Parents and Stanford University

From move-in day to graduation, parents play an integral role in supporting and enhancing their children’s experiences. Annual giving to Stanford is another way parents make a difference.

When parents give to The Stanford Fund, they enrich the Stanford experience of all students, including their own. Every student benefits from the generosity of donors.

In 2013–14, more than 5,000 parents chose to support Stanford through The Stanford Fund. These contributions enable the president to respond to the university’s highest priorities, helping students achieve their potential and maintaining the university’s excellence.
Frequently Asked Questions

**DOES STANFORD REALLY NEED MORE MONEY?**
As at most colleges and universities, tuition covers only about two-thirds of the real costs associated with a Stanford undergraduate education. That means that even those who pay "full price" are not actually paying the full cost of four years at Stanford. The need for scholarship support has never been greater. Approximately half of all Stanford families depend on need-based scholarships that come directly from the university.

**COULD THE UNIVERSITY SPEND MORE OF ITS ENDOWMENT?**
In 2013-14, endowment “payout” generated only about 23 percent of the university’s operating expenses. The amount of that payout (about 5.5 percent of the endowment’s value each year) must allow the endowment to retain its value over time. If the payout were increased too much, the endowment would provide less in the future. The endowment is therefore managed for the very long term, so that it can provide a permanent source of support for the university.

It is also important to note that more than half of endowed funds are restricted for specific purposes determined by donors. This limits the university’s ability to increase spending for other purposes.

By contrast, annual and expendable gifts can be put to use as they come in. This means that even small gifts, which generally have few restrictions, are enormously valuable to Stanford.

Kelly and George Davis
Co-Chairs, Parents’ Advisory Board
Parents of Lucy, ’15

“We are so grateful to know that our daughter is becoming part of a community she’ll have for the rest of her life. Parent contributions to The Stanford Fund enhance every student’s experience. We thank you for your gifts and for your commitment to supporting undergraduate education at Stanford.”
HOW DOES THE STANFORD FUND BENEFIT STUDENTS?
Because Stanford Fund gifts are both expendable and unrestricted, they are put to work almost immediately each year and can be used where they are needed most within the undergraduate program.

In Stanford’s overall budget, very few sources provide the flexibility of The Stanford Fund. When critical needs arise, gifts raised for The Stanford Fund play a major role in meeting them.

HOW ARE STANFORD FUND DOLLARS ALLOCATED?
Each year, the president allocates Stanford Fund dollars to top priorities in undergraduate education.

Academic innovation: The Stanford Fund provides seed funding for a range of new initiatives. In 2013–14, gifts to The Stanford Fund helped launch two residential humanities programs. In both Immersion in the Arts: Living in Culture (ITALIC) and Science in the Making Integrated Learning Environment (SIMILE), students participate in dorm-based and off-campus activities while earning credit toward undergraduate requirements. Stanford Fund dollars also supported the Leland Scholars Program (an intensive, pre-orientation workshop for incoming students planning to study math or the sciences), academic advisors based in residence halls, and the development of online tools to strengthen the classroom experience. Stanford in New York, a pilot undergraduate program combining internships, classes, and cultural activities—modeled after the popular Bing Stanford in Washington program—will launch in fall 2015 with critical support from The Stanford Fund.

Student life: More than 140 student groups, club sports, and public service organizations received funding from The Stanford Fund last year. A vital part of Stanford’s community, these student-run organizations foster leadership, team building, and other skills that prove useful long after graduation.

Financial aid: Stanford’s long-standing practice of need-blind admission is backed by a promise to meet the full demonstrated need of all U.S. undergraduates throughout their four years on campus. Only a handful of colleges and universities uphold such a pledge.

The Stanford Fund plays a key role in filling the gap between endowed scholarship funding and total student need.

DO ANNUAL GIFTS REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
In 2013–14, more than 5,000 parents chose to contribute to The Stanford Fund—amounting to more than $5 million. It would take about $90 million in endowment to generate the same level of funding in a single year. Gifts of any size collectively make a difference!

HOW DO PARENTS GET INVOLVED?
Stanford parents are extremely generous with their time. Some choose to get involved locally in their areas through the Stanford Alumni Association. Others help by hosting or assisting with Stanford gatherings in their homes or places of business, or by contributing financially. Your participation is welcome and encouraged.

Parents who contribute $1,500 or more annually (per family) to The Stanford Fund become Parent Partners while their child is an undergraduate. Parent Partners are invited to special events and recognized in Stanford publications, plus they receive special communications throughout the year.

Within Parent Partners, the Parent Partners Committee for The Stanford Fund raises gifts by spreading the word about giving at the Parent Partners level. Committee volunteers are invited to a special reception during Parents’ Weekend and receive recognition in Stanford publications.

The Parents’ Advisory Board leads the way in volunteerism. In addition to assisting with outreach events, the board provides feedback to the university’s administration and assists with fundraising. This group of 55 families from around the world meets on campus three times per year.

Josh Mendoza, ’15
Engineering

“When they were young, both of my parents worked on farms to support their families and neither had the opportunity to attend high school. I feel incredibly fortunate to be able to focus on my studies and explore my passions—and even travel to China for an engineering internship.”

Josh is a member of the Society of Latino Engineers. He also helps manage Casa Zapata, Stanford’s Chicano/Latino-themed undergraduate residence hall for 80 students of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Santana Shorty, ’15
Human Biology

“Undergraduate life has so many layers, it should come with its own syllabus! Stanford has taught me how to grow. It has provided me with a diverse community of people to learn from and tangible tools to use.”

Santana is a theme associate in Branner Hall, a residence focused on public service. She also works as an intern at the Asian Liver Center of Stanford University and helps lead the student group Challah for Hunger.
Leadership Giving to The Stanford Fund

The Stanford Fund’s most generous donors are recognized for their annual support at the following giving levels:

**President’s Fund**
$10,000 or more ($25,000 or more establishes a Stanford Fund Scholarship)

**Parent Partners**
$1,500 or more from parents of current undergraduate students

**Leadership Circle**
$1,000 to $9,999

To explore other ways to leave a legacy of your own, please contact Jane Harrison or Kimmy O’Connor Davis.

How to Make a Gift to The Stanford Fund

Gifts to The Stanford Fund may be made online, by phone, or by mail. Donors can make gifts by check (payable to The Stanford Fund), credit card, or securities transfer.

**Online:** giving.stanford.edu
**Phone:** 800.227.8977, ext. 56881

**Mail:**
Stanford University
Development Services
P.O. Box 20466
Stanford, CA 94309-0466

**Securities:**
Stanford Management Company
650.721.1917
stockgifts@smc.stanford.edu

For information on bequests and life income gifts, please contact:

**Planned Giving:** 650.725.4358
planned.giving@stanford.edu

For more information, please contact:

**Jane Harrison**
Director
Stanford Parents’ Program
650.725.6881
800.227.8977, ext. 56881
j.girvin.harrison@stanford.edu

**Kimmy O’Connor Davis**
Associate Director
Stanford Parents’ Program
650.723.0248
800.227.8977, ext. 30248
kkococonnor@stanford.edu

Office of Development
The Frances C. Arrillaga Alumni Center
326 Galvez Street
Stanford, CA 94305-6105
parentsprogram.stanford.edu