

# DLA Foundation Board Spotlight

*Mae DeVincentis founded the DLA Foundation in 2012. She set out to help DLA families after retiring as the Agency's Vice Director, capping a DLA career of over three decades of service.*



**MAE DEVINCENTIS**  
**FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

## Tell us about you and your career at the DLA

Like so many women of my generation, I began my career as a clerk-typist GS-2, which is a very modest grade in government service. My original posting was with the USMC in Philadelphia. However, shortly after joining them, they closed and I was able to transfer to DLA's field activity in South Philadelphia. This was a huge stroke of luck for me! I was a single mom and wanted to earn as much as I could to support my daughter and myself, so when I learned that I could return to college to finish my degree whilst DLA paid the tuition, I immediately signed up. It took quite a few years but eventually I earned a master's in business administration.

Concomitantly, I worked hard at forging a career, starting as a clerk in the Clothing Factory, then gaining a trainee position in Contract Policy. I steadily worked my way up, becoming a systems analyst supporting a major Subsistence IT Development program, then working in Subsistence procurement operations.

I always say that I hit every rung of the ladder on the way up...I was a buyer, a contracting officer, a systems analyst...I did every job they'd allow me to do. I had a great stint with the Medical Directorate, where I led the team that pioneered a new model for procuring and managing the medical supply chain, establishing its initial Prime Vendor program.

I was then selected to be the Director of Electronic Commerce then Director of Operations in Philadelphia, working on the BRAC merge of the DLA activities, DPSC (Defense Personnel Support Center) and DISC (Defense Industrial Supply Center) into what is now DLA TroopSupport. After a temporary six-month trial period working at the HQ, I left Philadelphia in 1999 and permanently joined the Headquarters staff as a member of the Senior Executive Service.

For the following ten years, I focused entirely on modernizing the Agency's aging IT infrastructure and with a strong team of IT professionals by my side,

we envisioned, established, and implemented the biggest IT transformation in the Agency's history. This included the reengineering of business processes for DLA's supply chains and implementation of SAP as part of the Business System Modernization Program (now called Enterprise Business Systems). In 2010 I was asked to move to the Logistics Operations position as the Director, then later became the first civilian Vice Director of DLA.

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**What Inspired you to create the DLA Foundation and what is the mission of the organization?**

The fact that DLA helped me finish my college degree was critical in being able to compete for progressively more responsible positions. I watched over the years as my DLA co-workers struggled to pay college tuition for their children and wondered why we at DLA didn't have a program to help. All the military services offer scholarships to children of their members, but we didn't have such a program.

So, I established the DLA Foundation in 2012 and have led it ever since. Our mission is simple...to support the families of DLA employees with scholarships for close family members. We have supported in other ways as well but right now we are focused on scholarships.

**What are the Board's Goals for 2024?**

Every year we hold two major fundraising events. We set goals to exceed the previous year's contributions. Over the past several years, we have been successful in doing so, and expect to meet or exceed them once again this year. We rely heavily on the generosity of DLA contractors and prior DLA employees and want to expand our reach via social media and other methods to increase our donor base in 2024. In addition, we are working on establishing additional events in 2024/2025

Identifying volunteers to support the programs we manage is always high on our list of priorities and 2024 will be no different in that we will seek out folks willing to pitch in and help us run the Foundation. There are a variety of ways people can volunteer...at the Golf Outing, being a reviewer of scholarship applications, working behind the scenes in administrative support and simply helping get the word out about what we do for DLA.

We are working to ensure on-going leadership of the Foundation by nominating new Board members and identifying succession plans for existing members. It's important that we continue to bring in members with fresh thoughts and ideas to ensure the Foundation continues its good work into the future.

**Tell us about any events and donation opportunities coming up for the DLA Foundation**

Thanks to several energetic and involved Board members, we hold two major events annually, a golf outing in September and Giving Tuesday in the late November/early December timeframe. The Golf Outing is a time when so many current and prior HQ DLA members come together for a day of camaraderie, fun and giving...we hold it at the Fort Belvoir Golf Course and spend the entire day together eating, playing games and catching up. We have also held golf events in Philadelphia and have one in the planning stages for Battle Creek, Michigan. We'd love for more DLA members to help us expand our efforts in all of our DLA locations.

Additionally, we participate in the virtual Giving Tuesday fundraising event. We make a major effort to garner support from all sources for the Foundation through social media, word of mouth and traditional outreach methods such as phone calls and emails. We have had successful campaigns in the past and expect to leverage this event moving forward.

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