



# Transforming the Future



They're gifts that transform lives.

Endowed scholarships are about as direct as it gets, making it possible for a specific individual to become a student at Hope and learn and grow into the future beyond.

The impact is incalculable. Every graduate goes on to shape the lives of others, who in turn touch still others, a continuum extending and expanding in perpetuity.

The statistics convey a sense of the scale at the beginning of the process. Some 60 percent of Hope students, more than 1,900 each year, receive financial assistance based on need. A total of 90 percent of the students at Hope, nearly 2,900, receive aid based on a combination of need and merit.

The brief, illustrated profiles on these pages provide just three examples of the difference that such support makes. The chain, though, starts before the first student receives any given scholarship. It begins with the donor who cared enough to establish it.

The scholarships endowed by alumni and friends of the college represent the intersection of the need being met and the interests and experiences of the donors. Some are designated for students pursuing specific careers, such as education, medicine or the ministry. Some are for students who are members of groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education, or who are from certain parts of the country or abroad, or who are members of the Reformed Church in America, the college's

parent denomination. Many are simply for any student with financial need.

As diverse as the range is, the endowed scholarships at Hope reflect one common value: a priority placed on helping others realize their dreams—inspired, quite often, by the difference that others or Hope made to them.

"Those who attend Hope College are offered a great education experience. Scholarship aid may make the difference from a financial standpoint as to whether a student can be part of that experience or not," said Dave Byrne '90, who with his wife Rhonda Boelkins '90 Byrne established a scholarship to encourage and increase diversity at Hope.

"Invariably, Hope graduates, whether as part of their careers or otherwise, will be put in a position of needing to work with or side-by-side with people of other races," Dave Byrne said. "Interaction creates understanding, and understanding reduces conflict, individually and globally."

Dave and Rhonda Byrne—who went on to graduate school at the University of Michigan and careers in law and social work respectively, and now live in Fremont, Mich.—remembered their own positive experience when making the decision to support future generations of students.

"We had such a great four years at Hope that prepared us for graduate school and our careers, and we wanted to help others to be a

Senior **Christopher Jackson** of Keego Harbor, Mich., is an accounting and business management major. He plans to seek a position in marketing or human resources after graduation, but longer-term hopes to become a self-employed entrepreneur. He feels that Hope has helped set him on his way.

"Hope has given me internship opportunities within different companies to establish relationships with people within the company and prove my worth—what I can bring to a particular company, based on the education provided at Hope," he said.

He's also appreciated the character of his experience. "Another important aspect is that the Hope community strives to establish relationships with those investing time in their education," he said. "Relationships have been everything for me and my experience at Hope."

Jackson has been supported through both the Max and Connie Boersma Scholarship Fund and the Vern and Isla Schipper Scholarship Fund. "This assistance was especially important to me, because otherwise the positives in life that are coming into fruition would not have been a possibility."

part of a great institution," Dave Byrne said. "Our positive Hope experience is based on so much more than academics, however. We both grew in our Christian faith, created memories and friends that have lasted 20 years, and thoroughly enjoyed our time at Hope."

Frank Kraai '60 of Holland, Mich., who is retired from a combined 45 years in teaching and administration, established a fund for deserving junior, senior or non-traditional elementary education students pursuing teaching in a public school system. His perspective is informed not only by his 30 years in the West Ottawa School System, but by the additional 15 years he spent at Hope as a student teacher supervisor, educator and mentor.

"It's about the kids," he said. "To work with some of them—in my role, I got to know them very well, very personally."

"To meet these young people, it seems to be a bigger thrill the older I get," Kraai said. "They're creative and bright, and they're going to create a better world than we left them."

Hope has added 66 endowed scholarships within recent years, bringing the total number of scholarships at the college, some endowed and some not, to more than 600. It's a quantity the college is hoping to increase, in keeping with the college's overall goal of helping students and building the endowment.

Tuition covers approximately 75 percent of the cost of a Hope education, with the rest

provided by endowment and annual support.

When it comes to endowment, Hope ranks second from the bottom among the 14 peer liberal arts colleges with which the college is comparable (and not infrequently competes for students). The highest endowment in the group in 2009 was \$537 million, with Hope's endowment at \$125 million. About 45 percent of the annual income from the endowment provides student financial aid, with the rest supporting the academic program and general college operations.

A strengthened endowment, bolstered in particular by additional endowed scholarships, will help reduce the college's dependence on tuition while at the same time enhancing Hope's affordability and helping make Hope more competitive in attracting students.

The institution, after all, has much to recommend it. Hope regularly ranks among the top liberal arts colleges on multiple measures, from the evaluation of independently published college guides, to the number of federal research grants received in the sciences, to its accreditation in all four arts programs, to its graduate school placement rates, to the quality of its teacher-education program. And the list goes on.

Such results reflect the college's commitment to wise stewardship—to make the most of the resources entrusted to its care—and to the excellence and dedication of the faculty

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— Dave Byrne '90, co-founder of scholarship with wife Rhonda Boelkins '90 Byrne

and staff. Hope professors are outstanding scholars and teachers who are at Hope because they believe in its mission, and care about their students and do their utmost for them.

Those are the values from which all Hope students benefit. And with more endowed scholarships, more students will be able to do so, and be changed themselves—and become agents of change—through the college's combination of academic rigor, a vibrant Christian dimension and high-quality co-curricular programs. 🙌



Senior **Carmen Hirsch** of Highmore, S.D., is an exercise-science major who plans to go on to physical therapy school and a career as a physical therapist. She appreciates the opportunity that she's found at Hope.

"The small class sizes allow you to get to know your professors as well as your peers on a personal level, and they get to know you, too," she said. "Coming from a small school, where I was one of 25 graduates, Hope gives me a feeling of comfort, as it's like the small community where I came from, where everyone cares for each other. With regards to my major, the kinesiology department is very accommodating and we are lucky to have a well-educated staff that only wants their students to succeed."

Hirsch notes that the scholarship that she has received throughout her four years at Hope, through the Charlotte A. "Chuckie" Mulder Scholarship Fund, has made her time at the college possible. "I come from a farming and ranching family from rural South Dakota, and without the assistance of scholarships, I would not have been able to attend Hope," she said.



Junior **Christopher Mattson** of Muskegon, Mich., is majoring in biology and plans to become a physician. He has valued his academic training—but he's learned through his time beyond the classroom as well.

"Hope College has had a tremendous impact on the person that I am today. Here, I have experienced a rigorous academic load which has challenged me to aggressively engage my classes. I have also been fortunate enough to be a member of the baseball team here at Hope; the honor of competing as a student-athlete at this institution is wonderful," he said. "The relationships that I have developed here at Hope College have made me a better person."

He's been supported by the Calvin '37 and Rachel VanderWerf Scholarship Fund. "Without the scholarship assistance I received to attend Hope, I simply would be unable to attend this amazing institution," he said. "When I applied to Hope as a high school senior, I knew that my attendance here would, at least in part, be dependent on the financial aid offered to me. My sponsors have truly given me a life-changing opportunity, one which I will do my best to validate through my actions as a student, and eventually as a physician."

