

Legacies: A Vision of Hope



Hope stems from generosity

Without having received major support at key moments in history, Hope College would not exist.

The college's oldest structure, older than Hope itself, provides an enduring and dramatic example. Van Vleck Hall, built in 1857, happened because donors in the East responded to the Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte's personal pleas for funding. The thousands he obtained for the structure were built on an average amount per gift of \$9.36.

The tradition continued in the decades that followed. Professor (later President) Gerrit Kollen led the fund-raising effort that resulted in Graves Hall, dedicated in 1894. The building's donors included an aged Nathan Graves, who had also contributed to Van Vleck Hall.

Fund-raising is an on-going process at Hope. Each year, every year, the generous support of individuals and organizations makes it possible for the college not only to continue, but to excel.

Periodically, however, larger-scale efforts are needed. In the last four decades, such fund-raising campaigns have had a major impact on Hope. Most visible in the way that they have shaped the college's physical plant, they have been no less significant for their impact on the programs at Hope.

Looking Ahead with Hope, formally launched late in 1959 with a \$3 million goal under President Irwin J. Lubbers '17, raised funds for the construction of Van



The very campus itself has grown through donors' generosity during fund-raising campaigns. Only some of the resulting familiar landmarks are shown here, but all are enduring monuments to those who gave their resources to help future generations learn at Hope. And the buildings are only the most visible manifestation of such support. At center is Van Vleck Hall; clockwise from top left are Graves Hall, Van Zoeren and VanderWerf Halls, the DeWitt Center, Cook Hall, the Van Wylen Library and the Dow Center.

Zoeren Library, VanderWerf Hall, Nykerk Hall of Music and several residence halls. The campaign's other foci included additional endowment for faculty salaries.

Not a capital campaign in the same sense as its colleagues, the *Centennial Decade Master Plan*, introduced in conjunction with the college's 100th birthday in 1966, developed an outline for the campus's growth through 1976. The *Master Plan*, initiated under President Calvin A. VanderWerf '37, realized the

construction of the DeWitt Student and Cultural Center, and the start of funding for the Peale Science Center, the Wynand Wichers Addition to Nykerk Hall of Music and two residence halls.

Build Hope, which went public in October of 1972, was an \$8.5 million campaign that helped bring the college the Peale Science Center and the Dow Center, and enabled Hope to transform Lubbers Hall from a science building to a center for the humanities and social sciences. Also

among the goals was obtaining endowment for scholarships, faculty development and faculty salaries.

Dr. Gordon J. Van Wylen was inaugurated as college president shortly before the public announcement of the *Build Hope* campaign. That made the timing of the next campaign especially appropriate, since he closed his 15-year presidency with the conclusion of the *Campaign for Hope* in 1987.

Launched in January of 1985, the \$26 million campaign brought the college the Van Wylen Library, the Maas Conference Center and the Admissions House. The *Campaign for Hope* also provided additional funds for student financial aid, operation of the new library, and the purchase and maintenance of up-to-date instructional equipment.

The college's most recent campaign, *Hope in the Future*, was conducted during the presidency of Dr. John H. Jacobson. Launched in January of 1992 with a \$50 million goal, the campaign concluded on June 30, 1994, having raised \$58.1 million. The campaign had four emphases—enhancing the academic program, strengthening Christian life and witness, strengthening student financial aid and selectively improving facilities—and resulted in buildings such as the Haworth Inn and Conference Center, Cook Hall, the DeWitt Tennis Center and the Lugers Fieldhouse; the A.C. Van Raalte Institute and new laboratories in the Peale Science Center; additional resources for the Campus Ministries program; and three faculty chairs and 88 endowed scholarships. ↵

