Alumni Annual Fund Volunteer Impact

Volunteers play an essential role in the success of Carleton’s Alumni Annual Fund, emphasizing personal, responsive, engaging connections with classmates. Each class has a system of Class Agents and Assistant Class Agents who solicit gifts for the AAF, and who thank classmates for all that their gifts make possible for new generations of Carls.

“Once a Carl, always a Carl.”

- Austin Lau, ‘05 | Alumni Annual Fund Board Chair

$8.9M

of our $9.89M fund-wide total was raised by AAF volunteers in FY20 to support Carleton through both unplanned and previously prioritized needs.

“The Annual Fund supports the world-class education that Carleton provides and “keeps Carleton, Carleton.” It allows us to be nimble with spending in ways that the endowment isn’t meant to. The flexibility of Annual Fund gifts is really important, especially in these uncertain times when emergency funds are becoming increasingly commonplace. The Annual Fund is volunteer-driven and that’s an important part of what keeps us going – “Once a Carl, always a Carl.”

-Austin Lau, ’05 | Alumni Annual Fund Board Chair

A campus that keeps evolving

“I give my time and treasure to Carleton expressly because it is not perfect. I want Carleton to be better today than it was when I was a student. And I want to be a part of making that happen.”

- Kevin Hislop, ’92

625+

alumni volunteer for the AAF each year. Our volunteers span nearly 70 class years, making our group a robust, multigenerational network.

56%

the fund-wide donor participation record achieved by Alumni Annual Fund volunteers
There’s power in numbers

Strong volunteer teams are the bedrock of the Alumni Annual Fund. Volunteers educate their classmates and activate them to support the college with unrestricted dollars.

The breadth, depth, and leadership structure of these teams are enormously important as volunteers endeavor to engage as many alumni as possible.

Paying it forward

“As I’ve gotten older with my own kids going through the college financial aid process, paying it forward for the next generation of students has become even more impactful to me.”

-Melissa Albay, ’90

Leading a legacy

“I am convinced that this is the most important way to support all that I love about Carleton. We may not like to talk about money, but annual alumni donations keep the lights on and open doors for future Carls who couldn’t afford to attend otherwise. This is our legacy—making Carleton available to future students as the generations of Carleton alumni did for us.”

- Eryn Deeming Kehe, ’96

Each volunteer matters

Every team member brings with them a network of alumni connections, a personal approach to engaging classmates, and a unique Carleton story. As we endeavor to educate Carls about the importance of the Alumni Annual Fund, diverse perspectives and voices are paramount to our success—and Carleton’s, too.

Carleton alumni are 32% more likely to donate when their Alumni Annual Fund volunteer team has a Class Agent

Carleton alumni are 3X more likely to donate when asked to do so by an Alumni Annual Fund volunteer

“Carleton takes care of our students, and now it’s our turn for alumni to take care of Carleton.”

-Mary Ann Johnson, ’52