

## Top philanthropic gifts this year: Education campaigns dominate list

Wayne State University received single largest gift; Michigan State University received greatest number of gifts



Photo by Cybelle Codish The estate of Clyde and Helen Wu donated \$2.9 million in 2016 to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra to help sustain music education programs provided through the Wu Family Academy for Learning and Engagement.

**Academic institutions received the most gifts of more than \$1 million, 14, in that timeframe, with Wayne State University receiving the single largest gift, at \$40 million. Michigan State University received the greatest number of gifts, six, for a total of \$23.5 million.**

By Bridget Vis

Following is a roundup of many of the area's top philanthropic gifts over a year's time. Academic institutions received the most gifts of more than \$1 million, 14, in that timeframe, with **Wayne State University** receiving the single largest gift, at \$40 million. **Michigan State University** received the greatest number of gifts, six, for a total of \$23.5 million.

### **\$40 million**

**To: Wayne State University**

**From: Mike and Marian Ilitch**

**Details:** The **Mike Ilitch School of Business** officially broke ground in July for what will be a 120,000-square-foot, four-story building housing state-of-the-art technology, classrooms, labs, offices, a conference learning center, open collaboration space and support facilities for up to 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

A donor agreement finalized in October 2015 calls for \$35 million to go toward construction of the school, at Woodward Avenue and Temple Street, within District Detroit, the \$1.3 billion development project that also includes the new \$627.5 million **Detroit Red Wings** arena set to open next fall.

The agreement allows the university to lease the property at \$1 per year up to 95 years, and establishes a \$5 million endowment to fund future renovations, repair and improvements including some programs and activities, for a total gift of \$40 million.

If the building is not complete and occupied by Sept. 1, 2018, the Ilitches can reduce the endowment by \$1 million, and another \$2.5 million if it is not ready by Jan. 1, 2019. If it is still not ready by Sept. 1, 2019, the family has an option to eliminate the endowment or cancel the lease, returning the property to the **Michael and Marian Ilitch Foundation**.

Wayne State also commits to spend \$100,000 per year for at least 10 years to promote the Ilitch school and enhance its reputation, with a goal of it ranking among the top 75 business schools nationally.

### \$17.5 million

**To: University of Michigan**

**From: Madeline and Sidney Forbes**

**Details:** The donation was made to create the Forbes Institute for Cancer Discovery within UM's Comprehensive Cancer Center. It will also establish the Madeline and Sidney Forbes professorship in oncology and Senior Forbes Scholars and Emerging Forbes Scholars programs in cancer discovery and other things. The goal of the Institute for Cancer Discovery is to encourage scientists to undertake high-risk, high-reward initiatives for which funding is difficult to obtain, with the goal of developing therapies and more targeted treatments for Americans diagnosed with cancer.

The gift is the largest private donation for cancer research in UM's history, and is part of the university's \$4 billion Victors for Michigan fundraising campaign.

Sidney Forbes founded Southfield-based **Forbes Co.** in 1966. He is a national developer, owner and manager of luxury shopping centers, including the **Somerset Collection** in Troy.



Photo by University of Michigan Sidney Forbes (left) and Madeline Forbes. They gave \$17 million to the Forbes Institute for Cancer Discovery at UM's Comprehensive Cancer Center.

### \$15 million

**To: Michigan State University**

**From: Richard and Helen DeVos (\$10 million); Peter and Joan Secchia (\$5 million)**

**Details:** The philanthropists' gifts are for the construction of MSU's new \$88.1 million biomedical research center in Grand Rapids. The six-story, 162,800 square-foot Grand Rapids Research Center will have workspaces and labs for researchers and MSU College of Human Medicine scientists.

The facility is planned to open in 2017, create 400 jobs and contribute to more than \$28 million in local annual spending.

### \$10 million (\$5 million each)

**To: Wayne State University School of Law**

**From: Dan Gilbert and Stephen Ross**

**Details:** Two of the most successful alumni of Wayne State's School of Law donated \$5 million each to create the Benson Legacy Fund for Wayne Law and Benson Endowed Enhancement Fund for Wayne Law. The largest donations in the school's history were named after outgoing Dean Jocelyn Benson, who left to become CEO of the **Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality**, which was founded by Ross.

The funds will be used for classroom renovations, new construction, technology enhancements and student and faculty scholarships, among other things. Gilbert, founder and chairman of Detroit-based **Quicken Loans Inc.** and **Rock Ventures LLC**, and owner of the **Cleveland Cavaliers**, received his law degree from WSU in 1987. Ross, chairman of real estate development company **The Related Cos.** and owner of the **Miami Dolphins**, received his in 1965.



Photo by Wayne State University Alumni Dan Gilbert and Stephen Ross donated \$5 million each to create the Benson Legacy Fund for Wayne Law and Benson Endowed Enhancement Fund for Wayne Law.

### **\$10 million**

**To: Beaumont Hospital, Troy**

**From: Dominic and Frances Mocerì**

**Details:** The money went to fund construction of a 20,000-square-foot Frances and Dominic Mocerì Learning Center for medical personnel, students at **Oakland University's** William Beaumont School of Medicine and the community. It also funds the Mocerì Learning Center Endowment to support the center and a Frances and Dominic Mocerì Medical Intensive Care Unit, which opened in August. Dominic Mocerì is a partner in Auburn Hills-based residential developer **Mocerì Cos.**

### **\$7.5 million**

**To: Wayne State University**

**From: Gretchen Valade**

**Details:** The largest portion of the gift, \$5 million, from the philanthropist and **Carhartt** apparel heiress is going toward restoring and upgrading the Hilberry Theatre, which will be renamed the Gretchen Valade Jazz Center. It will host concerts for touring and local musicians and also serve as a working space for WSU students and faculty. The rest of the gift includes two endowed funds to support jazz education. The jazz center is part of the planned Hilberry Gateway Performance Complex in Midtown.



Gretchen Valade

### **\$5 million**

**To: Oakland University**

**From: Craig and Ann Stinson**

**Details:** The gift from the alumni and longtime donors to OU is to go toward improving the Stinson Student Advancement Center in the School of Business Administration, and to name a new Stinson Family Student-Athlete Development Center in the Department of Athletics. Both Stinsons have OU business degrees; Craig's is in finance and Ann's is in marketing. Craig is a former CEO of Pennsylvania-based **Breeze Industrial Products** and adviser to Chicago private equity firm **Wind Point Partners**. He is chairman of the board of visitors for the business school.

### **\$4.5 million**

**To: Michigan State University**

**From: Robert Burgess**

**Details:** The gift was made to the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Eli Broad College of Business to be used to help students compete in business contests, recruit and retain instructors, and to general initiatives of the institute. Burgess, a managing partner at the business consulting firm **Glegarry Partners**, Bloomfield Hills, graduated from MSU in 1996

with a B.S. in packaging. He served as former chairman of the Broad College advisory board and past president of the business alumni board.

This donation follows a \$2 million gift to the institute in 2005; as a result, the institute will be renamed the Burgess Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

### **\$2.9 million**

**To: Detroit Symphony Orchestra**

**From: Clyde and Helen Wu**

**Details:** The longtime supporters' estate gift is to help sustain music education programs provided through the Wu Family Academy for Learning and Engagement.

Their bequest is the largest the orchestra had received in more than a decade and the second-largest in its 129-year history, the DSO said. The Wus have given more than \$5 million in total to the DSO.

Clyde Wu was a cardiologist at **Oakwood Hospital** in Dearborn and longtime member of the DSO's board. Helen Wu was a concert pianist, DSO volunteer and board member of the **Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs**.

### **\$2.5 million**

**To: United Methodist Retirement Communities**

**From: Tom and Debby McMullen**

**Details:** The Ann Arbor philanthropists' donation is to fund the construction of a wellness and aquatic center on UMRC's main campus in Chelsea. It will be named the Tom and Debby McMullen Wellness and Aquatic Center. Tom McMullen founded **McMullen Realty Co. Inc.** in 1972. He sold the company's portfolio to Ann Arbor-based **Oxford Cos.** in June 2015 for \$102 million.

### **\$2 million**

**To: St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor**

**From: Anonymous**

**Details:** The hospital said the donation will be used to support cancer care needs, including treatment options, research and support services. St. Joseph said the donor was one of the original benefactors of the hospital's Robert H. and Judy Dow Alexander Cancer Center when it was constructed in 1993. Since then, the hospital said, patient volumes at the cancer center have tripled to more than 3,400 annually.

### **\$2 million**

**To: Michigan State University**

**From: Anonymous**

**Details:** The estate of a Lansing-area couple gifted MSU's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to enhance research on the nation's transportation infrastructure, specifically its bridges.

The money will fund an endowed faculty chair at the department with an emphasis on bridge research. It's the largest single donation the department had been given.

The gift supports the university's \$1.5 billion Empower Extraordinary campaign.

### **\$2 million**

**To: Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak**

**From: Gerald Timmis, M.D.**

**Details:** The retired cardiologist created an endowed chair at Beaumont in honor of his wife, Dorothy, who died in 2004. The 1955 medical school graduate of **Wayne State University** joined the Beaumont staff at Royal Oak in 1964 and held many posts, including co-director of the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases, director of the Research Institute, and medical director of cardiovascular research.

Timmis also held academic posts at the WSU School of Medicine and **Oakland University's** William Beaumont Hospital School of Medicine.



Gerald Timmis, M.D.

**\$2 million**

**To: Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak**

**From: Nancy and James Grosfeld**

**Details:** The couple's gift was to establish the Nancy and James Grosfeld Endowed Chair in Cancer Genetics. James Grosfeld is retired chairman and CEO of **PulteGroup Inc.**

**\$1.71 million**

**To: Detroit Institute of Arts**

**From: Elizabeth Verdow**

**Details:** The longtime volunteer in the museum's gift shop gave the DIA a bequest of \$1.71 million after her death in 2014 at age 86.

Verdow stipulated that \$1.26 million would be used to buy contemporary paintings and sculptures, while the remaining \$450,000 be put into the museum's annual operation's endowment and support its campaign to raise \$170 million in new funds over the next seven years.

Verdow, is a former **Detroit Public Schools** art teacher who volunteered at the DIA from 1990 to 2009. In honor of her legacy, the DIA will include her name on the Robert H. Tannahill Society donor wall at the museum and by naming the fund the Elizabeth Verdow Art Acquisition Fund.



Photo by Detroit Institute of Arts Elizabeth Verdow's \$1.71 million gift to the Detroit Institute of Arts will buy contemporary artwork.

**\$1 million**

**To: Albion College**

**From: Michael and Judy Harrington**

**Details:** The gift from the Albion alumni will be used to help financially struggling students at the college and as an incentive for staff and faculty to live near campus. The donation includes forgivable loans for faculty and staff who desire to build or buy homes within walking distance of the campus and can go toward down payments or renovations.

The money will also help full-time students with financial strain to attend Albion. They must complete financial literacy counseling and pledge to help future Albion students if they are able.

Michael Harrington, who graduated from Albion in 1985, is senior vice president and general counsel for Indianapolis-based **Eli Lilly and Co.** and a member of the college's board of trustees. Judy Harrington received her biology degree in 1986 before working as a labor and delivery nurse, according to Albion.

**\$1 million**

**To: Michigan State University**

**From: William and Cherilyn Deary**

**Details:** MSU will use the Dearys' gift to establish an athletics endowment, help upgrade the Breslin Center and assist in completing fundraising for Spartan Stadium's north end zone expansion. The Dearys founded Jackson-based **Great Lakes Caring**, a provider of home health and hospice services.

**\$1 million**

**To: Michigan State University**

**From: Al and Nancy Gambrel**

**Details:** The couple's gift created an endowed professorship in management at MSU's Eli Broad College of Business. Al Gambrel earned a bachelor's degree in business at MSU in 1976. He's been senior vice president of human resources at Oak Brook, Ill.-based **TreeHouse Foods** for the past 10 years. He said one of his MSU professors helped him get interested in a career in human resources.

**\$1 million**

**To: St. John Hospital and Medical Center**

**From: Anthony Tersigni**

**Details:** The former CEO of what is now **St. John Providence Health System** made the donation to the Detroit hospital to enhance the care environment for women and babies in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit and birthing center. The money was given through the **Tersigni Family Foundation**, for which Tersigni is president. Tersigni left St. John after 16 years to work at **Ascension Health's** corporate office in 2001. He became CEO of the nation's largest nonprofit system, which St. John is a part of, in 2004. In 2012, he became CEO of **Ascension**, the holding company of the health system.

**\$1 million**

**To: University of Detroit Mercy**

**From: Bill Kozyra**

**Details:** The chairman, CEO and president of Auburn Hills-based **TI Automotive** donated the money for the newly built Center for Automotive Systems Engineering Education at UD Mercy's College of Engineering and Sciences. The gift will be spread out through 2020 to fund faculty development, student research funds for special projects and additional tooling and furnishings. Kozyra graduated from UDM in 1980 in mechanical engineering and earned an MBA from **Michigan State University** in 1988.

**\$1 million**

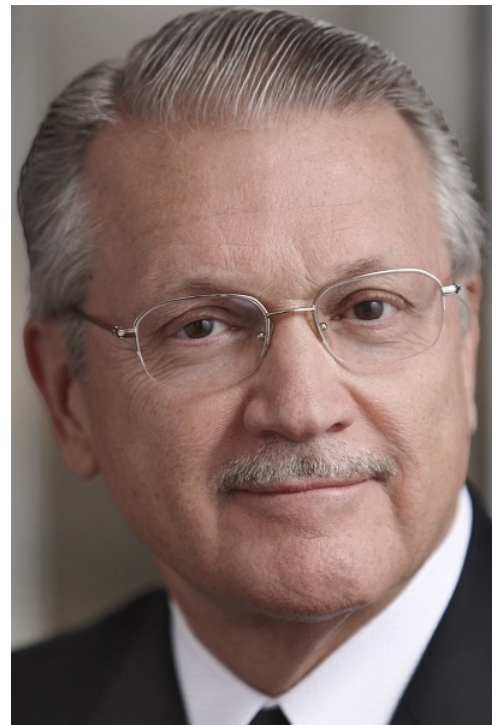
**To: Michigan Humane Society**

**From: Thomas A. Mackey**

**Details:** Donation to complete the \$15.5 million campaign to build the Mackey Center for Animal Care. The retired Detroit-area investment banker was also an honorary member of the MHS board of directors.



Photo by Derrick L. Turner, Michigan State University Michigan State University will use a \$1 million gift from William and Cheryl Deary to upgrade the Breslin Center.



Anthony Tersigni

**\$1 million**

**To: Michigan Humane Society**

**From: Estate of Jeanne Marie Lusher**

**Details:** The gift from the retired pediatric hematologist oncologist at **Children's Hospital of Michigan** was from her life insurance policy, dedicating \$100,000 to operations and \$900,000 to the MHS endowment. She was also a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and a lifetime member of Wayne State University Academy of Scholars, the highest honor bestowed on a university faculty member.



Bill Kozyra

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