

# OUR COMMON BOND:

The Campaign for University School of Milwaukee

Campaign  
Newsletter  
Volume VII

## Thanks to You and Our Common Bond!



Thanks to the generosity of our school community over the past several years, USM's [Our Common Bond](#) five-year fundraising campaign surpassed its \$27 million working goal ahead of its June 30, 2020 scheduled close. The school's Board of Trustees launched this comprehensive campaign in July of 2015 with goals of \$15 million in support of capital projects, \$6 million in endowment support, and another \$6 million in annual support through the USM Fund.

We are grateful for the generous donors profiled in this newsletter and all of Our Common Bond investors recognized on the last two pages. It is thanks to our donors supporting USM's culture of generosity that we continue to deliver the outstanding educational experience that defines USM while supporting our students and faculty, always, and especially in these unprecedented times. While so much in our world today is uncertain, USM's mission-focused excellence is certain, now and in the future. Throughout USM's almost 170-year history, the school community has unified together

to overcome challenges, staying true to its guiding principles. It is the people that define USM, and the strength of our people will once again guide the school through this global pandemic, strengthening the school and the school community and reaffirming our excellence for the next 170 years and beyond.

Should you wish to participate in supporting and affirming USM's strengths, please consider a thoughtful contribution in support of our students, our families, our faculty, our school, our excellence. This is [Our Common Bond](#).

Your gift to an area of school life that aligns with your interests helps us navigate today's landscape and plan for the future. As always, we celebrate and thank all campaign investors and recognize our leadership donors (commitments of \$25,000 or more) on the [Our Common Bond leadership donor wall](#) adjacent to the Upper School entrance. Every gift, at every level, positively impacts USM students for generations to come, enhances USM's excellence, and is our common bond. 🏰

## Giving Back to Support Coaches Who Can Make a Difference



*Jock and Linda Mutschler*

Jock and Linda Mutschler approach everything in their lives with dedication, focus, and commitment. University School of Milwaukee has been the fortunate recipient of their attention and support in a variety of areas across the school for many years.

Jock, who managed much of the parenting duties while their children, Jordan '17 and Brodie '19, were young, spent a lot of time volunteering at USM and quickly became a fixture on campus. Whether stocking food for USM's Booster Club, volunteering in the libraries, serving on the Parents' Association board, or coaching boys and girls varsity soccer, "there's virtually nothing that I didn't see going on at the school," he said. "I learned to appreciate and understand what a special place this is by being an active parent. And I was so impressed because everyone was so positive. They were just constantly doing things the right way, and I was really impressed to know that it was happening all the time, regardless of who was around."

Linda, meanwhile, who worked as Merrill Lynch's top-ranked wireless services analyst, has been just as dedicated to the school. She served as a member of the school's Board of Trustees from 2011 to 2019, also serving on several board committees during that time, and was co-chair of the USM Fund from 2011 to 2013.

Jock and Linda approached their support of the school's Our Common Bond campaign with a similar dedication. In 2019, they established the Mutschler Endowed Fund in support of USM coaches, to help the school invest in the right individuals to build successful athletic programs.

For Jock, who played soccer at Notre Dame and has been coaching for various USM soccer teams since 2012, supporting athletics through an endowed gift was a natural fit. "I think athletics, or really any extracurricular activities, are important because they expose a person to different influences. The more influences you have on you, the more you can learn. And if you get lucky and get something that's really incredible, it can change your whole path."

For both Jock and Linda, supporting USM's endowment was important. "We like the mechanics of an endowment, how it is financially sustainable, because it gives you that solid foundation to go forward with authority," said Jock. "It's critical to have that financial security so that you can be bold with a forward-thinking vision and take chances knowing you have that backing. If you want to be progressive and be the best, you have to keep pushing yourself, and this helps USM to do that." 🏆



## Sons Follow in Parents' Footsteps to Honor Their Brother



*The Uihlein brothers (from left) Chris '65, Chip MCDS'63, Phil '68, and Richard '72.*

Through their leadership and support of USM and two of its three predecessor schools—Milwaukee Country Day School and Milwaukee Downer Seminary—the enduring legacy of Polly MDS'38 and Henry MCDS'39 Uihlein and their family continues to impact generations of USM families and enhance USM significantly. “The credit for our family’s history of giving should go to my parents,” said Phil Uihlein '68. “My mom and dad were all about helping children. The purpose of their endowments is, in large part, to give children the same opportunities that they had growing up.”

In 1989, Polly and Henry established an endowed fund to support USM’s faculty. Then, in 1994, they established the Polly and Henry Uihlein Scholarship Fund, an endowed fund that provides financial assistance to qualifying alumni families. They continued to support their endowed funds in life and through their estate, and also provided support for the Polly and Henry Uihlein Sr. Ice Arena, the USM Fund, and other school priorities.

Following in their parents’ footsteps, Chris '65, Phil, and Richard '72 Uihlein continued their family’s legacy of giving through their own collective gift to the Our Common Bond campaign, which was inspired by a bequest from the estate of their late brother, Henry “Chip” Uihlein Jr. MCDS'63. In gratitude for their leadership support of the campaign, the school recognized the family gift with the naming of the USM Athletic Hall of Fame wall in honor of Chip. This commitment symbolized

the most recent support in the brothers’—and their parents’—lifelong loyalty to their alma mater through their time, talent, and treasure.

Although Chip passed away in July 2017, his legacy lives on through his brothers, his daughters, Jennifer Uihlein '88 and Marnie Uihlein Omer '91, and his grandchildren. “My brother Chip was the best one of all of us,” said Phil. “He was a great academic, although he’d never say that, but he was also great in sports. He was the most tenacious human being I’ve ever run into, whether in the hockey rink or business world. He just didn’t know any kind of defeat. And that thread ran through his entire life. But the other aspects that stick out for me is that he was an incredibly compassionate and thoughtful person.”

The USM Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes and honors the important role of athletics within the culture of the school, and Polly and Henry were welcomed posthumously into the inaugural class of inductees in 2016, an honor their four sons accepted on their behalf. Their recognition aligned with the family’s lifelong leadership in athletics, as their sons thrived while participating in athletics. “There are all different kinds of education that a young person gets,” said Phil. “Athletics is one kind, but I think it’s an important one. It helps young kids learn to develop a part of their character that the classroom can’t teach. The Athletic Hall of Fame wall is important to us, given our family’s orientation to athletics, and it’s a significant honor for Chip, so we are excited about it.” 🏆

## Student Success An Ongoing Priority

At University School of Milwaukee, it is important that our student body is reflective of the Milwaukee region in its myriad forms of diversity. In alignment with our mission, the school prepares each student for a life of purpose by igniting a passion for learning, leadership, and service. We now recognize that we must do more to help both newly admitted and established students find success in our inclusive, supportive community.

In 2019, USM welcomed Dr. Gina Haughton in the newly created role of director of student success. The position is designed to enhance individualized support for all students adjusting to the USM culture, including our first generation and underrepresented students. This includes assistance with navigating the school's curriculum and programmatic offerings, participating in enrichment learning opportunities, and preparing for and identifying 'best fit' colleges.



As a member of the senior administrative team, Haughton establishes positive relationships and open channels of communication with new and underrepresented students and their families, and develops and manages a suite of programs to create a supportive framework to support our students in their learning—both in and out of the classroom—at USM and beyond.

In belief and support of this program, a school family recently established a challenge match to garner funding for the people and programs to support the successes of all USM students. The family's thoughtful and leadership commitment of \$200,000 is presented in the form of a matching challenge to match the commitments from others up to this amount. In alignment with the final year of the five-year Our Common Bond campaign with an emphasis on endowment, these contributions will collectively establish a named, endowed fund, The Endowed Fund for Student Success. USM is extremely grateful for this family's support of our students and our school through this generous commitment. 🏛️



Visit [www.USMOurCommonBond.org](http://www.USMOurCommonBond.org) to learn more about the comprehensive capital campaign priorities, including capital projects, endowment, and the USM Fund, and the stories of the members of the USM community supporting its progress thus far.

# Our Common Bond: Current List of Campaign Investors

We sincerely thank all those who have made generous gifts in support of Our Common Bond and University School of Milwaukee

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Anonymous Donors                            | Genna and Leo Espinosa                      | Housiaux and Jacobs Families            |
| The Abele Family                            | Daniel H. and Marie-Anne D. Ewig            | Emily and Doug Ihrke                    |
| Barb '81 and Tim Aik                        | Feitler Family Fund                         | The Jochmann Family                     |
| Cameron and Julie Kasten Art '91            | <b>Connie Findlay-Oyer and Darrell Oyer</b> | Shawn and Lance Johnson '79             |
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| Kathie and Tony Asmuth MCDS'60              | Jennifer and Tom Florsheim '76              | Susie and Fred Kasten MDS'60 & MUS'57   |
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| Donna and Don Baumgartner MCDS'59           | Laura and Tom Fuller                        | Christina and David Keuler              |
| <b>Mary C. Bechmann '75</b>                 | Nan Gardetto                                | Dr. and Mrs. Raman Khanna               |
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| Jane and Jim Bell MUS'58                    | Anne Hamilton and Fred Geilfuss '71         | Peter S. Kies                           |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Peter Q. Eschweiler MUS'50     | Frieda and William Hunt Memorial Trust      | Mary Jane and Frank Martinez            |

\*Deceased

New campaign donors shown in **bold**

**Together we have raised a total of \$29,750,872 toward our \$27,000,000 campaign goal.  
Thank you to all of our investors who have made their best gifts to the campaign.**

**We welcome new gifts in the final months of the Our Common Bond campaign,  
and there is also still the opportunity to be recognized as a leadership donor  
(commitments of \$25,000 or more) on our campaign leadership donor wall.**

***Gifts of any amount are welcome and valued, and we look forward to recognizing you!***



Visit [www.USMOurCommonBond.org](http://www.USMOurCommonBond.org) for a current list of investors, and additional stories, photos, and videos.

Drs. Peter Mason and Azita Hamedani  
 George A. Mayer MCDS'62  
 Katie and Skip '88 McGregor  
 Katie and Charles Mellowes '87  
 Linda and John Mellowes MUS'56  
 R. Jan Pirozzolo-Mellowes and John W. Mellowes '91  
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**Jordan A. Mutschler '17**  
 Linda and Jock Mutschler  
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 Nick '99 and Heather Nielsen  
 Meg and Hack Noyes '66  
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 John U. Olson and Elin Blakstad '95 & '95  
 Alexander A. Palermo '86  
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 Stephanie and Ryan Petersen  
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 Lisa and Thomas Read '75  
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Estate of Merrill E. Taft Jr. MCDS'49  
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 J. Christopher Uihlein '65  
 Julie and David Uihlein '68 & '67  
 Lynde B. Uihlein MUS'63  
 Philip J. Uihlein '68  
 Richard A. Uihlein '72  
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*Investor names and campaign figures are as of April 30, 2020.*

