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Noteworthy:
Music major Jason Flowers, '18, plays a Mason & Hamlin grand piano donated to the University by Chicago surgeon Mark Ferguson and his wife, Phyllis Young. The piano belonged to Mark's grandfather, former U of M music professor Donald N. Ferguson, a classical composer and pianist for whom the School of Music's Ferguson Hall was named. Flowers says he's proud to hold a scholarship created by the Ferguson family in honor of the accomplished pianist.

taking flight

2015 Giving Results

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How the University's record-breaking year stacks up

University-wide fundraising results

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Types of 2015 gifts

Total: $351 million

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2015 Report on Giving to the University of Minnesota

Taking Flight
U of M giving soars to new heights

Thanks to you, the University of Minnesota has some really big numbers to report this year. More than 78,000 supporters collectively donated a record-breaking $351 million to U of M causes closest to their hearts. From raptor rehab to cancer therapy, those dollars are helping life-changing programs take off. U leaders, faculty, and students are thinking big, too: Our new strategic plan calls for the university to play a preeminent role in solving society’s grand challenges. Read on to discover how philanthropy helps us make the world a better place by setting the bar higher than ever.

Eric Kaler, ’82 Ph.D., President

Citizens of the world

Teresa Ofte, ’63 B.A. and Jerri Fischer and his wife, Cottie, created a study-abroad scholarship so students like Stephanie Zadora, a B.A. major who became globally minded citizen. Zadora is an organizer for the Native American Community Development Institute in Minneapolis, a member of the Seneca Nation. As a recipient of the Fischer’s scholarship in 2001, she lasted indigenous Maori communities in New Zealand. “Seeing the work they are doing and the strategies they’re using to revitalize their culture and bring it back wasn’t really easy,” says College of Liberal Arts alumna. Since Jerry Fischer’s passing in April, family and friends have contributed generously to the scholarship fund in his memory.

Hip, hip, hooray!

Those checking the more than 78,000 supporters who raised $351 million for the Children’s Health Campaign—surpassing its $175 million goal. Those dollars made possible a new, state-of-the-art children’s hospital building, outfitted 37 Adopt A Rooms, set up 49 funds for special programs, and raised $5 million for research and education. The campaign’s exciting final year included a $25 million gift from Minnesota Masonic Charities, the University’s single largest donor—and the resulting of University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital in honor of the Masons’ more than $105 million in total giving to the U. It also included the February opening of the hospital’s VFL Family Center, thanks to a $5 million gift from the VFL Family Foundation.

$351 million given to the U of M by 78,190 donors

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$351 million given to the U of M by 78,190 donors
Engineering new cancer treatments

What’s the key to stopping cancer in its tracks? Could it be heat? Or cold? Distinguished McKnight University Professor John Bischof, who holds the Carl and Janet Kuhrmeyer Chair in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is internationally recognized for his research on how heat and cold can be applied to either preserve or destroy cells. Now he’s investigating whether rare noble or gold nanoparticles can help in this fight. Says Bischof, “Thanks to the Kuhrmeyers’ generous support, I have been able to find collaborators and attract new talented students in my laboratory to help develop new ideas.”

Committed to Crookston

Les Nielsen’s strong loyalty to the University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) started when he was a teenager at the Northwest School of Agriculture (a residential high school on the Crookston campus from 1936 to 1940), continued as he earned a U degree, and led to a recent $1 million gift to name the lobby of UMC’s new wellness center. The gift—analog with previous scholarships he and his wife, June, have established—honors the memory of their son, Mark, who died in a motorcycle accident in 1988. “The center will help attract students to the Crookston campus,” says Les Nielsen. “Our hope is to further UMC’s success.”

Morris’ outdoor lab

A recent real estate gift from Dave and Renee Ferguson will become a new outdoor research area for the University of Minnesota Morris. Surrounded with prairie and prairie grasses, forest and farmland, the 346 acres provide space for exploration and discovery in subjects ranging from ecology to creative writing. “You can learn it all from books,” says Renee Ferguson. “Students need to get out there and experience it for themselves; it will change their relationship with nature.”

63 donors made gifts of $1 million or more

$32 million

given for research
and outreach that
make the world a
better place
Champions for athletes

Funding the $425 million TCF Bank Sports Performance Center. Athletics designs to transform Golden Gophers Athletics and develop champions in competition, academics, and life is gaining momentum. By summer end, contributions to the 2016-17 Raising the Bar campaign reached $151 million. A $25 million commitment to the U from Land O’Lakes Inc. and the Land O’Lakes Foundation included more than $50 million to support the Student-Athlete Excellence Center, leadership development, and sponsorships. These precious dollars also support scholarships and opportunities across the U. Thanks to you, the University of Minnesota has some really big numbers to report this year: More than 78,000 supporters collectively donated a record-breaking $351 million to U of M institutions. The Gold $25 million gift from Minnesota Masonic Charities, the University’s single largest donor—and the renaming of University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital in honor of the Masons’ more than 112 years of service. The February opening of the University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital’s Wilf Family Center, thanks to a $5 million gift from the Wilf Family Foundation included more than $50 million to support the Student-Athlete Excellence Center, leadership development, and sponsorships. These precious dollars also support scholarships and opportunities across the U.

Hands-on science

For Betsy Madole, ’15, Ritz crackers are an essential scientific tool. As a University of Minnesota St. Olaf biology major, she learned that indicators seemed not to affect their sense of smell. Her curiosity piqued, she studied other aspects of hibernation during Biology, Undergraduate Research in Science and Technology (BURST), a new 10-week summer program funded by multiple donors. The program allows eight students to spend 40 hours a week doing intensive research with faculty mentors. Without BURST, I wouldn’t be as confident as what I’m doing with my life,” says Madole, who is applying to graduate programs in veterinary medicine.

Good work

What does it take to create a positive workplace? Carlson School of Management Professor Theresa Glomb aims to find out by studying ways to “make work great, or at least a little better.” In May, her research got a boost when she was named the Toro Company—David H. Lilly Chair, the school’s first. A $1 million donation by the Toro Company endowed the chair in honor of longtime Toro CEO David Lilly, who also served as dean of the Carlson School and as the U’s vice president for finance and operations. Glomb, who previously held the Mehlhorn Professorship in Organizational Behavior, says such support is crucial to her research.

$61 million given for student support

give.umn.edu
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Total: 78,190 donors
This includes all donors to the U, with gifts ranging from $1 to $25 million.
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- Other individuals: 29,736 38%
- Organizations: 4,198 5%

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University of Minnesota Foundation
200 Oak Street SE, Suite 140
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-624-3333    give.umn.edu

Affiliated Foundations
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation
3675 Arboretum Drive
Chaska, MN 55318
952-443-1400   arboretum.umn.edu

Minnesota 4-H Foundation
9 Coffey Hall
1420 Eckles Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
612-624-7971    mn4h.org/foundation

University of Minnesota Endowment
Consolidated Endowment Fund
Office of Investments & Banking
2221 University Avenue SE, Suite 145
Minneapolis, MN 55414
612-624-5558

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