



NEWSLETTER OF THE DANFORTH CENTER

WHD Legacy Society

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Finish the year with purpose*
- *A legacy of leadership*
- *Gratitude Luncheon*

FINISH THE YEAR WITH PURPOSE

How Legacy Gifts Sustain Discovery

As we head into the season of gratitude, we're reminded that the most enduring gifts are the ones that keep important work moving forward. At the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, legacy gifts—bequests in a will or trust, beneficiary designations on retirement accounts or insurance, and other planned commitments—provide steady, flexible support for research, education, and community outreach. These commitments help our scientists pursue bold ideas, sustain core facilities, and train the next generation—even when public funding ebbs and flows.

A legacy gift is simpler than many people think. For many of our supporters, adding a sentence to an existing will, or naming the Danforth Center as a beneficiary on an IRA

or life insurance policy, can turn personal values into lasting impact. Others have chosen gifts that provide payments back to them for their lifetime while advancing our mission to feed people and sustain the planet.

When you document a legacy commitment, you're invited to join the WHD Legacy Society—our way of thanking you today for the impact your gift will make tomorrow. If you're considering a planned gift, we'd be honored to talk with you (without obligation) about options that align with your goals. Together, we can finish the year with purpose—and plant seeds for discoveries yet to come.

To explore your options, visit [legacy.danforthcenter.org](https://danforthcenter.org) or contact Parker Butler at 314.587.1071 or pbutler@danforthcenter.org.

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP
John & Ginny Rowe Invest In The Future

For John and Ginny Rowe, philanthropy is both joy and responsibility. Twenty-year members of the Danforth Society—and 15-year members of the WHD Legacy Society—the Rowes have woven the Danforth Center into their life’s work.

John spent 35 years in banking before leading Bethesda Health Group. “In those roles you’re involved in many civic organizations,” he says. “Some you do out of duty; others capture your heart. The Danforth Center hooked me early.” He was drawn by a dual promise: “It does good around the world and for St. Louis—feeding people, sustaining the planet, and helping the region reinvent itself.”

Giving back is a core value. “If you’re fortunate enough to help others,” John says, “it’s both an obligation—and a privilege.” Ginny adds, “Charitable giving



▲ Ginny and John Rowe, members of both the Danforth Society and the William H. Danforth Legacy Society.

has always been part of my family. You want children and grandchildren to see it modeled.”

That conviction led them to create a planned gift in 2011. “A planned gift ensures our support continues forever,” says John. Ginny adds: “It’s very easy to leave a portion of your IRA to a nonprofit. It’s effective, tax-wise, and allows you to care for both your family and your community.”

With annual giving and an estate commitment, John and Ginny are building a legacy that will help feed the world, sustain the earth, and strengthen St. Louis for generations.



▲ “Despite its clear importance to our environment, relatively little is known about the genetics and biology of sphagnum mosses.”

Sona Pandey, PhD
Principal Investigator



▲ **GRATITUDE LUNCHEON**

On September 18, President and CEO Jim Carrington, PhD, welcomed guests to the annual Gratitude Luncheon for our strongest supporters. Principal Investigator Sona Pandey, PhD, was the featured guest.

Future-proof your giving. Planned gifts offer flexible funding to bridge research and keep momentum strong. Call Parker Butler at 314.587.1071 to learn more.

When you make a planned gift to the Future Forward campaign, you create a legacy of care for generations to come. Learn more: campaign.danforthcenter.org.



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THE GIFT THAT REWARDS THE GIVER

This year-end, give in a tax-smart way—a gift of stock, Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA (age 70½ or older), or a grant from a Donor Advised Fund—and your generosity may lower taxes while powering plant science. In a year of uncertain federal funding, your support keeps the momentum going.

GIVE TODAY

