The Power of Philanthropy: July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

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Since its founding, DePaul University has grown in stature and reputation through its dedicated, talented faculty; state-of-the-art learning facilities; experiential and innovative educational opportunities; and, above all, an engaged, enthusiastic community. In fiscal year 2018, 13,773 generous donors contributed $30,793,362 to help DePaul provide a world-class education for all students, regardless of means or background.
Growing up in the small village of Worth, Ill., John Ambrose (LAS ’94) was drawn to the bright lights of Chicago when it was time for him to go to college.

While he initially chose DePaul for the financial incentive it offered him through a Dean’s Scholarship to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, he had no way of knowing that this choice would shape the course of his life forever.

“Personally, DePaul changed my life because it’s where I met my wife,” recalls Ambrose. Amy Ambrose (LAS ‘94), from Carlisle, Iowa, started college when he did and received the same scholarship at LAS, where John studied economics and Amy studied political science. The two started dating at the end of their freshman year and later married. They live in Mokena, Ill., with their children, Helen, 12, and Henry, 7.

Soon after they both graduated in 1994, John and Amy began working at Chubb, a global insurance provider. They have each risen to executive positions at the company—he as senior vice president of North America financial lines and she as senior vice president of North American operations.

John and Amy credit DePaul with giving them the tools and skills necessary to succeed in life.

“I really value my time at DePaul. I was an econ major through a liberal arts program, and I was given such exposure to so many different types of people and different types of thought,” John says. “Through this exposure I gained important critical-thinking and writing skills that have served me well in the business world and that I would not have received in a business-centric program.”

John and Amy Ambrose are paying it forward by making an inaugural gift to support The 1898 Society at DePaul. Annual gifts to The 1898 Society support scholarships, enabling DePaul to continue its commitment to keeping higher education accessible for students from all economic backgrounds.

“Supporting DePaul reflects our gratitude for our experiences and the scholarships we received,” says John. “It gives us a chance to impact someone else’s life the way others did for us.”

Launched in 2017, The 1898 Society supports scholarships that enable the university to attract and retain the most talented students, regardless of their economic background. Donors who make a gift of $1,898 or more during a single fiscal year are recognized as members of The 1898 Society and help ensure that DePaul continues to fulfill its mission.
A GIFT FOR GENERATIONS
SCHMITT SCHOLARS PROGRAM SPANS MORE THAN 60 YEARS

Arthur J. Schmitt (LLD ’47) decided early in his career that the world needed more ethical, innovative leaders. The self-taught inventor—he created Bakelite plastics and other materials crucial to America’s victory in World War II—determined that his dream aligned with DePaul’s mission of educating socially responsible leaders. Over the past six decades, the Arthur J. Schmitt Foundation has supported hundreds of DePaul students to develop their leadership skills and deepen their dedication to service as they earn their degrees.

Alumni may recognize the name Arthur J. Schmitt as it adorns the Academic Center on the Lincoln Park Campus. The building was named for the philanthropist in 1967 after he gave the university one of the largest cash gifts it had received at the time.

Schmitt, who served as a DePaul Trustee for more than 20 years, had a far greater impact on students when his foundation endowed the Arthur J. Schmitt Scholarship Program at DePaul in 1976. Since then the foundation has contributed more than $4.2 million to support generations of emerging student leaders.

Schmitt Scholars are selected based on academic excellence and their demonstrated leadership and service experience. Their participation in a four-year leadership development program, including an annual service project, gives them the confidence and skills to take action and increase their impact.

“Being a Schmitt Scholar is a source of pride for me as an on-campus leader,” says Darryl Arrington (LAS ’91, MS ’07), who was a representative in the Student Government Association. Now assistant vice president for DePaul’s Center for Access and Attainment, he says, “My experiences as a Schmitt Scholar inspired me to serve as a representative and an officer on Staff Council at DePaul.”

“Leadership in the context of education and supporting students who will, as Arthur would have put it, find their place in the world and do something about it is exactly what Arthur would have wanted,” says John Gearen, chairman of the board of the Schmitt Foundation, which continues to support DePaul student leaders today.
COMING FULL CIRCLE
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT NOW LEADS THE ORGANIZATION WHERE HE INTERNED

Scholarships at DePaul gave Dan Hula (LAS ’08, MSW ’10) the resources to discover his path in college. Today Hula is the executive director of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter (LPCS) and helps hundreds of individuals each year find their way out of homelessness.

“I took classes on social problems at DePaul and was inspired by the idea of speaking for those who are marginalized,” says Hula, who declared a major in sociology as a junior. He calls his scholarships lifesaving because they made it possible for him to attend DePaul, where he found his calling while receiving the education he needed to pursue it.

As an intern at LPCS during the 2008–09 academic year, Hula found that the staff’s respect for the dignity of their clients and their mission to help those in their care permanently escape homelessness echoed the Vincentian values he learned at DePaul. After working at two other organizations after graduation, Hula returned to LPCS in 2014 as its executive director. He is leading an expansion that will increase the number of clients LPCS serves annually from about 400 to about 700 in 2019.

Hula's experience of being able to intern in the heart of Chicago and build relationships just half a mile from the Lincoln Park Campus was invaluable. “The fact that I’m now the executive director where I interned says a lot. DePaul really helped me feel confident to jump into this role and to give back to this community,” he says.

CROWDFUNDING FOR GOOD

A few dozen gifts made a big difference for hundreds of students in Chicago Public Schools (CPS) last year.

About 300 students and their teachers received tickets to the 2018 BIG EAST Women’s Basketball Tournament courtesy of DePaul Athletics and the BIG EAST. While the tickets are provided at no cost, schools are responsible for transporting students to and from the Wintrust Arena at McCormick Square. If a school doesn’t have the resources to provide buses, teachers and students end up taking long, complicated trips on public transportation.

In 2018, with the launch of Inspire DePaul, the university’s crowdfunding platform, CPS had a new option. Forty-four donors made gifts large and small so that schools could charter buses and transport their students simply and safely.

“Enough people coming together can get you somewhere big,” says Caileen Crecco, who manages Inspire DePaul.

In fiscal year 2018, Inspire DePaul raised $66,898 to help support nine crowdfunding campaigns.
FUELING INNOVATION

DePaul has long excelled at providing learning environments and real-world experiences that help launch students into successful, fulfilling lives. This year, DePaul added innovative programs ranging from finance to the cinematic arts, courtesy of the foresight and vision of donors.

Thanks to the generosity of the family of late finance executive John L. Keeley Jr. (BUS DHL ’11) and the Keeley Family Foundation, finance students will have access to academic and co-curricular programming at the John L. Keeley Jr. Center for Financial Services.

The new center will support academies with cutting-edge curricula in several finance specialties, including a Wealth Management Academy that will provide students with expertise in portfolio management and financial planning. The center will also select students from these specialty academies to become Keeley Scholars, with access to professional development workshops, mentorships, internships and networking opportunities with the center’s industry partners.

John L. Keeley III, Mr. Keeley’s oldest son and an adjunct professor of economics at DePaul, says, “The new center embodies our father’s belief that students learn best and ultimately succeed by doing. It will provide opportunities for students to apply their classroom knowledge to the real world of finance.”

ALUMNI GIVING
8,739 total donors
$14,176,219 total dollars raised

PLANNED GIVING
160 total gifts
$13,108,040 total dollars raised

Driehaus College of Business Dean Misty Johanson and DePaul President A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, flank John L. Keeley III and his mother, Barbara Keeley.
Students in DePaul’s School of Cinematic Arts receive the kind of hands-on learning and access to industry leaders that are an integral part of a DePaul education. DePaul’s occupancy of two Cinespace stages gives students the opportunity to learn filmmaking and production at an active studio where hit television shows such as “Empire,” “Chicago Fire” and “Chicago Med” are filmed.

These opportunities are made possible in part by a gift from Cinespace Chicago Film Studio President Alex Pissios. “You want to see these kids have an opportunity to create things and be creative,” Pissios says. “It’s our job as adults and businesspeople to support students and give them opportunities. Seeing your money do these things is great.”

“IT’S OUR JOB AS ADULTS AND BUSINESSPEOPLE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND GIVE THEM OPPORTUNITIES. SEEING YOUR MONEY DO THESE THINGS IS GREAT.”

—ALEX PISSIOS
The General Scholarship Fund
EVERY GIFT MAKES A BIG IMPACT.

Seventy-eight percent of all DePaul students receive financial aid, so gifts to scholarship funds make a crucial difference. The General Scholarship Fund is available to students pursuing degrees at any one of DePaul’s 10 schools and colleges and can bridge the gap between the cost of tuition and what a student can afford. With scholarship support, students are able to take full advantage of the DePaul experience in the classroom, and it helps them to complete their degrees on time.

DePaul students and donors all have one thing in common: the ambition, grit and drive to make a difference. For donors to the General Scholarship Fund, that difference is most clearly seen in the success of DePaul graduates. In 2017, 92 percent of DePaul undergraduates were either employed or pursuing further education within six months of graduation. Eighty-three percent of them were working in jobs related to their degree. Among graduate students, 89 percent were employed in their field, and 3 percent chose to continue their education.

Scholarships are important to students and alumni alike. Last year, donors made nearly 6,000 gifts to the General Scholarship Fund, and 81 percent of those gifts came from alumni committed to paying their good fortune forward.

A gift to the General Scholarship Fund helps the next generation answer the question, “What must be done?”

The True Blue Society recognizes individuals who make a gift to DePaul for three or more consecutive years, although many donors give year after year. This unwavering support allows DePaul to help students reach their full potential.

“THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THE MEANS TO GROW AND LEARN, AND IN TURN, HELP OUR COMMUNITY THRIVE."
—ABIGAIL, CDM

THE TRUE BLUE SOCIETY
$11,454,626 TOTAl DOLLARS RAISED
5,482 TOTAL MEMBERS

THE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
EVERY GIFT MAKES A BIG IMPACT.

“All scholarship support
7,365
TOTAL DONORS
$6,743,160
TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

“Thank you for giving us the means to grow and learn, and in turn, help our community thrive.”
—Abigail, CDM

$6,743,160 TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

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