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The Hill Society

Annual Impact Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



Dear Hill Society Member,

Thank you for your commitment to Syracuse University students.

This year, you and more than 2,800 fellow Hill Society members raised more than \$53 million in flexible support that reached students exactly when they needed it most. Your annual giving filled critical gaps, funded urgent opportunities, and gave Syracuse the ability to respond immediately to student needs.

In these pages, you'll see examples of where your philanthropy went and how it helped. You'll meet students like Aaron, Luis and Caiyan, whose paths changed because you gave. You'll discover how annual gifts work alongside endowments to create a complete support system that helps students thrive.

Your partnership makes this impact possible, and our whole Orange community is stronger because of you.

With gratitude,

Erin Weinstein '00 and Frank McFarland '94
Co-Chairs, The Hill Society



The Hill Society: Your Investment in Student Success

Your leadership-level gift does provide the flexibility Syracuse needs to support students when it matters most.

When a student faces an unexpected crisis in October, your gift provides emergency aid that day—not next fiscal year. When a research opportunity emerges in February, your support funds it then—not after the next budget cycle. When a dean sees a student on the verge of dropping out, your flexible dollars become the solution that keeps them enrolled.

This is the mission of The Hill Society: providing Syracuse with the resources to say “yes” to students right now. Your consistent annual support bridges the gap between tuition revenue and the true cost of excellence—funding scholarships, emergency aid, research and career opportunities that transform student lives immediately.

For our Orange community, “The Hill” has always represented ambition and possibility. Your annual gift ensures every student who pursues their academics here has the support needed to reach their full potential.



Your Gift's Strategic Impact

Members of The Hill Society represent our most loyal donors, supporting our greatest needs. Your annual gift of \$2,500 or more typically supports five students throughout the year—with an average of \$500 per student going directly to their educational experience.

What does \$500 accomplish?

- **Keeps a student enrolled** when an emergency grant covers the unexpected expense that would have forced them to leave
- **Launches a career** when travel funding gets a student to the interview or conference presentation that changes everything
- **Removes barriers** when it covers textbooks for a semester, so students don't choose between course materials and rent
- **Enables discovery** when research supply funding turns a student's idea into published work

This giving level creates sustainable impact. While every gift matters, \$2,500 allows deans to plan strategically across an academic year—funding multiple opportunities rather than addressing single emergencies. It's the threshold where individual generosity becomes institutional momentum.

Your gift doesn't just help one student once; it creates a pattern of support that touches students across programs, semesters and circumstances.





Your More Than \$53 Million at Work

This year, more than 2,800 Hill Society members, like you, raised \$53.58 million in flexible, unrestricted support—and here's what you made possible:

Scholarships and Emergency Aid

You funded millions in scholarship support that opened doors for students who needed funding to close the gap between their financial aid packages and what they could afford so they could enroll. Your emergency aid kept students in class when unexpected costs—like medical bills, car repairs or family situations—jeopardized their education.

Research and Career Opportunities

You provided research stipends so students could spend summers in labs instead of working jobs to cover expenses. You funded internship support that allowed students without family resources to accept unpaid positions that launched careers.

Academic Excellence

You gave deans and department chairs the flexibility to recruit faculty in high-demand fields, upgrade classroom technology and respond immediately to emerging opportunities—without waiting for budget cycles or restricted endowment distributions.

Your gift's power lies in its flexibility. University leaders deployed your support where it made the biggest difference, exactly when students needed it most.

Your Gift, Their Future: In Our Students' Words

Your annual support reaches students at moments that determine whether they stay enrolled, seize opportunities or achieve their dreams.

Aaron '27, College of Arts and Sciences

“Giving is important because it creates programs that will produce the next generation of leaders, scholars and innovators. Giving is how we secure the future of Syracuse University.”

Aaron's words carry weight because he's lived this reality. Donor generosity funded his participation in a flagship seminar that helped him discover an industry he loves—one that aligns with his abilities and interests. He's planning to start a business from the inspiration and knowledge he gained through the program.

But your impact went further. Travel funding allowed Aaron to present his original research on Russian literature at the nationally recognized Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies Northwest Conference at the University of Washington. At the conference, he received feedback on his work and made connections with accomplished professionals in Eastern European studies and international relations, including the Honorable Mark Gitenstein, Former United States Ambassador to the European Union.

Without donor support, Aaron would never have discovered his passion, presented his research or made the connections that are shaping his future. Giving didn't just help him—it launched his entire trajectory.



Luis '26, School of Information Studies

“Many of the opportunities I’ve had were made possible through the generosity of others, and giving back ensures that future students have the same or even better experiences. It’s a powerful way to make a lasting impact.”

Luis came to Syracuse and found more than an education—he found a community. Donor generosity created opportunities for him and for the organizations in which he participates. The iSchool has prepared him for his career by combining technical skills with real-world applications, teaching him multiple coding languages while building his understanding of the management and business side of technology.

Today, Luis serves as a resident advisor, works as a student manager at the JMA Wireless Dome during games, supervises the eSports room, and sits on the executive board of his fraternity. His friends joke that he knows just about everyone on campus—a testament to how donor-funded programs helped him build the connections and leadership skills that will define his future career.

Your investment helped Luis succeed at Syracuse—and equipped him to lead wherever he goes next.



Caiyan '26, Student Experience

“Being Orange is a whole lot more than wearing the color. This campus is a family that fosters growth, challenges us to push out of our comfort zones and supports us in making a difference both on and off campus.”

Caiyan came to Syracuse as a communication sciences and disorders major with a passion for music, and donor generosity made her education possible. She was selected as a Remembrance Scholar, a program in its 36th year that honors the 35 students killed in the December 21, 1988, bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

But your support went beyond tuition. As a member of the Hendricks Chapel Choir, Caiyan traveled to London and Scotland for the Spring 2023 Remembrance Tour. In Lockerbie, she performed for the community and met with residents of the town—an experience that became her most meaningful moment at Syracuse. The donors who funded this program didn't just give her an education; they allowed her to carry forward the legacies of students lost in 1988.

Without scholarship support, Caiyan wouldn't be at Syracuse. Without your continued annual giving, she wouldn't have had the transformational experiences that shaped who she's becoming.



These aren't isolated stories. Across campus, your commitment to The Hill Society supports the emergency grants, research opportunities and career experiences that turn potential into achievement. Every dollar you give has an immediate impact on students, creating the margin of excellence between what's possible and what's transformational.

[Learn more about Aaron, Luis, Caiyan and other students whose lives you've changed](#)

How Endowments and Annual Gifts Work Together

Spotlight on the Bockskopf Family



When Joe Bockskopf '84 asked his father how to repay the gift of his education, his father replied: "You don't. You repay what we've given you by doing the same for your kids."

While they didn't have children of their own, the Bockskopfs still took that philosophy to heart. They established the **Joseph T. Bockskopf '84 and Linda D. Bockskopf Endowed Scholarship** through The Syracuse Promise fundraising initiative, providing permanent support for students in the SUSTAIN program at the College of Arts and Sciences.

But here's what many donors don't realize: while the Bockskopfs' endowment guarantees the scholarship arrives, Hill Society gifts ensure that student thrives once they're here.

Think about it this way—the endowment pays tuition. Your annual support funds everything that makes the education work:

- The tutoring center where students get academic help
- The career fair where they land internships
- The mental health services that support them through stress
- The lab equipment and technology they use every day



Endowments plant the tree. Your annual Hill Society gift ensures it flourishes.

Endowed scholarships like the one created by the Bockskopfs provide substantial scholarship funding to attract and retain talented students. But the value of your leadership-level annual gift—multiplied across all Hill Society members—creates the thriving campus environment that enhances these scholarships.

Every Hill Society gift is a vote of confidence that allows the University to deliver on the promises that endowments make. By acting as a steady, reliable source of unrestricted support, Hill Society members complete the equation—allowing every student, including recipients of the Bockskopf Scholarship, to step onto a campus that is fully resourced and prepared to help them succeed.

[Learn more about the Bockskopf family's commitment](#)

Three Generations, One Mission: Supporting Public Service

The Barringer Pelton Public Service Graduate Scholarship, established by William Pelton and Mary Jane Massie, supports Maxwell School students pursuing public service careers. While this endowment guarantees scholarship funding for future policy leaders, your Hill Society gift ensures those students arrive at a Maxwell School that's currently top-ranked and fully resourced.



Your Hill Society gift provides the flexible funding necessary for the University to maintain high standards of faculty, academic resources, and campus services. Annual giving funds the policy simulation labs, conference travel, faculty recruitment, and field experiences that prepare scholarship recipients to lead from day one in public service.

[Read the full story of three generations making an impact](#)

Growing Our Community of Impact

This year we welcomed **Erin Weinstein '00** and **Frank McFarland '94** as co-chairs of The Hill Society, bringing fresh vision to deepen member engagement and impact visibility.

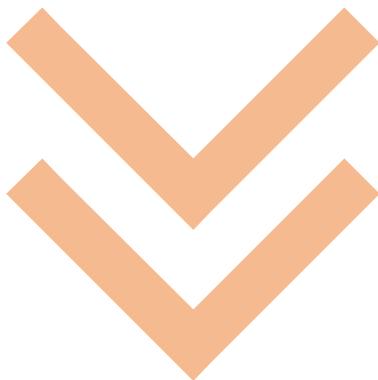
We've also grown our volunteer ambassador network, creating regional connections where Hill Society members can share their Syracuse stories and inspire others to join this community of distinguished annual supporters.



Your Recognition

Your Hill Society membership connects you to broader recognition programs. Many of you are also honored through The Legends Society (recognizing annual support for Syracuse Athletics), The Joseph I. Lubin Society (recognizing parents who make leadership annual gifts) and The 1870 Society (recognizing planned gift commitments). We're committed to ensuring you receive the recognition you deserve across all the ways you support Syracuse.

You will find more information about each of these programs on the following pages.



The Joseph I. Lubin Society

The Joseph I. Lubin Society was established to recognize those families who help to propel the University to new standards of excellence, inside and outside the classroom.

Membership in the Lubin Society begins at \$5,000 annually. Families who choose to join the Lubin Society enjoy a high level of interaction with and recognition by the University. Members have the opportunity to engage with the Chancellor and other University leaders, receive invitations to exclusive events on campus and in New York City (including the Lubin Society Weekend) and have the option of special reserved seating at Commencement.



The 1870 Society

The vibrant, boundless opportunities that Syracuse University students experience today were built by generations of support from dedicated and passionate members of the Orange community just like you. The 1870 Society is composed of forward-thinking alumni and friends who share the vision of a pre-eminent university on the hill and elect to include the University in their estate plans or by making any planned gift. Membership represents your personal legacy and pays tribute to those before us who did the same.



The Legends Society

The Legends Society is an exclusive group of Syracuse fans, family and alumni who join in a shared vision to provide current and future student-athletes with a championship-caliber experience at Syracuse through philanthropy.

Commitments to The Legends Society are used to provide a critical difference in our ability to recruit, retain and develop student-athletes to compete at a championship level across the ACC.

across
20
sports

benefits
550+
student-athletes



Thank You for Your Partnership!

You gave more than philanthropic support this year. You gave Aaron his research career. You gave Luis his leadership experience. You gave Caiyan her scholarship. You gave hundreds of students the means to stay enrolled and thriving.

Most importantly, you gave Syracuse the ability to act with purpose and immediacy when students needed us most.

That's the power of annual giving. That's the mission of The Hill Society. That's your impact.

Please display your Hill Society digital decal proudly. You've earned it.

**Explore
More**

You can view this impact report and The Hill Society honor roll at any time on The Hill Society impact page at SYRgo.to/THSimpact