

Phi·lan·thro·py

[fi-lan-thruh-pee]

the desire to promote the welfare of others, usually manifested by the generous donation of money to institutions of learning, good causes, hospitals, and other socially useful purposes.

A Tradition of Generosity Begins

By Kathryn Buttrick

“Generosity is the flower of justice!” exclaimed Nathaniel Hawthorne, a close friend of U.S. President Franklin Pierce. In 1864, when Hawthorne was in his dying days, he sought help from Pierce; Hawthorne asked him to care for his children after he was gone. That day, President Pierce began a legacy of generosity toward children and students which was especially meaningful, because President Pierce and his wife had three children who all died in childhood.

Just as President Pierce cared for Hawthorne’s children in need, so too are our alumni caring for students. Our 50th Anniversary year marks an exciting alumni initiative; several alumni have decided to show their support by matching the funds raised for class gifts. These alumni were inspired because last year, a large portion of the Franklin Pierce student body participated in their class giving: 43 percent of the Seniors, 24 percent of the Juniors, 19 percent of the Sophomores, and 41 percent of the Freshmen. The alumni were impressed and decided they wanted to help.

Mike Gasper ’01, who was the Student Government Association president for two years, a parliamentarian, and a class president, is going to match the Freshman gift. In the tradition of President Franklin Pierce, Michael is excited about creating a culture of philanthropy among the students so that they are inspired to support our students when they become alumni.

Mike Hanley ’97 and Donna Hanley are matching the Sophomore gift. “I’m not much for words for the most part, but I can truthfully say that I would not have accomplished and

experienced everything that has been a part of my life without all of the people who contributed to my life,” said Mike. “The teachers and instructors who have shared their knowledge, the students and friends who have shared their expertise, and the people who have shared financially are the reason that my life is what it is. The more each of us shares, the greater number of people we touch.”

“The word philanthropy has its roots in the Greek language meaning ‘love for mankind.’ It was never meant to apply only to donors of thousands or millions of dollars.” ~ Arthur C. Frantzreb

The Junior gift will be matched by a graduate of the Class of 1981 who wishes to remain anonymous. In April 2012, he visited the campus for the first time since graduation and was so inspired by the students and changes on campus that he decided to match the Junior Class gift. Provost Kim Mooney describes him as “a former class leader, but not just in name and title. He was always warm, personable, and approachable and was known as a good friend to others. He loved Franklin Pierce then, and he loves it now.”

We are grateful for every gift that alumni, students, parents, and friends give to help students at Franklin Pierce University. We are especially proud of the class leaders who are inspiring the habit of giving among students and for the alumni who are matching those gifts. It is a meaningful legacy worthy of the generosity President Franklin Pierce showed to Nathaniel Hawthorne’s children. 