HARVARD COLLEGE FUND PARENTS COMMITTEE



As a Harvard parent, you play an integral part in your child's education. From orientation to the path to Commencement, the Harvard experience is now part of your family's story.

The Harvard College Fund provides opportunities to expand your role in this special community and help fuel possibilities for your student—and all talented Harvard undergraduates.

The Importance of Parent Engagement

You have always been invested in your child's education, social development, and emotional growth. Your involvement has guided them to the College, but the importance of your role endures.

Whether you are new to the Harvard community or a graduate yourself, the Harvard College Fund encourages all parents to participate in life at the College today.

Your active role as a volunteer for the Harvard College Fund Parents Committee signals your committment to your child's education—not only in understanding their College experience, but also in shaping the opportunities they have on campus and around the world.



Why Philanthropy Matters

As a volunteer, you help us raise critical funds that enable Harvard to fulfill its mission. For nearly four centuries, gifts from individuals and families have been central to Harvard's enduring success and proven ability to innovate. During this time of such uncertainty, for Harvard and the world, philanthropic investments have never been more important.

Endowment vs. Current-Use Giving

The endowment is the foundation of Harvard's financial strength. It enables long-term growth and planning for our Schools, buildings, and faculty. But it does not come close to supporting our full budget or our many immediate needs, courses, programs, departments, and aspirations—the things that impact our students on a daily basis and differentiate Harvard from other colleges.

Current-use giving from Harvard families helps to shape the undergraduate experience by making opportunities like these possible:

- Over 135 freshman seminars connecting students with professors in intimate and dynamic virtual classes
- Over 3,500 virtual undergraduate courses across disciplines and interests
- Need-based financial aid for more than half of undergraduates, with \$0 expected family contribution for families who make less than \$65,00 per year, and support for living expenses for highneed students learning at home due to the pandemic
- Through the new Academic Resource Center, opportunities for virtual peer tutoring, academic coaching, and dynamic group study

 Thorough measures to keep the on-campus community safe, such as providing individual bedrooms, enacting rigorous cleaning protocols, and enhancing to spaces to enable social distancing.

Last year, gifts from nearly 3,000 households contributed more than \$20.9 million in flexible, current-use funds to Harvard College. This is the equivalent of a \$402 million endowment payout.

How You Can Make a Difference

As a volunteer, you are an ambassador for Harvard College. In this role, you are a leader for the entire Harvard parent community and a visible advocate for the importance of philanthropy at Harvard.

CONNECT WITH OTHER VOLUNTEERS AND THE HARVARD COLLEGE FUND PARENTS COMMITTEE

First and foremost, we are a community. To help you meet other volunteers, establish relationships, and learn more about engaging others, we encourage you to join us for meetings, training webinars, and virtual programming throughout the year.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The most powerful thing you can do to encourage philanthropy from others is to to make a flexible, current-use gift yourself. You are setting an example for parents to help students at Harvard realize their ambitions and dreams.

SHARE YOUR STORY

When you reach out to other parents, the most effective thing you can do is to share why you support Harvard. Think about what Harvard means to you and your family—and what experiences your student has had that would not have been possible without philanthropy.

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION

Community building is about establishing and sustaining relationships. Reach out to other parents throughout the year, host or attend a virtual gathering, communicate progress, and maintain an open dialogue. You will strengthen the Harvard College Fund and develop special relationships that will continue long after your student graduates.

Our staff is here to help you and support your efforts. We can share tools and tips to make your outreach easy, and we will always answer any questions that come our way. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Harvard College Fund staff, committee leadership, and other volunteers.

Thank you for serving as a Harvard College Fund parent volunteer. Your partnership and support make opportunities possible.



