2020: A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

2020 was undoubtedly one of the most challenging years in all of our lives. But we persevered. It takes a village to thrive—let alone survive—during such difficult times. As always, the Wright State University COMMUNITY stepped up to the challenge—nearly $10 million in support!

The COMPASSION of our alumni, donors, community partners, faculty, and staff during this unprecedented year was beyond compare. You helped our students when they needed it the most. Your COLLABORATION allowed us to continue to provide a quality education under the most unusual of circumstances.

As we present this impact report to you for 2020, please know that any statistic you see is so much more than a number. It represents a gift that made a difference in the life of a Wright State student—a gift that transformed a dream into a reality. And in the uncertain year that was 2020, your gift might have been the deciding factor as to whether a student could stay in school.

Your CONTRIBUTION will not be forgotten. Thank you for your continued support of Wright State and our students. Here's to better days ahead!
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

Thanks to a $50,000 grant from the George B. Quatman Foundation, Fifth Third Bank Trustee, a new garden will be constructed on the Dayton Campus to honor military veterans and those individuals who serve and support them. Located outside Allyn Hall, the Veteran and Military Center (VMC) Champion Garden will consist of a 1,000-square-foot paver patio with a pergola, benches, tables, and landscaping.

Members of the community are invited to honor special veterans in their lives by purchasing an inscribed patio paver or an inscribed dog tag that will hang from the pergola.

The stories behind the names in the VMC Champion Garden will be captured through a variety of narratives, including digital text, audio recordings, and videos. As students and visitors enjoy the peace and tranquility of the garden, they will also be able to interact with the names that surround them by reading or listening to their stories.

“Fifth Third values veterans and the service they have provided for our country,” said Doug Compton, Senior Vice President and Dayton City Executive, Fifth Third Bank. “The Quatman Foundation gift will be a way to honor these service men and women, while also creating a welcoming space for them and all who support them.” Learn more at wright.edu/champion-garden.

HELPING STUDENTS IN NEED

In a beautiful display of compassion and empathy, the Wright State family came together in 2020 to help our students when they needed it the most. As the COVID-19 pandemic placed the entire world on lockdown, alumni, faculty, staff, and community partners quickly stepped up to donate $67,287 to Wright State students in need.

Many students who faced unemployment due to the pandemic were struggling to put food on the table or keep a roof over their heads. “Work was my only source of income,” said one Wright State student. “I have no extra money to spend on things I need the most, mainly groceries and toiletries. I’m not sure where my next meal may come from.”

As one of the leading donors to the Wright State Student Emergency Relief Campaign, the Dayton Foundation made a grant from the COVID-19 Response Fund for Greater Dayton and directed the gift to the Raider Food Pantry.

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BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

When Wright State alumnus Vercie Lark and his wife, Lisa, created the Hammond and Lark Family Fund, they wanted to help a group of students who don’t normally receive financial assistance. With high-achieving students often earning scholarships based on their academic merit and lower-income students frequently helped by grants, the couple directed their gift to assist students who are caught in the middle and can easily be overlooked.

“Those in the middle are the ones who really struggle financially,” said Vercie. “They may be working one or more jobs while going to college or they may simply need some additional money to stay in college.”

For mechanical engineering major Donald Seaborn, the Larks’ scholarship has been a godsend.

“Scholarships like these make it so much easier for people of my background. I can focus more on school without having to work as hard,” said Seaborn, who has juggled up to three jobs while going to school full time.

“Once I graduate, there is nothing looming over my head. I can focus on building my future.”

“You don’t have to wait until you’re rich to make a difference,” said Vercie. “You can do it at any time in your life if you’re willing to give. Give a little. If you do that every year, it adds up.”

Exact 5,000 alumni and friends made commitments to Wright State University in 2020, compared to 4,737 in 2019. That’s a 5% increase during a year when all of us were doing more with less.

IT TAKES MORE THAN A VILLAGE

- Per the Ohio Revised Code, municipal corporations with a population of 5,000 or more are considered cities.
- 5,000 is nearly double the population of the nearby Village of Enon.

Gran Total $9,963,906.02

WHO GAVE NUMBER OF DONORS FIRST-TIME DONORS TOTAL
Alumni 2,558 339 $1,607,700.65
Corporations 179 48 $5,950,752.14
Foundations 69 14 $819,315.98
Friends 2,442 736 $1,586,137.25
Grand Total 5,248 1,137 $9,963,906.02

WHO GAVE NUMBER OF DONORS FIRST-TIME DONORS TOTAL
Academics $1,274,546.32
Athletics $206,153.53
Facilities and Equipment $122,769.00
Faculty Support $1,270,025.00
Gifts in Kind $910,506.21
Library $23,404.27
Programs and Services $1,128,431.92
Research $42,703.00
Scholarships $3,521,160.67
Unrestricted $194,206.10

DONOR COUNT TOTAL COMMITMENTS
Donors who gave commitments of $50 or less 2,290 $78,833.59

At Wright State, our faculty and staff understand that by collaborating together between all areas of campus we can provide our students with a more cohesive educational experience. Our donors understand that too.
Like many institutions when COVID-19 hit, we had to pivot. We wanted to continue to engage our alumni and rolled out a variety of virtual events and opportunities. We introduced virtual music bingo, virtual alumni service opportunities, virtual Alumni Speaker Series, virtual network and society meetings, a virtual Homecoming, and the popular Raider on the Rocks virtual mixology class.

We have also increased our social media engagement strategies with more questions, polls, and contests. While we miss seeing our alumni in person, we were thrilled to see alumni in regions that our in-person events do not normally touch. Alumni from Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., New York City, Florida, Virginia, Louisiana, and even Canada have joined our virtual events!

We have been able to maximize our reach, all while providing FREE programming to our alumni.

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SAVE THE DATE!
Join us Friday, October 1, 2021, for the fifth annual Wright Day to Give!
wright.edu/wrightday2give | #WrightDay2Give
Wright State Foundation
Wright State Alumni Association
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.
Dayton, OH 45435-0001