THOUSANDS OF SUPPORTERS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE VITAL ASSISTANCE TO UT DALLAS STUDENTS THROUGH EMERGENCY FUNDING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

MEMBERS OF THE UT Dallas community from around the globe are coming together to help students in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. When the crisis began in North Texas in March 2020, UT Dallas created the Student Emergency Fund (SEF) to assist students with necessary expenses related to food, housing, technology, child care, medical care and other unplanned needs. To date, more than 2,000 students have been awarded over $1 million in emergency funding.

UT Dallas students have demonstrated a great need for emergency assistance over the past 10 months. Food insecurity threatened 68% of applicants, and 43% found themselves short on monthly rent. After the transition to virtual learning in the spring and with many students requiring distanced instruction through the 2020-21 academic year, purchasing a reliable computer and covering internet utility costs have been prevailing needs felt by 70% of applicants.

Senior Wilfred Labue is one student who found help through the Student Emergency Fund. Labue previously drove for Uber to pay his bills and cover living expenses, but when he stopped driving to reduce his potential exposure to the virus, he quickly ran out of money.

“One day I saw an email about the Student Emergency Fund. The money I got took care of my phone and internet bills and allowed me to have food in my home,” Labue said. “It’s helped keep me afloat, and I really do appreciate the contributions of our donors.”

University partners in the corporate sector also took notice of the incredible need felt by students. State Farm gave $25,000 to the SEF, the largest single donation for student support.

“We are pleased to provide a grant to The University of Texas at Dallas for the Student Emergency Fund,” said Jen Alvarez, manager of corporate responsibility at State Farm. “We believe all youth deserve an education that will help them reach their greatest potential. We do not want a student to have to choose between repairing their car or dropping out. These funds will help students in need stay in school and on track to graduate.”

The far-reaching effects of this crisis continue to be felt at UT Dallas, and University leadership expects to receive student requests for aid long after on-campus operations are fully resumed. Many students who have requested support come from low-income families whose financial situations remain strained. Students themselves have lost much-needed jobs at restaurants, retailers and other businesses affected by ongoing economic instability. Those who come from middle- and upper-income households have not been immune to difficulty either, as families across the country experience sudden unexpected losses of income.

“So many students and their families have been put into situations where they no longer have an income to support themselves,” said senior Hope Cory, former vice president of the UT Dallas Student Government. “The Student Emergency Fund can help students get back to some type of normalcy, but that weight can’t be lifted if there are not enough funds to go around. Donating to the fund is crucial, and we simply cannot provide this aid without our donors.”

To contribute to the fund, visit impact.utdallas.edu.
Friendship Inspires Planned Gift to Revolutionize Brain Health

A $1.1 MILLION planned gift from the estate of Janet DeSanders will empower life-changing research and treatment at The University of Texas at Dallas' Center for BrainHealth. DeSanders, a native Dallasite and graduate of Southern Methodist University, was described by her friends as clever, quick-witted and the life of the party. She was devoted to helping local causes throughout her life, and this particular act of generosity to UT Dallas was inspired by her love for her best friend of over 50 years, Jill DeSanders. They were roommates after graduating from SMU and remained close as “Thursday friends,” gathering for lunch every Thursday for years until Jill suffered a serious stroke following surgery to repair a heart valve.

During this challenging time, DeSanders began researching organizations committed to improving brain fitness. She was quickly drawn to the Center for BrainHealth’s pioneering work and would eventually revise her will to include a planned gift to the center in Jill’s honor. “Having known Janet and her family for many years, I wasn’t surprised that one of her last acts was a generous and purposeful gift,” said Debbie Francis, past advisory board chair of the Center for BrainHealth. “Science clearly shows that our brains hold an immense power to adapt, change and improve throughout our entire lives, giving access to the right tools. Janet would be thrilled to know that her gift is already empowering people across the nation to improve their brain health and performance.”

DeSanders’ gift will be directed to support the center’s BrainHealth Project, a landmark scientific study that is helping to define, measure, maintain and retain brain health in an effort that could revolutionize the field. The project comprises an international collaboration of leading experts focused on developing scientific protocols to strengthen the brain’s upper potential.

“We are overjoyed with gratitude for Mrs. DeSanders’ extraordinary gift,” said Dr. Sandra Bond Chapman, chief director of the Center for BrainHealth. “Science clearly shows that our brains hold an immense power to adapt, change and improve throughout our entire lives, giving access to the right tools. Janet would be thrilled to know that her gift is already empowering people across the nation to improve their brain health and performance.” She honored us with the foresight of a meaningful estate gift to support our vision for a brain-healthy world and will always be a foundational part of our momentum.”

Participation in the BrainHealth Project is now open to adults and children. Registrants first assess their cognitive function, followed by a personalized fitness plan. They then self-track their progress and meet with clinicians to assess their brain health over-time. Nearly 40 individual gifts have raised over $915,000 for the Rick Brettell Memorial Fund, which will name a reading room in the soon-to-be-constructed UT Dallas Athenaeum in Brettell’s honor. The Athenaeum project was Brettell’s magnum opus in his final years at UT Dallas. Envisioned as an on-campus museum and performing arts complex, the Athenaeum will house world-class collections of art gifted to the university in recent years such as the Barnett Collection of Semt Art, the Crew Collection of Asian Art, the Wildenstein-Plattner Library and the Gwenlyn Brown Archives. Boasting classrooms and studios alongside traditional galleries, the Athenaeum will be a meeting place where students, faculty and community members can collaborate across disciplines and cultures.

Support for Brettell Creates a New Era for the Arts

New Dimensions Emerging at UT Dallas

A NEW ERA is shaping itself at UT Dallas. For over 50 years, visionary leaders, scholars and supporters have created a University unlike any other. Committed to generating ideas and technologies that change the world, UT Dallas is home to transformative research and education that makes a difference in lives throughout North Texas and beyond.

Generous gifts from donors like those in this issue of Momentum have built a foundation for our future. With an endowment that recently surpassed $650 million, UT Dallas is well-positioned to take advantage of new opportunities in our changing world. For a University built on innovation, philanthropic support enables students and faculty to respond to challenges with ingenuity and invention.

In the years to come, this foundation will help open doors to every motivated young mind who wants to pursue their dreams at UT Dallas. These students will be educated on a campus that welcomes the world to explore new vistas of human knowledge and achievement. I look forward to sharing these accomplishments with the loyal partners who make them possible. — Kyle Edington-PaLT3 Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

For Rick, his legacy was making the arts at UT Dallas a real and tangible thing. — Dr. Michael Thomas, director of the Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History and Richard R. Brettell Distinguished University Chair

More than 40 donors contributed to a memorial fund in the late Dr. Richard Brettell’s honor. Their gifts will name a reading room after Brettell in the planned UT Dallas Athenaeum.

“For Rick, his legacy was making the arts at UT Dallas a real and tangible thing,” said Dr. Michael Thomas, director of the Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History and Richard R. Brettell Distinguished University Chair. “This reading room will be the perfect place for him to be remembered. It represents an important combination of research and engagement with the arts, located in the place we hope will be the hub for the arts in the North Dallas community.”

Thanks to decades of effort by leaders like Brettell and a generous university vision that inspired the creation of the O’Donnell Institute and the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, UT Dallas is uniquely positioned to create a new arts district for North Texas right on its own campus.

“We’re the only public university that has ‘Dallas’ in our names,” Thomas said. “We really make sure that Dallas is a part of everything we do. We have a responsibility to represent this city.”

Part of this responsibility lies in integrating UT Dallas’ traditional areas of excellence with the arts to create a university environment unlike any other. By embracing an approach to art history and artistic expression that combines science, technology, engineering and mathematics with the creative disciplines, UT Dallas can offer new perspectives on the STEM fields and humanities while opening unexplored vistas for artistic endeavor.

These efforts are already taking place in classrooms and studios across campus through work on conservation science and programs that apply digital technology to the arts. The construction of the Athenaeum will facilitate new partnerships that invite faculty and students to think differently about the place of art in our lives.

“The Athenaeum and its collections will become our laboratories, our data sets for people to work with,” Thomas said. “Its collections will be study-oriented. We can put a piece of art in a classroom, and just from having that physical piece in a room, we can have an art historian talk about it, a scientist talk about it, and a scientist can come and tell you about its chemical composition and the process of restoration. It can be a laboratory for multiple disciplines, and it gives all levels of access for research and study.”

Continued philanthropic support will be vital to realizing a new era for the arts in North Texas. Construction of the Athenaeum complex is estimated to cost more than $100 million. The University has already raised $39 million toward this goal.

“Dallas has the philanthropists and the people who are willing to recognize a visionary like Rick,” Thomas said. “Now we have an obligation to make sure that this vision doesn’t result in anything short of first-rate. We’ll live up to the ideals that Rick created through the generosity of our supporters. There’s no excuse for us to be anything other than successful.”

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IN 1960, CAROLYN BROWN departed Chicago on the first of eight of her life to Egypt to study Islamic art and architecture at the American University in Cairo. Her experience over the next three years began a career in photography that would take her across the Middle East, Mexico and the southeastern United States. After 50 years documenting the beauty of important cultural spaces around the world, Brown has committed to leave her active life’s work to the Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History at The University of Texas at Dallas.

Her archive includes thousands of print and digital images from 14 countries, including 24 Mexican states and locations across Texas and the city of Dallas.

"Collections like Carolyn’s mean the world to a place like UT Dallas," said Dr. Michael Thomas, director of the O’Donnell Institute and Richard B. Brettell Distinguished University Chair. "Having meaningful art on campus opens up visual storytelling that engages audiences and brings them to our University. It brings individuals together to tell stories about people, cultures and history that you otherwise don’t have."

Born in the grasslands of Colorado, Brown fell in love with art at a young age, originally working in ceramics and sculptures before teaching art at the junior high and high school levels. During her time in Egypt, she found herself inhabiting a space that enlarged all her senses. From bustling streets to endless desert landscapes studded with timeless monuments, Brown was captivated by her surroundings. She purchased her first camera to capture what she saw, launching an obsession that later evolved into a professional career.

"My work is fairly traditional," Brown said. "I like to document something as it is and show it in its most beautiful aspect.

However, traditional her composition, what Brown really captures in her photography are fleeting moments that can be relived in the future. Much of her work depicts locations that are difficult to access today or have been lost to the erosion of time and human conflict.

"Today it is practically impossible to travel to some of the places I’ve been, like Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon," Brown said. "But these photographs will always be there to look at and learn from. This material is a document that shows these places at their best."

Even for those subjects still existing and accessible today, Brown uses the act of photography as a way to transport oneself in time and memory.

"The beauty of photography is that by looking at it, one can immediately experience long-ago moments, never to be forgotten. The places and people in the photographs will always be remembered exactly as they were on the day the shutter was snapped," Brown said.

UT Dallas is the perfect home for such artwork.

"Documenting and preserving cultural heritage is a central idea for the O’Donnell Institute," Thomas said. "Carolyn’s photographs are truly some of the last great documents of these places. They are beautiful photographs of artwork and architecture that constitute our cultural heritage."

Brown’s relationship with UT Dallas began when she met the late Dr. Richard Brettell, founding director of the O’Donnell Institute. When Brettell approached her to consider leaving her work to UT Dallas, Brown agreed.

"Once I could work with Rick right here in Dallas, that was the best thing," Brown said. "I feel very fortunate to know that my work will go on to help educate people about these places I’ve been.

Options from Brown’s archive documenting the ancient city of Palmyra in Syria will be on display at the One Museum of Asian Art in October 2021.

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Options from Brown’s archive documenting the ancient city of Palmyra in Syria will be on display at the One Museum of Asian Art in October 2021.

"We’re hoping this gift will be the first of many gifts," McIntosh said. "We want to make a big, focused, partnered impact."

Since HumCap is a high-tech HR consulting and recruiting firm, its focus on STEM education was a natural decision.

"Fortunately, we are seeing a growing deficit in STEM graduates in the Metroplex, so we think efforts to increase STEM talent in the area are crucial to keep Dallas a high-tech hub," McIntosh said.

McIntosh hopes the gifted recipients will be able to focus more on their goals for the future instead of having to work long hours to pay for college and the costs that come with it.

"We want to help these students get an education, then go out and do something good," McIntosh said. "It will change generations."

McIntosh has remained invested in the success of UT Dallas and its students by serving on the Dean’s Executive Council for the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science. Charter Co-Chair (2006), vice president of recruiting solutions for HumCap, is also an active member of the Military and Veteran Center’s Community Advisory Board, and the Honors/Institutional School of Management’s, Advisory Council. The company’s vested interest in higher education is evident in the talent it helps produce, according to Courtney Brecheen, senior associate dean of undergraduate education at UT Dallas.

"HumCap’s endowment is an investment in first-generation student success that our students will return with right, because it reinforces their value within our community," Brecheen said. "The scholarship will reward a hardworking scholar and provide valuable financial support."

Generating new resources and avenues of support for first-generation students is a core University objective. In 2016, UT Dallas was named a first forward institution by the NASA-Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education and The Suder Foundations. This designation recognized UT Dallas for prioritizing engagement and improved experiences for first-generation students.

"This award serves as a public illustration of our mutual commitment to social mobility and the cultivation of human capital assets from within our first-generation student population," Brecheen said.
Endowed Scholarship Helps Grow Jindal Scholars Program

ALUMNI COUPLE CREATES A SCHOLARSHIP TO SUPPORT OUTSTANDING DALLAS ISD STUDENTS EMPOWERING AT THE JINDAL SCHOOL

LONGLANI DAWSON JINDAL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Supporters: Nancy Gundy Dawson, B810, and Charles "Chuck" Dawson, B810 have made a $500,000 gift to endow the Chellene and Nancy Dawson Scholarship for the Jindal Young Scholars Program.

Now in its third year, the Jindal Young Scholars Program (JSP) is a critical pillar of UT Dallas’ community outreach initiatives. In partnership with five Dallas ISD high schools, the program provides a variety of resources that help broaden opportunities for local students after high school.

"We’re trying to make students aware of what it takes to transition from high school to their post-secondary lives," said Billy Scheiner, director of JSP. "Whether that’s a traditional four-year college, two-year college, vocational schools or whatever that looks like for them. Anything we can offer that increases what is available to students after high school is a win for us."

To accomplish this goal, JSP embraces a multipronged approach to engaging students, including guest speaker series, mentorship opportunities with current UT Dallas students, ACT/SAT prep encouragement and campus visits to UT Dallas that provide a glimpse of college life to students who may never have been on a college campus before.

JSP also offers significant scholarships to outstanding program participants who are admitted to the Jindal School, covering any unmet need after federal, state and institutional financial assistance is granted. These prestigious awards provide an incentive for DSD students to engage with the program’s offerings and apply academically.

Endowments like the Dawsons’ scholarship support these talented students while providing the resources needed for JSP to grow. Besides motivating local youths to earn a spot at UT Dallas, these gifts grant financial flexibility that empowers JSP’s core programming.

Even though the majority of our programming is geared toward high school students, the overwhelming majority of our costs comes from funding these scholarships for UT Dallas students," Scheiner said. "When kids like the Dawsons come through, that’s exactly what we need to provide for more students. It helps us get down to business with our primary mission."

The Jindal School currently enrolls 15, Jindal Young Scholars, and more than 200 students participate annually in JSP’s various initiatives. In coming years, the program hopes to expand to more local schools to reach more students.

"We want that 300 to turn into 500, and soon to 1,000," Scheiner said. "It's the same resources we can procure, the more impact we can have."

"I’m working hard to attain the career I have passion for. My family isn’t financially capable of putting me through college. The only way I had a chance to pursue higher education was through scholarships.”

- Joshua Jernigan, Jindal Young Scholar.
### Student Emergency Fund Aid

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Food</td>
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<td>Health Care</td>
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<td>Books, software, hardware, etc.</td>
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- **1,906** Students Supported
- **$1,055,089** Emergency Aid Disbursed
- **$554** Average Award Amount

"The Student Emergency Fund can help students get back to some type of normalcy. Donating to the fund is crucial, and we simply cannot provide this aid without our donors."

— Hope Cory, senior

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"UT Dallas students need you now! Support the Student Emergency Fund through IMPACT UTD."