

FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

by Thomas Marten
Angus Foundation executive director



You build the next generation

When the theme for this issue, “Built Better,” was shared with me, it immediately brought to mind how donors, like you, build a brighter future for the breed. Building brighter futures isn’t some obscure platitude. It’s the reality of your impact.

Dylan was an outgoing kid, and just a handful of years ago, he was attending the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). He took advantage of all the growth opportunities as a junior, including the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference.

Through leadership programs Dylan channeled his charisma and surrounded himself with peers who sharpened and built him.

This past summer Dylan Denny retired after two years of service on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB), a role he grew in and through which he helped shape countless other junior members.

We had the privilege of sharing Dylan’s journey through a video presentation during the 137th Angus Annual Meeting and at the Oklahoma Stars event hosted during the Cattlemen’s Congress.

Driven by donors

When I joined the Angus Foundation a year ago, it was before the first mentions of a new disease that would later dominate our headlines.

While COVID-19 shaped many aspects of 2020, the Angus Foundation was able to substantially streamline our expenses while growing our impact-ability, particularly in youth leadership development and educational resources for cattlemen.


We continue to benefit from the

impressive legacies of donors who established permanent endowment funds to support targeted programs, oftentimes scholarships. Endowment funds are restricted to a particular purpose and are large gifts relying on income generated from their investment to fund the endowment’s specific purpose.

Restricted funds, such as endowments, make up 96% of the Angus Foundation’s net assets, meaning operations and the programs funded by the Angus Fund rely on the loyal, unrestricted gifts so many of you generously make.

Much of the Angus Foundation’s impact is through your unrestricted Angus Fund gifts, which allow the Angus Foundation to operate and make significant investments in our

mission areas. Through the Angus Fund we are able to operate and underwrite programs like the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences, additional scholarships, Beef Leaders Institute, Angus University, sponsor research, and to fully fund the NJAB.

Your continued generosity with your Angus Fund giving is transformational for our next generation. Because of you, young people, like Dylan, have been equipped with skills and experiences to lead our breed and sharpen others. 

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