

Annual Report

2023



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The University of North Florida Foundation is proud to partner with alumni, friends and corporate supporters to match their philanthropic interests and passions with the needs of our students and the University. We are grateful to all those who give their time and resources to UNF to support excellence, provide opportunity and ultimately, change lives. You are part of our Osprey family, and we couldn't do it without you.

From the President

It has been a challenging year, and we have learned a great deal over the past several months about endurance and adapting to the unexpected. Our Osprey family has come together like never before, and through your generosity, you have helped students stay strong and stay focused, despite incredibly unusual and difficult circumstances.

We started the 2019-2020 school year with several new initiatives aimed at helping students thrive in and outside of the classroom. You played an important role in this by providing funds for scholarships, cutting-edge research opportunities, state-of-the-art resources, and programs to keep students emotionally and physically well.

In the spring, many of you joined us as we celebrated together during Homecoming Week, then enjoyed another exciting end to basketball season as our men's and women's teams competed in the conference playoffs. Shortly after that, our lives changed. Even though it was a trying time for everyone, so many of you reached out to help our students who had lost jobs and were struggling to pay for school, housing and basic necessities. You were able to relieve financial pressure and restore hope, and for that, I cannot thank you enough.

Through it all, we continue to thrive as a University. Again, UNF was ranked nationally by U.S. News & World Report as a Best College and improved its ranking to 231394 cm /Im0 Do Q]at

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Funding Elevates Meals on Wings

Lawrence “Laurie” DuBow believes that the best thing you can do for a young person is to help them attend college. That philosophy has motivated him to provide scholarships to UNF students for the past 30 years through the DuBow Family Foundation.

His family’s continued generosity has supported numerous other UNF initiatives, most recently providing funding for Meals on Wings, a food recovery program in UNF’s Center for Nutrition and Food Security. Since it began two years ago, the program has delivered nearly 17,000 meals to homebound seniors who are on the waiting list for Duval County’s Meals on Wheels. Student volunteers recover unused food from six area hospitals, repackage it into healthy meals and deliver nutrition and smiles directly to seniors’ homes.

Laurie and his son Michael said they chose to fund the project, in part, because it is innovative and fills an important need in the community. “We also felt the students’ passion behind it, so we believe it will be successful,” Michael said.

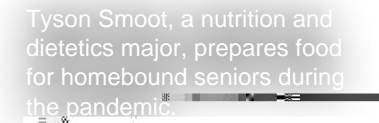
The donation has allowed the program to purchase a refrigerated van to improve the operation’s efficiency and ensure food safety. “We felt this would be a lasting gift,” Michael said. “It will help the students coming through the program to see the impact they are making and then when they go on

in their careers, they will be inclined to give back in other ways. It’s unique because it’s a community-service program embedded in a college. You couldn’t find a greater impact program than this one.”

Dr. Lauri Wright, associate professor and director of UNF’s Doctorate in Clinical Nutrition program, is the founding director of the UNF Center for Nutrition and Food Security. In addition to the van, the donation has allowed Wright and the students to expand from assisting 25 to 100 seniors, with five meals a week.

“We’re so appreciative that we could help meet the needs that the pandemic put on this vulnerable population,” Wright said. “It’s also given the students so much opportunity to apply classroom work and really see it come to life. The DuBow Family Foundation donation helped us do all that.”

Yet Laurie DuBow would give his share of the credit to the student volunteers. While he will acknowledge that the donation was needed, he also will tell you that the money was the easy part. “The real work is being done by the students who are making a difference in these people’s lives,” Laurie said. “It’s the kind of education they can’t get in the classroom, and that’s important to me. They are the real heroes and should be getting all the credit. Without them, the money that we’ve given wouldn’t mean a thing.”



Tyson Smoot, a nutrition and dietetics major, prepares food for homebound seniors during the pandemic.

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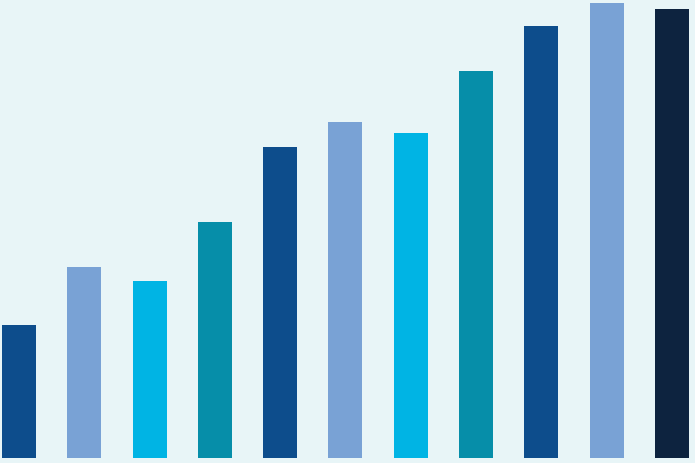
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