



Cedarville University  
DigitalCommons@Cedarville

---

Administrative Personnel Publications

Administration

---

11-23-2020

## Making a Difference During the Pandemic

Rick Melson

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/administration\\_publications](https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/administration_publications)

 Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Cedarville, a service of the Centennial Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Administrative Personnel Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Cedarville. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@cedarville.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@cedarville.edu).



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE DURING THE PANDEMIC

For this issue of *Cedarville Magazine*, Rick Melson, Vice President for Advancement, discusses the generosity of Cedarville friends and family during the pandemic, the CU Give Hope fund that provided scholarships for students whose families were hit hard by COVID-19, and ways that alumni and supporters can come alongside the University at this time.

**Q How has the generosity of Cedarville family and friends made a difference for the University during the pandemic?**

**A** By God’s grace, we are grateful to have entered the global pandemic in a healthy financial position because of record giving from generous financial supporters, and wise budgeting and financial resource stewardship by University leadership. We are humbled that we continue to weather the pandemic well, most certainly by the grace and provision of God.

We ended the 2019–2020 fiscal year with the highest giving in the history of Cedarville University, even in the midst of a global pandemic, with over \$13.3 million given by thousands of alumni, donors, and friends toward scholarships, endowments, global outreach, student life, chapel, academic and athletic programs, and new facilities. This fall we



dedicated a new 282-bed residence hall in honor of Pat Bates, George Dunn, and James Parker ’64; we opened a new 300-seat dining facility with Chick-fil-A and Tossed; and we opened a new civil engineering academic building — a total of \$25 million in new buildings that are all debt-free. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

**Q What is Cedarville doing to support students and families in the current climate of economic uncertainty?**

**A** Cedarville University is a family, and for generations we have seen faithful members of the Cedarville family step up to provide scholarships through annual gifts to the Cedarville Fund and annually funded and endowed scholarships that now total more than 300 named donor-funded scholarships awarded to hundreds of students each

year. However, this year presented an urgent need for donors to stand in the gap for families who were impacted financially due to the global pandemic. During our annual spring giving day, we quickly pivoted to address this urgent need, and 551 donors gave \$314,385 to the CU Give Hope fund, resulting in 294 scholarships that helped meet the immediate financial need of students returning this fall. In addition to that generous support, additional financial need was identified for dozens of students who had devastating financial impact due to the loss of a parent, losses in income, and other unexpected circumstances intensified by the global pandemic.

When the need was presented to a few members of the Cedarville family, these faithful givers stepped in immediately to bridge the gap. Their gifts, along with the many financial partners who gave to the CU Give Hope fund, made it possible for hundreds of students to return to Cedarville this fall. Without God's provision through members of the Cedarville family, those students wouldn't be here. Thank you to our generous and faithful givers who are making a tangible impact in the lives of students. Your gifts make a difference!

## **Q** How can alumni and friends support the University in this time?

**A** Alumni and friends can make a difference today by praying, sharing, and giving. As I've mentioned in previous articles, first and foremost, alumni and friends can join us in praying. We as a University covet your prayers. During this COVID season, please pray for the health and wellness of our University community. Pray for our University leaders, faculty, staff, and students. Pray that God will continue to be glorified in our work and pray that students' lives will be transformed by the power of the Gospel during their Cedarville experience.

Second, you can tell others about Cedarville, share your experience as an alumnus, student, parent, or friend of the University. Let prospective students and parents know about the life-transforming experience that awaits them at Cedarville.

Lastly, I encourage you to give of your time, talents, and treasure. Making the Cedarville experience affordable and accessible to students remains one of our top priorities as a University. Your gift, joined with thousands of other faithful donors, makes the Cedarville experience a more affordable opportunity to many students who wouldn't otherwise be able to join us.

# CU GIVE HOPE IMPACT

- Total Raised: \$314,385.89
- Total Number of Donors: 551
- Largest Gift: \$70,000
- Average Gift: \$542.04
- Number of Scholarships Awarded: 294
- Average Amount of Award: \$1,195
- Selection Criteria: Returning student financially impacted by COVID-19.



"This scholarship has helped ease the burden on my parents and me. It gives us hope in the coming year. I'm so thankful for all the donors that care for and love students like me!"

*Joshua Counts '22*

"Receiving this scholarship was a huge, unexpected blessing. God has been faithful in providing for every need. He has done so through your contribution."

*Sarah Whitscell '23*

"Your scholarship means the difference between being able to stay at Cedarville for my senior year or having to transfer somewhere else."

*Ashley Riddle '21*

"The raising of the CU Give Hope Scholarship funds came at a time when COVID was becoming a reality in our lives and one that changed our daily habits and thoughts. Yet, the gifts poured in and allowed our team to award 294 students a one-time scholarship. Like never before, need became almost the norm for most of our families. It has become a blessing not only for our families, but for those of us in the financial aid office as we seek to steward these wonderful gifts."

*Kim Jenerette '83, Executive Director of Financial Aid*