Carol Menken placed a conservation easement on their 21-acre property in LaGrange and then donated it to the Town. Because their land falls within an area designated by the Town for protection of its groundwater, wetlands, and ecological resources, the Town was pleased to accept the property.

The Menkens’ land contains wetlands, native hardwood trees, fruiting shrubs – all contributing to great ecological value. It also lacks invasive plant species that can displace or kill native trees and shrubs and reduce wildlife food and habitat. While the property will not be available for public access, the Town recognizes the value of the property in protecting local natural resources and acting as a buffer to surrounding development.
Protecting and Managing our Natural Resources into the Future.

It’s up to us to care for our environment in a responsible way. It’s the only way we’ll leave our planet a better place for our children and grandchildren. By being respectful of the land and careful with our resources, we become good stewards who can help to protect our natural world.

When you place a conservation easement on your property you begin a forever relationship with the DLC by becoming a steward of the land. In holding the easement, the DLC has a perpetual responsibility to you and to the public trust to monitor and enforce the terms of your easement.

We have the utmost respect for our easement owners and strive to maintain positive, active relationships with them. This partnership is essential to us and we enjoy working cooperatively with you to ensure that activities on your property are in compliance with the terms of your easement.

Because no two of our 397 easements are exactly the same, our land stewardship staff is vital to our success in accomplishing our growing task of annually monitoring conservation easements. We have four full-time staff members who are involved in stewardship. They perform annual aerial monitoring of all properties, and ground monitoring site visits on a three-year rotational basis. In 2016, our ground monitoring team logged over 250 miles on foot walking properties under easement!

Our staff also maintains communication with landowners, reaches out to new landowners who purchase a property under easement, and helps landowners as they plan to make changes to their property. On the rare occasion that problems are identified during monitoring, we are happy to work with landowners to develop a plan to remedy the situation.

Contributions to the DLC’s Stewardship Endowment Fund made by easement donors help defray the costs involved with overseeing more than 40,000 acres of easement-protected land.

We work with a fantastic group of landowners and see so many examples of people who are good stewards of their land. Recently, we checked in with farmers who protected their farms by selling their development rights to see how the funds they received were used to improve their farms.
In 2001, the Meads were the first purchase of development rights (PDR) project under the State’s Farmland Protection Program in Dutchess County. In partnership with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM), the DLC, and Dutchess County, the Meads sold the development rights on their 100-acre orchard and in turn used the funds to immediately purchase the adjoining 82-acre farm. In 2010, the Town of Red Hook joined in this creative partnership with the Mead family, the DLC, NYSDAM, and the County to protect this additional 82 acres of critical farmland.

When we asked farmer Chuck Mead how the two PDR projects had affected the farm, he explained, “With funds from the first PDR, we were able to buy the 82-acre parcel which is between our home farm and a 70-acre piece we lease for farming. If we hadn’t purchased it, most likely it would have been developed and would be very difficult to farm next to.”

With the second PDR, the family was able to expand their operation and increase productivity and gross sales. They also invested in new machinery and did some renovations on their 1908 barn to make the space more useful. As Chuck says, “Keeping old barns upright is not inexpensive!”

**GOOD STEWARDSHIP:**

How Farmers are Using PDR Funds to Enhance their Land

You’ve seen above how selling their development rights and protecting their land can benefit farmers and their families. Farmers use funds received when selling their development rights in many ways. Some use it to reduce debt, others are able to retire and allow other family members to take over. We’ve found that a lot of the farmers we work with pour the money back into their farm operation for upgrades, new equipment, and even to purchase more farmland.

We caught up with farmers and landowners at Great Song Farm, Mead Orchards, Echo Valley Farm, and Northwind Farms to see how they are improving their protected properties.

**GREAT SONG FARM**

Larry and Betti Steel protected their 88-acre Great Song Farm through a PDR in September of 2016. While the land is owned by the Steels, through a unique long-term partnership, the farm is leased to farmer Anthony Mecca and his partner Sarah Hearn, who have created a thriving CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) business providing over 100 families with a wide variety of produce year-round.

According to owner Larry Steel, once the project was complete, their most significant improvement was to install a new irrigation system and well. Larry says it has been a “game changer” for them. “Before, we didn’t have fixed hydrants in the fields. We had to use very long hoses (about 150 feet) with a drip irrigation system that had a ridiculously low-flow rate on an old pump.” They now have six times the rate of flow and have been able to install fixed field hydrants near the greenhouses and the barn. They are also in the process of upgrading the electric to the barn and all outbuildings to better position themselves to grow their operation.

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With the second PDR, the family was able to expand their operation and increase productivity and gross sales. They also invested in new machinery and did some renovations on their 1908 barn to make the space more useful. As Chuck says, “Keeping old barns upright is not inexpensive!”
Since 2013 the DLC has been partnering with Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) on our joint Farmer Landowner Match Program. This exciting program facilitates lease agreements between landowners seeking to have their land farmed, and farmers seeking land. It is a great way to keep land open, enabling farmers to start new farms or expand their operations with significantly less capital and risk. It also helps non-farmer landowners to use their land for agricultural purposes. Local farmer (and DLC Board member) Barry Chase of Chaseholm Farm in Pine Plains continues to serve as a mentor for the program, meeting with landowners to offer advice on sound agricultural practices and uses.

An integral part of the program, the Down To Earth workshop series provides education and networking opportunities to farmer and landowner participants. In 2016, CLC and the DLC collaborated to provide two programs in this series: Field Connections: Selling Farm Products Locally, held on October 19th at the Churchtown Firehouse in Craryville, Columbia County, and, in partnership with the Cary Institute and American Farmland Trust, Before the Lease: Farm Choices for Landowners, held on November 12th at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, Dutchess County. This last workshop was very popular with more than 100 people attending. We were especially excited to see many of our easement owners there!

The match program has helped to create 61 matches since its inception in 2009 on 2,866 acres including nine in Dutchess County, most of which were made in the last three years. There are 160 farmers in the program, with 42 landowners in Dutchess County. Four of the 61 matches were made this year.

Learn more about the DLC/CLC Farmer Landowner Match Program on our website.
Conservation Easement Donors and Property Owners as of December 31, 2016

Our very important partners – our Stewards of the Land – are essential allies who manage and steward their conservation easement protected properties into the future. (Please note that while some of our easement donors have passed away, we still list their names out of great respect for their commitment to land conservation.)

Mr. Stephen Abel & Family
- O. Vincent Abel Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Munir Abu-Haidar
Mr. and Mrs. Ramzi Abu-Haidar
Mrs. Binti Ackley
Mr. Frederick Allen and
Ms. Erica De Mane
Ms. Saralyn Allen
Ames, LLC
Anra’s Nest, LLC
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Mr. Al Attara - Attara Foundation, Inc.
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Mr. Michael Bassett and
- Mr. Darren Henault
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Beatson-Hird
Ms. Karen Bechtel
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Mr. J. Addison Berkey, III
Ms. Stephanie Bernheim
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Biezenski
Ms. Kathryn Biegelow - 4 Legs Good Trust
Mr. and Mrs. James Bisceglia
Mr. Stephen Blauner and Mr. Kenneth Shelley
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Bommer
- Deep Hollow Game Preserve LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Booth
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy A. Boroughs
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Borsch
Mr. Thomas Boucher
Ms. Katherine Boyer
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brandow
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Ms. Melode Brasher
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Dr. Theodora S. Budnik
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Mr. John Burke
Ms. and Mrs. Jeffrey Cady
Dr. Peter Caldwell and Ms. Jane Waters
Ms. Lucy Calhoun
Dr. Nancy Camp
Mr. Robert Campbell - Harts Village Realty, Inc.
Mr. Joel Canter
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Cantor
Mr. Peter Capell
Mrs. Ava Carberry
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Caseiras
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cassara
Dr. Carol Caton
Mrs. Jane Chaffee
Mr. Michael Chamberlin and
Ms. Margaret O’Brien
Mr. and Mrs. William Chappell, Jr.
Dr. Stephen Chernay
Mr. Craig Chesley and Ms. Eileen Naughton
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Citrin
Mr. and Mrs. David Clapp
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Clark Hill Farm, Inc./Country Lands
Clark Hill, LLC
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Mr. and Mrs. Eliot C. Clarke
Mr. Eliot C.L. Clarke
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Coffin
Mrs. Cynthia Cogswell
Mr. and Mrs. John Colgate, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Coller
Mr. and Mrs. Farnham F. Collins
Columbia Land Conservancy
Common Fire Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conniff
The Conservation and Preservation Association, L.P.
Mr. and Mrs. Everett R. Cook, II
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley G. Cooke
Mr. and Mrs. John Coppell
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Mr. Willem de Vogel
Mr. and Mrs. Vasant Dhar
Mr. Andrew Dietlerich and
Ms. Carina Liebeknecht
Ms. Diandra de Morrell Douglas
- Carpe Diem Farm, LLC
Town of Dover
Ms. Bella Downey
Mr. Edward Downey
Mr. Leo Downey
Ms. Josephine P. Downey
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Ms. Carolyn B. Handler
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Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Durbridge
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Mr. John Egan
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Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Elliott
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Ms. Patricia Ericson
Mrs. R.B. Etherington
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ettenger
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Ewing
Ms. Leslie Farhangi and Mr. John Tuke
Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Farman-Farmaian
Mr. John Feeney and Ms. Shuan Chen
Ms. Judy Feilhig
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Fekkai
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fischer
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Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fitzgerald
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Flexner
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Floc
Mr. James Fiorica and Ms. Tracy Kimmel
Mr. and Mrs. Hadley Ford
Mr. and Mrs. John Forelle
Ms. Kathleen Foster
Mr. and Mrs. John Courland
Mr. and Mrs. John Courland
Mr. and Mrs. John Courland
Mr. and Mrs. John Courland
Mr. and Mrs. John Courland
Mr. and Mrs. John Courland
Mr. and Mrs. John Courland
Dr. Linda Lewis and Mr. Gary Gambuti
Mr. David Garbas and Ms. Joanna Barsh
Mr. Stephen A. Garofalo
Mr. Phillip Gelert
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffry A. Giardina
- CRJ Land Associates
Gibralar, Inc.
Dr. Ruth Moulton Gilbert
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Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Goldsmith
Mr. Max Goldwain - Silvernails LLC
Grace Paul Trust
Mrs. Mary Gaf
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Greenberg - One Kite, LLC
Mr. Jonathan Greenberg and
Ms. Elizabeth Ely
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Greene
- Mr. Bruce Gravett and Mr. Paul Feurner
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gubernet
Ms. Cornelia Guest
Col. and Mrs. Robert Gunther
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Gural
Mr. Thomas Hahn, Jr.
Mr. Thomas Hahn, Sr.
Ms. Julia Hall
Mr. Daryl Hall
Mr. Geoffrey Harrison and Ms. Julie Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Hart
Hay Ho Trust
Mr. Gary Hattem and Mr. Frazier Holloway
Mr. David Head
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hayee
Heathcote Real Estate LLC
Mr. Robert Henderson
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Henze, II
Mr. Robert Hermann and
Ms. Karen Kennedy-Hermann
Mr. and Mrs. John Hettinger
Mr. and Mrs. William Hettinger
Glen Arden, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. William Hewitt
Mr. Alan Hilliker and Ms. Vivien Liu
Mr. John Hoffman and
Mr. Michael McCalman
Haskell Foundation, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Johnstone
Mr. and Mrs. James Hunt
Mr. and Mrs. John Ike
Dr. Gerald Imber
Mr. and Mrs. David Itkin
Mr. Michael Jacoff and Ms. Jeanne Vaneco
Mr. Andrew Jarecki
Ms. Sara Joannides
Mr. Robert K. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. John Johnston
Mr. Paul Tudor Jones, II
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Jones
Ms. Sarah T. Jones
Dr. Mark Jordan
Mr. Jonathan Kagan - Uphill Horse, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. William Kahane
Ms. Abbey Kalina Straus and
Ms. Lydia Nadel - Kalina Farm, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Karpinsky
Mr. Paul Kazim
Mr. Roger Kass and Ms. Andrea VanBeuren
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Katz
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Kaye
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Keesee
Ms. Fernanda Kellogg and Mr. Kirk Henckels
Ms. Florence Nepfkel Kelly and
Mr. William Kelly, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Kennan
Ms. Beverly Kerzner
Mr. James Kiggen and Ms. Ani Shaker
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kimelman
Dr. Neil Khulnani and Ms. Joyce Kim
Mr. Soo Kim - Link Farm, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Kimmell, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John Kimm
Estate of Mrs. Elise Kinkhead
Mr. Roger W. Kirby
Mr. Douglas Kirschner and Ms. Martina Deigman
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Klein
Mr. and Mrs. John Klop
- Smithfield Farms, LLC
Klose Family Farm, LLC - Christopher, Kevin, Deborah, and Nick Klose
Ms. Kathleen Knight
Ms. Alexandra Koeppel
Mr. and Mrs. William Koff
Mr. Bruce Kraus
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kraus
Mr. and Mrs. James Kravchuk
Mr. Henry Kravis
Ms. Cecilia Kurzman
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Kusnetz
Mr. Neil Kutner and Ms. Naomi Grabel
Town of LaGrange
Mrs. Christina Lang-Assad
Ms.Sophia Lang-Assad
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Lamman
- Trumbull Home, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Lazarus
Mr. John Lazarus
Ms. Eva Christina Lazarus
Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Leighton
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard and Mrs. Melinda Grimes
Mr. and Mrs. E. Deane Leonard
Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Levin
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Levine
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Linck
Mrs. Elizabeth Lindsay
Mr. Alfred G. Lippincott
Ms. Aura Lippincott and
Mr. William M. Cawley, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher J. Kennan
Mr. James Kiggen and Ms. Ani Shaker
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Ms. Sophia Lang-Assad
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Mr. and Mrs. Leonard and Mrs. Melinda Grimes
Mr. and Mrs. E. Deane Leonard
Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. Levin
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Levine
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Linck
Mrs. Elizabeth Lindsay
Mr. Alfred G. Lippincott
Ms. Aura Lippincott and
Mr. William M. Cawley, Jr.
Mr. Andrew Lipsky and Ms. Holly Kelly
Mr. Bruce Liman
Ms. Adrienne Lobel
Mr. Douglas Londo
Mr. Dan Latkin
Mr. Edward and Mrs. Douglas Luke
Mr. and Mrs. James Mack - Silvernails Farm LLC
Mr. Phillip Macaggart
Mr. Andrew Maggio
Dr. and Mrs. Louis J. Maggio
Mrs. Lou Ann Malozzi
Mr. and Mrs. John Mandel, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Mandel
Mr. Peter C. Mann and Ms. Diane Wheeler
Dr. Monte Valentine
Marist College
Ms. Lenore Maroney and Ms. Dorothy Distel
Mr. David Marshall
Mr. David Marshall - Marshall’s Outback Property, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Marshall - Bos Haven Farms, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martucci - East Heartland Corp.
Mr. Erich Mauff and Ms. Adele Griffin-Watson
Mrs. Joan McCarthy - Cloverbrook Farm, Inc.
Mr. James McCarthy - Cloverbrook Farm, Inc.
Estate of Ms. Elizabeth McClintock
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew McDermott
Ms. Erinn McGurn
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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mead - Mead Orchards, LLC
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Mr. Joshua Morgenthau - Fishkill Farms Realty Associates, LLC
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Mr. Elliott Sleight
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Mr. Henry Smedley and Ms. Kathryn Chow
Mr. Kevin Smith and Mr. Greg Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Smith
Mr. Douglas Smyth
Mr. Olga Smyth
South Amenia Partners, LLC
Sprout Creek Farm, Inc.
Ms. Judith H. Stanley
Mr. Efray Stark
Ms. Bonnie Stedt
Steeplechase Acres, LLC
Mr. Julian Steinberg and Ms. Abigail Kazam
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Mr. and Mrs. Rockwell Stenrsrud
Mrs. Sarah T. Stephenson
Mr. David Stewart
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Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stolzman
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Streichler
- Three Pond Farm, LLC
Stuart Properties Corporation
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sturges
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Suter
Ms. Cari Swanson
Mr. Robert Tannenhauser
Ms. Korin Swanson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Suter
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sturges
Ms. Cari Swanson
Mr. Robert Tannenhauser
Ms. Korin Swanson
Mr. Jeffrey Taback and Ms. Innana Donnelly
Mr. Robert Tannenhauser
Mr. Brook Tabau
Mr. and Mrs. Tucker Taylor
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Mr. Oakleigh Thorne
Mr. Oakleigh B. Thorne
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Mr. and Mrs. Albert Trezza
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Ms. Blaine Trump
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Verbank Hunting and Fishing Club, Inc.
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Mr. Frank Vosburgh - Kesicke Farm Cattle, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vuillet - Sunnyside Farm, LLC
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Ms. Susan Yanow and Mr. Philip Sego
Mr. and Mrs. Eames Yates
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Zwirn

2016 CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

The Osofsky Family sold their development rights and protected their 185-acre Schultz Hill Farms in Pine Plains; Arthur and Carol Menken placed an easement on their 21-acre property in the Town of LaGrange and then donated it to the Town; Larry and Betti Steel preserved their 88-acre Great Song Farm in Milan with a conservation easement after selling their development rights; two properties in Amenia were protected by conservation-minded landowners, including a historic 222-acre farm and 67 acres of land which are highly visible from Route 22 and contribute to the scenic quality of the area; a caring landowner preserved their 125-acre property in Amenia; and a highly visible and scenic 57-acre property was protected in the Town of North East.

By working together, we’ve done it!

We’ve now protected more than 40,000 acres of Dutchess County’s watersheds, vital farmland, wildlife habitat, diverse ecosystems, and unparalleled scenic views for future generations.

Thanks to all of our supporters, landowners, farmers, local communities, government agencies, and land trust partners – this milestone belongs to all of us!
In April, Rebecca Seaman (the DLC’s Board Chairman) and Becky Thornton traveled to Washington, DC to meet with Representatives on Capitol Hill during Land Trust Advocacy Days, organized by the Land Trust Alliance. We thanked them for their great leadership and support that helped ensure that the Enhanced Conservation Easement Tax Incentive was made permanent in December, and for supporting other federal conservation funding initiatives such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), the Highlands Conservation Act, the Forest Legacy Program, and the Agricultural Lands Easement (ALE) Program under the Farm Bill. New York Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney and Congressman Chris Gibson, both strong advocates for our work, met with us in person. Thanks also to New York Senator Charles Schumer, for being a major champion for our tax incentive, and to Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for her support.

Over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, the Black Sheep Hill Farm Fest in Pine Plains drew attendees eager to learn about local farms and sample their wares. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. more than 200 people were welcomed to the farm by owners Irene and Jack Banning, and were able to sample products from Black Sheep Hill Farm as well as from Chaseholm Farm and Chaseholm Farm Creamery, JACûTERIE, and Ronnybrook Dairy. Full Circus Farm was there to talk about their experience as participants in the DLC and CLC Farmer Landowner Match Program and offer for sale CSA shares for organic vegetables from the farm. Lambs, chicks, a calf, and pigs were also on hand to delight the crowd who left full of cheese, quiche, various meats and milkshakes – a cool treat on an unseasonably warm day!

“Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better.” – Albert Einstein

In February, as part of their capping class, Environmental Studies Majors at Marist screened the film “Green Fire” about conservationist Aldo Leopold and later took part in a discussion about the film. Students attending the Dover Schools Earth Day Fair in April were able to stop by the DLC’s booth to learn about land conservation and how it affects them. Later in April, residents of the Fountains at Millbrook and members of the public learned about the history and conservation of the Dover Stone Church Preserve in Dover Plains.
Connecting with Landowners and Municipal Officials:

In January, our *Online Natural Resource Mapping Tools workshop* provided a guided hands-on exploration of online mapping tools. Participants practiced conducting a preliminary site assessment to determine conservation values for a municipal open space acquisition program. In March, Town Board members learned how to navigate their way to securing State funding for farmland protection and purchase of development rights projects at our *Conversations on Conservation breakfast* featuring speakers Eoin Wrafter, Dutchess County Planning Commissioner, Sean Carroll, Environmental Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension and the DLC’s Senior Land Projects Manager Karin Roux. In May, at a *science and management forum* at the Cary Institute on the “Future of Oak Forests,” participants learned about human threats to oak trees and how more responsible land-use practices can help protect them.

In June, the *Caora Farm Sheep Dog Trials* in Millerton provided fierce competition, amazing weather, and a picture-perfect setting at which to view these exciting trials! There was a great turnout as spectators young and not-so-young enjoyed a gorgeous weekend at the farm — soon to be protected through the DLC’s purchase of development rights program. Our thanks to *Mich Ferraro* and *Kathie Weathers* for hosting this family-friendly event at their beautiful farm!

In September, visitors to the *Orvis Game Fair* at Sandanona in Millbrook and to the *Environmental Fair* at Vassar College Farm stopped by the DLC’s booth to learn more about land conservation and how it helps local citizens. Later in the month, those attending the *Conservation Program at the Ducks Unlimited Event* at Tamarack Preserve studied historical aerial maps of the area and learned about wetland habitat management and land use patterns.

We kicked off October with a *mushroom hike* at the Dover Stone Church Preserve led by engaging and renowned mycologist Sue Van Hook. Participants were able to search for mycelium and then gathered to hear Sue discuss their finds. On October 19th, our workshop, “*Field Connections: Selling Food Goods Locally*” brought farmers and food buyers together to build relationships for the 2017 growing season. The event was part of our annual Down to Earth workshop series in connection with our Farmer-Landowner Match Program in collaboration with Columbia Land Conservancy.

Local Golfers Support the DLC

Each year the Dutchess County Amateur Golf Tournament Committee selects a local charity to support on behalf of the golfers who participate in the event. This year, the DLC was chosen to receive a very generous donation and Art Collings, the DLC’s Vice President for Land Conservation, was on hand to receive the check during the tournament’s closing ceremonies. Our sincerest thanks to the Committee and to the golfers of Dutchess County for supporting our mission!

Education that Helps us Help You!

We’re constantly working to keep up with the latest information on land conservation. We also collaborate frequently with other land trusts and conservation organizations to better assist you in your conservation goals and educational needs.

In October, we hosted the Land Trust Alliance NY’s *Hudson Valley Regional Roundtable* in the carriage house at Wethersfield Farm, an easement-protected property in Stanford. Land trusts from around the Hudson Valley gathered to stay up to date on issues at state and national levels, learn about available grant opportunities, and to hear Dr. Charles Canham, Forest Ecologist with the Cary Institute, discuss eastern forests and climate change. Participants were also treated to a tour of the farm’s classical gardens.

DLC VP for Conservation & Stewardship Art Collings, DCA Tournament Chairman Jim Bernard, 2016 DCA winner Nick Dilio.
Our 25th Annual Fall Country Luncheon and Silent Auction

Despite the cold and threat of rain, over 350 supporters and friends gathered on the Sunday of Columbus Day Weekend to celebrate farmland protection at Wethersfield Farm in Stanford. Luncheon co-chairs Zibby and Jim Tozer and Nancy and Fritz Henze delivered a spectacular event matched only by the gorgeous views of the landscape outside the tent.

While guests enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by The Farmer’s Wife, they were welcomed to the event by the DLC’s Board Chairman Rebecca Seaman and President Becky Thornton. They stressed the importance of farmland protection as a way of keeping land in active agriculture to ensure our future food source, and discussed the recent preservation of a portion of Ronnybrook Dairy, owned by the Osofsky Family. Rick Osofsky spoke on behalf of the family, sharing his dad’s history with the DLC’s beginnings, and noting that protecting the land through a purchase of their development rights was a great way for them to permanently protect their land for agriculture. It also provided important funds to reinvest in their farm operation and to transition the farm to the next generation.

Our heartfelt thanks to the many people who made the luncheon a great success: to our Co-Chairs Zibby and Jim Tozer and Nancy and Fritz Henze – we can’t thank you enough for your hard work to ensure that we had an amazing and successful event. To Kevin Malloy and all at Wethersfield Farm, we thank you for your help, patience, and invaluable advice – not to mention the hayrides enjoyed by our younger patrons! Thanks to Tim Bontecou and Nate Weeks for securing and installing the 15-foot birch trees to decorate the tent – we (literally) couldn’t do it without you! Thanks also to Judy Murphy and Old Farm Nursery for the beautifully decorated entrance to our tent – it was gorgeous! Thanks to our sponsors, Bank of Millbrook and Paula Redmond Real Estate. To our Underwriters, Patrons and Silent Auction Donors and Winners, we thank you so much for your generosity – it enables us to continue to protect more of the beautiful landscape we call home.
Our Third Annual Spring Barn Dinner Dance and Live Auction

With its gorgeous rural setting (once a picnic area for FDR), MC and Eric Roberts’ Silver Mountain Farm in North East was the perfect place to celebrate land conservation and raise much-needed funds for the DLC’s programs. Co-Chairs MC and Eric Roberts, Deban and Tom Flexner, and Jacqueline and Oakleigh Thorne enthusiastically welcomed guests to our Annual Spring Barn Dinner Dance on May 7th, where more than 300 friends and supporters shattered attendance records set in the first two years of the event. A delicious dinner served by Stissing House, a live auction and paddle raise with guest auctioneer Bill Stahl of Sotheby’s, and dancing to the sounds of Harlem Line kept guests entertained and made for a lively evening.

Our most heartfelt thanks to MC and Eric Roberts for generously opening their farm to us and co-chairing the event; to co-chairs Deban and Tom Flexner and Jacqueline and Oakleigh Thorne for their hard work ensuring that we had a beautifully conceived and well-attended event; to our Auction Chair Hannah Buchan for obtaining amazing items that brought maximum bids; to our Auction donors for their generosity in offering items; to our auctioneer Bill Stahl for donating his time and talents to ensure that our auction was entertaining and successful; to our Underwriters for their overwhelming support; and to our Auction winners and Paddle-Raisers for bidding and winning! – it is only with your support that we can continue to protect the land we all love and call home.

A Special Thanks to the Dinner Dance Committee for their hard work encouraging friends to attend the event and helping out with the many and varied details: Lindsay Baldwin, Michael Bassett and Darren Renauld, Stephen Blauner and Kenneth Shelley, Felicity and Tim Bontecou, Hannah and Duke Buchan, Eliza Dyson and Joel Levangia, Leslie Farhangi and John Tuke, Jodie and Andrew Fink, Fernanda Kellogg and Kirk Hendekers, Chris Kennan, Elissa Kramer and Jay Newman, Perrin and Greg Martin, Katherine and Frank Martucci, Elizabeth and Tim Mayhew, Kelly Morgan, Laurie Niles, Loli and Simon Roosevelt, Nancy and Bill Stahl, and Nelli and Jim Voorheis.

Photos: Mary Hilliard and Barbara Beatty Photography
## OUR SUPPORTERS

### TRUSTEES OF THE LAND

**$10,000 and up**

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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Eric Rosenfeld</td>
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<td>Jay M. Schwann</td>
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<td>Ms. Jennifer P. Speers</td>
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### BENEFACtors

**$5,000-$9,999**

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<td>Anonymous (2)</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Jay Gwynne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Kathleen Vuillet Augustine</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Jay Gwynne</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Craig Callen</td>
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<td>Mr. Hugo Cassirer and Ms. Sarah Buttrick</td>
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<td>Wendy and John Curtis</td>
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<td>Heather Lynn Masciotti</td>
<td>Karen and John Klopp</td>
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Dear Members,

On behalf of the entire board, I extend our sincere thanks for the strong financial support you provided in 2016. Thanks to the consistently dedicated backing of our Trustees of the Land and members, DLC’s annual fund campaign was a great success.

Again, our sincerest thanks,

Ralph Weindling
Treasurer

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

2016 Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS
- Cash/Cash Equivalents: $442,352
- Unconditional Promises to Give: 75,345
- Certificates of Deposit Prepaid: 144,229
- Property, Equipment (net Depreciation): 7,712,246
- Investments (endowment & restr. gifts): 5,774,340
- Property Held for Sale: 106,000
- Accounts Receivable: 4,258

Total Assets: $14,275,862

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS
- Accounts Payable: $40,984
- Accrued Expenses: 98,780
- Deferred Revenue: 11,000
- Deferred Tax Liability: 931,608
- Temporarily Restricted: 2,012,948
- Permanently Restricted: 736,000
- Board Designated: 3,403,631
- Unrestricted: 7,040,799

Total Liabilities & Net Assets: $14,275,862

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Operating Revenue
- Contributions: $7,368,839*
- Grants: 1,991,862
- Miscellaneous: 6,943
- Consulting Services: 9,350
- Events (net of expenses): 216,693
- Donated Rent: 25,200
- Interest-Bank: 625
- Donated Legal Services: 30,473
- Deferred Tax Benefit: 45,443

Operating Revenue: $9,695,428

Non-Operating Revenue
- Realized Gain-Securities: $144,509
- Unrealized Gain-Securities: 195,483
- Investment Income-Dividends: 67,981
- Stewardship Endowment: 63,150
- Contributions: 76%

Total Revenue: $10,166,551

EXPENSES

Operating Expenses
- Program Services
  - Land Conservation: 76%
  - Stewardship: 11%
  - Education: 7%
  - Administration: 3%
  - Development/Marketing: 3%

Total Operating Expenses: $3,033,772

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets: $7,132,779

* Includes gift of fee interest in key conservation property held as a non-liquid asset.