

FALL 2020



*"Connection*

is why we're here; it is what

gives *purpose* and

*meaning* to our lives."

— Brené Brown

FROM THE DESK OF  
RICHARD HOHOL  
HARPER COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL  
FOUNDATION BOARD PRESIDENT



I am honored to serve in the role of Harper College Educational Foundation Board President this term and look forward to continuing the work of assisting our community and students in attaining their educational goals.

This year the Harper College Educational Foundation embarked on a new strategic plan, which includes a revised mission and vision statement. This new plan will provide direction for the Foundation during the next four years. With a high quality and effectual Board of Directors, working with an outstanding staff, the Foundation has never been in a stronger position to support Harper students in achieving their educational dreams.

Having served as a Foundation board member for more than 10 years and establishing an endowed scholarship, I have had many opportunities to meet our scholarship recipients. After every meeting and interaction, I leave with a sense of pride and amazement. Despite the numerous challenges with the onset

of COVID-19 and life obstacles, these students are determined to achieve their educational goals. I hear their stories, know where they have come from and what goals they've set for themselves. Many of our students are first-generation college students; many have families of their own and hold full-time jobs. Our students are here because they want a better life for themselves and their families. I strongly believe education is the answer to most of the world's problems.

I am privileged to be a small part of helping make those dreams become a reality and applaud all the hundreds of foundation donors who recognize the value of a donor scholarship and helping someone else fulfill their dream.

Thank you.

*Richard P. Hohol*  
Richard Hohol

**25:** Average age of Harper student

**13,477:** Number of students taking credit classes (fall 2019)

**80%** of students work while attending Harper College (about 30% work more than 30 hours a week)

**55%** of Harper students who self-identified as first generation

**\$4,005:** average annual cost of tuition for a full-time student

**1,600+:** students applying for a Foundation scholarship

**98%** of Foundation scholarships awarded

**\$2.3 million:**

Total awarded in 2019–2020 by the Foundation in scholarships, grants and awards

**1054:** number of students receiving a scholarship, grant or award

HARPER  
by the **NUMBERS**

# Foundation Strategic Plan 2020–2024

## Connecting with the community to ensure educational access for all students

In January 2020, the Educational Foundation embarked on a strategic planning process that led to adopting a formal plan by the Foundation Board of Directors in September 2020.

The strategic planning committee was comprised of a sub-committee of the Board of Directors members. These individuals spent eight months examining the Foundation's operational audit, peer comparisons and benchmark comparisons, reviewing the college's strategic plan and priorities, surveying past and current Foundation scholarship recipients, surveying current donors and surveying the entire Foundation Board. The information obtained from these sources helped lay down the formation of the new vision and mission statements and the three overarching themes. The themes provided the direction for the goals, followed by the annual objectives and performance indicators.

### VISION STATEMENT

The Harper College Educational Foundation strives to provide all Harper College students with opportunities to transform their lives and enrich the community through education without financial barriers.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Harper College Educational Foundation connects the college to the greater community, alumni, businesses and leaders by inspiring and aligning donor passion and generosity through philanthropic support for students and program enrichments.

### OVERARCHING THEME – FUNDRAISING TO MEET STUDENTS WHERE THEIR NEEDS ARE

**Goal 1:** Increase contributed income from individual donors to ensure the sustainability and growth of funds available to scholarships, college initiatives and programs to address student needs in achieving their academic goals.

### OVERARCHING THEME – BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

**Goal 2:** Leverage and strengthen collaboration, partnerships and responsiveness to businesses to advocate for real world opportunities for Harper College students through scholarships, fundraising event sponsorships, and volunteer and board engagement.

### OVERARCHING THEME – ALUMNI AND AFFINITY GROUPS

**Goal 3:** Identify and develop future alumni and affinity group leaders, establishing a diverse and inclusive volunteer and donor pipeline that will cultivate and support increased alumni and affinity group giving to the Foundation.

### Strategic Planning Committee

Nancy Castle	Bill Kesler
Young Chung	Patty Moyer
Mark Cleary	Avis Proctor
Warner Cruz	Laura Brown
Kathy Gilmer	Heather Zoldak
Richard Hohol	



# Thank You



*Due to the quarantine, I lost my job a couple of months ago... The Harper Student Emergency Relief Fund will help me tremendously by helping me pay for the remainder of my associate degree.*

Cesar, a recipient of the Emergency Relief Fund



Since March, the Harper College community has pulled together to help Harper students who faced financial hardships and uncertain futures. With more than \$303,000 raised for the **Harper Student Emergency Relief Fund** including donations from alumni, faculty, staff and community friends, students didn't have to put their educational goals on hold. **Cesar**, a recipient of the Emergency Relief Fund, shared,

"Due to the quarantine, I lost my job a couple of months ago. I did have savings that I've been using mainly for school payments, but everything else I've cut back on for the time being. I've had no assistance with paying for school. My entire time at Harper has been part-time so that I may work and pay for my education. I am only

three classes away from completing an associate degree in accounting. Without a job paying for it will be tough. I'm actively seeking new employment, but it's tough in these times.

The Harper Student Emergency Relief Fund will help me tremendously by helping me pay for the remainder of my associate degree. I don't want to pause school when I'm so close to finishing this part. And I know an associate degree will open a lot more doors in the future."

Thank you for your support of Harper students. We are Harper. And we are better together.

To learn more about helping Harper students and to make a financial donation, please email [foundation@harpercollege.edu](mailto:foundation@harpercollege.edu) or visit [harpercollege.edu/foundation](http://harpercollege.edu/foundation).

## Harper College Student Emergency RELIEF FUND



690

Students Served

\$303,000

Amount Raised

\$28,000

Amount Donated  
by Harper College Alumni

\$439

Average  
Award Amount

538

Donors

185

New Donors

47%

of Donors were Harper  
Faculty and Staff

as of 7.31.2020



FROM THE DESK OF  
DR. AVIS PROCTOR  
PRESIDENT OF HARPER COLLEGE



The coronavirus crisis has impacted everyone, including our Harper College community. These unprecedented times called for actions never seen before at Harper.

As difficult as this time has been, it's also been a time of togetherness and gratitude. I've seen our communities come together like never before. The stories of support and kindness are inspirational, and I am proud of the efforts everyone is making on behalf of our students through the establishment of the Student Emergency Relief Fund. In this issue of the Catalyst, you'll read about some of these moving stories.

Thank you to each of you for your continued interest in and unwavering support of the Harper College Educational Foundation. Your generosity empowers Harper College to continue its mission of providing a high-quality education

for our students who take what they have learned and make a difference in their communities.

I am confident that the day is coming when this pandemic will be part of our shared memory—something we went through together and came through together. Keep that future always at top of mind and please know we are working as diligently as possible to keep our community safe, united, and ready to continue the work at hand, together.

Please enjoy this publication that proudly demonstrates the many reasons why it's great and truly wonderful to be a Harper Hawk!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Avis Proctor".

Avis Proctor, Ph D.

## *You spoke,* we listened. Begin receiving communications electronically.

This past spring, the Foundation asked for feedback regarding the number of communications donors receive from the Foundation. The majority of responses indicated that the amount of communication was adequate, but donors would like to see options to receive more mail electronically.

Based on your feedback, the Foundation is now offering the option to receive electronic versions of the Catalyst newsletter and gift acknowledgment letters with tax receipt information.

While we still rely on postal mail to communicate with our donors, alumni and friends, the Foundation is increasing the number

of electronic publications. Select event invitations, the quarterly Alumni e-news and the monthly Foundation e-newsletter, are shared via email.

If you would like to change your mail preferences, or share or update your email to receive electronic communications from the Foundation, please visit [harpercollege.edu/foundation/contact](https://harpercollege.edu/foundation/contact) or use the QR code.



# HOPE Giving Circle

## Recipient Profiles



KEELY MCENERY

*"Receiving the HOPE scholarship means the world to me because it was the final push to go to ASU and pursue my dreams. I can't thank you enough for this amazing opportunity."*



Keely McEnery is working toward her Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees with a focus in business and maintains a 3.93 GPA. After taking an interest in business entrepreneurship in her high school Business Incubator class, which her team won, she determined that business entrepreneurship would be her education and career focus. She hopes to transfer to Arizona State University, and after graduation, create a business where she can help pave new trails into bringing environmental awareness into the business world.



AMANDA MIR CZUK

*"Without the HOPE scholarship, I would not have the voice, nor the platform, to inspire other young women on to their path to success. Thank you very much."*



Amanda Mirczuk is studying biochemistry and working toward her Associate in Science degree. After taking part in internships at Motorola Solutions and Cisco Systems in high school, Amanda learned that she gravitated to STEM and narrowed her focus to biochemistry. Amanda graduated from Palatine High School with numerous awards and honors and is currently enrolled in the Harper Honors program and maintains a 3.85 GPA. Amanda envisions a career in the healthcare, pharmaceutical, biomedical or biotechnology industry at a science-based corporation.



JESSICA SHI

*"By being awarded the HOPE Scholarship, not only is it a recognition of my academic success, but it also allows me to keep pursuing my education to become a nurse anesthetist. Thank you."*



In her final year in Harper College's Nursing Program, Jessica Shi is working toward her RN degree. At age 16, Jessica moved to the US from China. She feels like the transition to a new language and culture in her teens taught her the importance of acceptance, tolerance and perseverance. She currently maintains a perfect 4.0 and plans to become an ICU nurse after earning her BSN from a four-year institution. Jessica is an adult student who has previously worked in the fields of finance and import/export.

## HOPE at a glance



NICOLE WEBER

*“As a first-generation college student, the HOPE Scholarship gives me the support I needed to continue my journey. And for that, I cannot thank you enough.”*



Nicole Weber earned her GED at Harper College and is currently pursuing her Associate in Engineering Science with a probable focus on computer engineering. She is a first-generation college student with a strong passion for math, physics and programming. Nicole's enthusiasm for these subjects comes through in her studies, in which she maintains a 4.0 GPA. Nicole plans to transfer to Illinois Institute of Technology after graduating from Harper.

The HOPE Giving Circle brings together influential women in the community with a common goal of supporting women pursuing higher education at Harper College and empowering them to reach their full potential through scholarship support, mentoring and leadership development opportunities. The program provides financial support and on-going mentoring for female Harper College students who are completing their final year at Harper and continuing to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree. Each HOPE Scholarship award is valued at \$10,000. To view this year's scholarship recipients' videos and learn more about how you can join the HOPE Giving Circle visit [harpercollege.edu/hope](http://harpercollege.edu/hope) or scan the QR Code.



### HOPE Progress 2016 vs 2020

(HOPE Launch) (Cumulative)

17 members	32 members
28 donors	74 donors
\$20,000 raised	\$178,000 raised
1 scholarship	4 scholarships (14 total since inception)
\$10,000 awarded	\$140,000 awarded

### SPONSORS:



Linda J. Lang



# October Designated Distinguished Alumni Month

## Distinguished Alumni Honorees



**A.J. Collier**

Director of Operations,  
The Salvation Army  
Ray & Joan Kroc Corps  
Community Center - Chicago



**Joseph McEnery**

Lieutenant, Elk Grove  
Fire Department



**Ann Portmann, BSN, RN,  
CHPN, WCC**

JourneyCare Barrington Care  
Center Team Manager



**Dr. Craig Winkelman**

Assistant Superintendent,  
K-12 Schools and Operations,  
Barrington School District 220

## Outstanding Recent Alumni Honoree



**Scott Lietzow**

Military Talent Senior  
Consultant, Allstate Insurance

Harper College honored the 2020 class of Distinguished Alumni throughout October. Honorees included four recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award and one recipient of the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award.

Honoree videos premiered on social media throughout the month, and the stories of these exceptional alumni were shared widely with alumni, community members and students. The month-long celebration culminated with the Distinguished Alumni Awards Virtual Ceremony, which took place on October 22. Visit [harpercollege.edu/distinguishedalumni](https://harpercollege.edu/distinguishedalumni) or scan the QR code to watch the virtual ceremony and the honoree videos.



# ALUMNI UPDATES





## Alumni and Friends Harper's First "Virtual Happy Hour"

Alumni and friends gathered for a "virtual happy hour" in September and learned about all things barbecue and craft beer from local experts **Kristina and Greg Gaardbo**, owners of Chicago Culinary Kitchen in Palatine. Alumni and friends of Harper College were encouraged to log on and enjoy snacks and beverages while Kristina, a graduate of Harper's Nursing Program, and her husband Greg, took the opportunity to share a little bit about their story as entrepreneurs and business owners. Kristina and Greg collectively shared

barbecue tips, talked about the pairing of craft beer with various meats and answered questions submitted by alumni. The event concluded with a toast to all alumni.

To watch the recorded happy hour webinar and for more information on upcoming alumni events and programs, please visit [harpercollege.edu/alumni](https://harpercollege.edu/alumni).

“*This business is a piece of us. As an entrepreneur you have to put in the work and do it right to make it successful.*”

## • Committed to your privacy and cyber-security

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in the number of cyber-attacks on businesses, educational institutions and not-for-profit organizations. The Harper College Educational Foundation takes the protection and appropriate use of our donors' and alumni's information

seriously. We will never ask for your social security number or bank routing number via electronic communication or on our website, nor will we ever sell your contact information to a third-party.

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# Scholarship Reading Night

Annually, the Foundation hosts a Scholarship Reading Night in which donors, alumni, past scholarship recipients, retirees and friends review and score scholarship applications to decide the recipient of one of the 190 scholarships managed by the Harper College Educational Foundation. This year, participants reviewed the top 21 applications of the over 165 applications received for the Kimball Hill Homes Scholarship for Working Students. Scholarship Reading Participant **Olya Lebedyeva** remarked, "As always, it is difficult to choose the best one. All are great and well-deserving of the scholarship!"

If you would like to review Harper College Educational Foundation scholarship applications, please contact Lauren Chilvers at [Ichilver@harpercollege.edu](mailto:Ichilver@harpercollege.edu).

*“This scholarship not only financially helps me, but it emotionally helps me... It makes me feel like someone saw enough potential and trust in me to believe in me... I promise you will not regret this.”*

Alexa Duenas,  
2020-2021 Kimball Hill Homes  
Endowed Scholarship for Working Students Recipient

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## Tribute Gifts: The Gifts that Keep Giving

When Admissions Specialist, **Juanita Bassler**, announced her retirement, her Harper College colleagues brainstormed ways to honor her 29-year commitment to Harper students. In the end, they could not think of a better way to honor Juanita than by dedicating a scholarship in her name, and they were right. Juanita shared, "When my colleagues presented the gift of a scholarship in my name for Latinx students, I was overwhelmed with joy and appreciation. Given the economic difficulties during this time, I am glad that my scholarship can help provide some much-needed support."

**Mia Kwon** was a former adjunct nursing faculty member at Harper College. When she passed away this summer, her family directed her memorial donations to a Harper Nursing Scholarship. Her son, Ike, said, "Her years of teaching nursing at Harper was the most joyful

and fulfilling part of her 50-year nursing career, and I wanted any donations for my mom to be sent to future nurses at Harper College."

If there is someone special in your life who has a passion for higher education and supporting Harper students, making a tribute gift is a meaningful way to honor them or celebrate a special occasion, like a retirement, promotion, birthday or holiday.

Tribute gifts can be made to existing scholarships and program funds or can be used to create a new scholarship or fund depending on the amount of donations received. To make a tribute gift or to learn more, please contact Kristyn Meyer at **847.925.6468** or [kmeyer@harpercollege.edu](mailto:kmeyer@harpercollege.edu).



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# Supporting Future Harper Students through **Planned Gifts**

**T**he Harper College Educational Foundation is committed to ensuring that financial uncertainty is not a deterrent to our students. While many donors make gifts to support current students, a special group of donors have made gifts to support future students. Members of our Harper Heritage Society have included the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation in their estate plans, ensuring that future generations of Harper students receive the support they need to make their educational dreams a reality. These donors come from all walks of life — Harper retirees, current faculty and staff, alumni, volunteers and community members who have a passion for education.

Including the Harper College Educational Foundation in your estate plans can be easy to do — you can identify the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation as a beneficiary to your IRA or life insurance policy, or you can include us in your will or trust by indicating a specific amount or a percentage of the balance remaining in your estate or trust.

If you are thinking about including the Harper College Educational Foundation in your estate plans — or have already done so — please let us know. We want to express our gratitude for your gift and welcome you to the Harper Heritage Society. Your gift may also inspire others to give!

In addition, and most importantly, we can have a discussion about how you wish your donation to be used - depending on the size of the gift, your donation may create a scholarship or support a specific program based on your interests. It may even include recognition opportunities on campus. We can work with you regarding your gift intentions and answer questions you may have about making a planned gift to the Harper College Educational Foundation. Please contact Heather Zoldak, CFRE at [hzoldak@harpercollege.edu](mailto:hzoldak@harpercollege.edu) or **847.925.6319**.

“*As a Harper College faculty member for over 20 years my greatest joy was assisting students with their unique situations. The opportunity to provide nursing scholarships at this time is a way to assist nursing students again. Giving back to Harper is my way of thanking Harper for all it gave me.*”

Mary Gretchen Vancura,  
Harper Heritage Society Member



# REALIZING *DREAMS*

## Going virtual to **celebrate** our donors and scholarship recipients

In spring, the Foundation made the difficult decision to cancel the in-person Realizing Dreams event due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Despite the cancellation, the Foundation wanted to provide opportunities to share the impact donor scholarships had on our student's this past year.

Thus, the NEW Virtual Realizing Dreams was planned. A Realizing Dreams website hosts a message board for donors, scholarship recipients and Harper supporters to post messages of gratitude and congratulations. The site also offers access to past event photos and Realizing Dreams program books that share stories from donors and students about the impact of scholarships.

On Saturday, September 19, the Virtual Viewing Party debuted with remarks giving by Harper College President, Dr. Avis Proctor, endowed scholarship donor, Jim Moehling, scholarship recipient Maria Joaquina Noriega Gimenez and Mary Jo Willis, Emeritus Foundation Board member, served as emcee. Throughout the event, guests "chatted" with one another to offer greetings, gratitude and congratulations.

The Realizing Dreams video is available to view at [harpercollege.edu/realizingdreams](https://harpercollege.edu/realizingdreams).

“*My wife and I have a nursing scholarship and in today's COVID world, we are particularly pleased to support this critical and noble profession. I wish we were all together, but this is the next best thing.*”

Tom Wischhusen,  
Virtual Realizing Dreams attendee



# The Knox Family Scholarship Endowment

Eric and Brenda Knox created the **Knox Family Scholarship Endowment** in the summer of 2019. The scholarship supports working students pursuing degrees in the business, STEM or career and technical fields who are leaders and involved in their community. Here is their story.

“Harper is where we both started our college journeys, with both of us taking night classes and working to support our education. At that time, Harper was one of the only local choices, but the quality of the education that we received turned out to be second

to none. We've both gone on to get degrees from other universities. With confidence, we can say that the instruction we received at Harper was as good as what we've seen in bachelor's and master's level programs at other schools. We appreciate the

opportunity to make a difference in a student's life through our donations.

For us, the scholarship is really about opportunity. It can be challenging to get ahead and be successful in the world, but with a strong work

ethic and a little help, we believe that anybody can do it, and that's what America is all about. We're living proof of that ourselves, and this is our opportunity to help provide that help for others — so that hopefully they can do the same.”

In 2020, Eric and Brenda became members of the Harper Heritage Society, a recognition program for donors who have included the William Rainey Harper College Educational Foundation in their estate plans. They have made their scholarship one of the contingent beneficiaries of their IRAs.



“

*It means so much to me that there are generous people in the world willing to help others pay for school.*

Danny Corcoran,  
2019–2020 Knox Family Endowment Scholarship Recipient

”



# Promise Update



## Interview with Second-Year Promise Student Meha Patel

### What are your future plans?

My original plan of study was secondary English education, but recently I have decided to change my major. I am leaning towards human resources management. The goal is to transfer to UIC next fall to pursue my bachelor's degree.

### What have you liked best about Harper?

This is a hard question because with my time on campus and experience at Harper, I have loved everything. If I had to pinpoint one thing that I have liked the best, it would have to be how helpful staff members are even if you don't know them.

### What does the Promise Program mean to you?

Promise means opportunity, success and a better future for me and my family. Without Promise, I would not be as successful and determined to continue working hard to continue college and what I have earned thus far. It has also made college way more affordable, especially coming from a low-income family and in uncertain times like right now, where my parents aren't getting many

“

*I feel proud to be a part of such a great community at Harper and being able to share my experiences with Harper Promise to the people around me!*

”

hours at work and being laid off. It creates hope for a future of being educated and having a well-paying job.

### What are you looking forward to this fall semester?

I am looking forward to my new classes and the possible change of my major soon. I'm interested in how making new friends will be online and learning a new way of doing all classes online.



## THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS CHAMPIONS

The Harper College Educational Foundation is grateful for the sponsorship support of our 2020–2021 Business Champions.

To learn more, email Kristyn Meyer at [kmeyer@harpercollege.edu](mailto:kmeyer@harpercollege.edu).

\$10,000 +



Robbins Schwartz

\$7,500 +



LEGATARCHITECTS

\$5,000 +



\$2,500 +



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& TRUST COMPANY, N.A.  
A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK



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\$1,000 +

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First American Bank

Lavelle Law



Sponsors secured as of September 1, 2020.

# THANK YOU

## DONOR RECOGNITION (for donations received July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

We are grateful for the generosity of our donors whose investments to Harper College help students realize their dreams, support innovative educational programs and create a stronger community.

### \$10,000 +

AMITA  
The Aspen Institute  
Beatriz and Peter Bandemer  
Dianne Batzkall  
The Beaubien Family  
Canning Foundation  
Rita and John Canning  
The Chicago Community Foundation  
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### \$5,000+

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### \$2,500 +

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Jack and Dora Tippens  
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### \$1,000+

Bonnie Albrecht  
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Ron and Carol Ally

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 Thomas and Karen Wischhusen  
 Douglas and Anna Marie Yates  
 Janice Yohanan  
 Michael and Judith Zawacke  
 Ronald Zilkowski  
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#### \$500+

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 Anonymous  
 Joe Aquilina  
 Arthur J. Gallagher Foundation  
 Felice Avila  
 Lisa Ayers  
 Juanita P. Bassler  
 Robert and Mary Beaubien  
 Don and Gail Benson

## BECAUSE YOU GAVE...

I was able to discover who I am as a person and not just a mom, sister or daughter. I am now able to look beyond the horizons and see my dreams of **becoming the best version of myself** that I could possibly be. Thank you a million times over.

Stephanie W., student

Alice Boland  
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 Susanne Brock  
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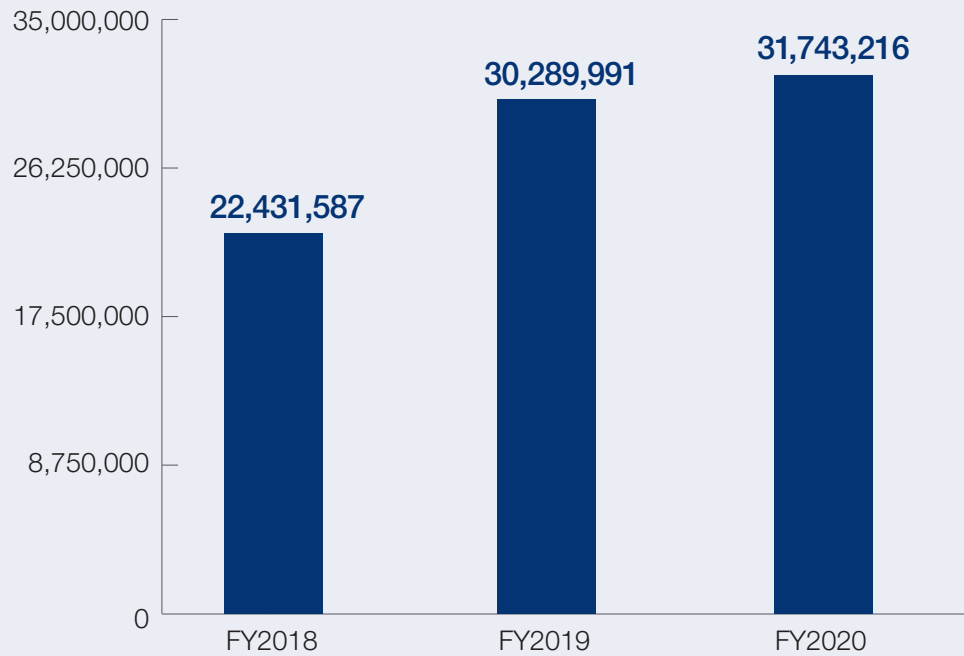
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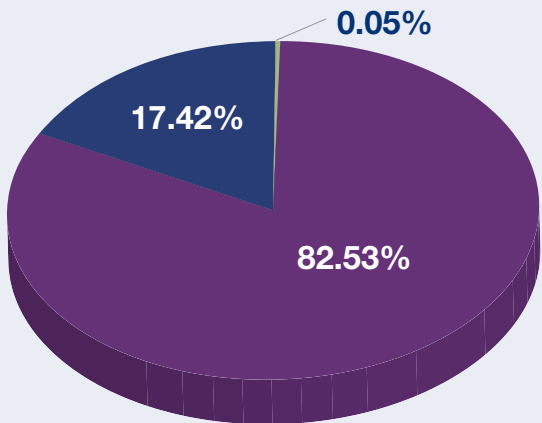
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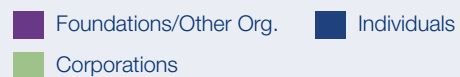
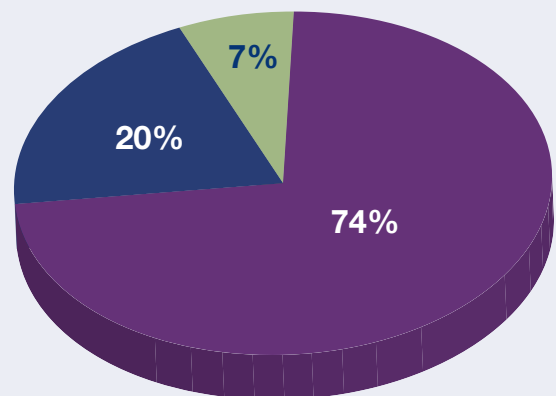
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