



Tuesday, December 11, 2001

There's still time to donate to AUF

By *Jennifer Charney*, OU Staff Writer

Oakland University faculty and staff only have until Thursday, Dec. 20, to ensure their donation to Oakland programs is matched by OU President Gary Russi. For each dollar contributed, Russi will donate 50 cents. This applies to all gifts, except continuing pledges.

Employees can make their gift go even further by taking advantage of matching gift opportunities offered by a spouse's employer. To do so, simply check the box at the bottom of the pledge form and enclose the completed matching gift form from the employer.

Gifts to the fund drive are most often made from the heart. Here's just one example: one employee, who wishes to remain nameless, has made gifts to the OU Animal Cancer Fund for several years.

The employee found out about a man who came to OU seeking help for his cancer-stricken dog. Though the dog could not be saved, Oakland helped prolong its life, which made the owner happy.

After the dog's death, the owner was so pleased with OU's animal cancer research that in his will, he requested donations be made in his own memory to the Animal Cancer Fund. The man died in March 1997, and as he wished, the fund received almost \$500 within the first two weeks.

These donations were so touching that the employee has continued to support the dog owner's cause. The research is for animal cancer only, not human — though the vet performing the initial research was so successful that the work has helped in human treatment research.

"Whether employees choose to designate their contribution to their favorite program or to support the university's area of greatest need, both will help fund important projects," said Susan Davies Goep, vice president of University Relations and executive director of the OU Foundation. "Gifts, however great or small, are important to show alumni and corporate/foundation partners our commitment to this institution."

Goep also says she is impressed with the immediate response from many faculty and staff. "I think some employees were just waiting to be asked to make their gift this year," she said.

All employees who donate to the fund drive will be invited to attend a special thank-you reception on Wednesday, Jan. 30, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Oakland Center's Oakland Room. Personal invitations will be mailed via campus mail the first week of January.

The reception will include appreciation comments from President Russi and Ann Nicholson, this year's Caring Through Sharing Honorary Chair. A prize drawing also will be held. Prizes include a gift certificate to the Oakland Center food court, a gift certificate to Oakland University Bookstore, four tickets to a Meadow Brook Theatre play, and four tickets to a men's or women's Golden Grizzlies basketball game. Refreshments and appetizers will be served.

Employees should have received an AUF packet through campus mail on Nov. 14. If you did not, contact Julie Vulaj at the University Relations office at (248) 370-3700.

Remember, gifts to the AUF are considered a charitable donation and are therefore tax deductible on state and federal income returns. Employees should consult their adviser for specific details.

SUMMARY

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