



Foundation Fundamentals

► by *Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation*

Above the mark

Since February marks my first Foundation Fundamentals column in the calendar year, it seems only proper etiquette to still convey Happy New Year's wishes. Your Angus Foundation shares in your hope, optimism and excitement for 2016.

Aims and goals

Your Angus Foundation aims each year to hit the mark. Increasing relevance, impact and helping to add value to the Angus breed steadfastly remains our highest priority each year.

How has this annual priority been achieved in past years?

What will be required this year to achieve this admirable goal?

One very important component to the answer of these questions lies in unrestricted charitable gifts.

Dating back to the organization's inception in 1980, generous supporters are to be credited for the Angus Foundation's ability to annually invest in education, youth and research activities at the levels we have enjoyed.

Angus breeders, allied industry interests and friends of the organization, through their charitable financial support regardless of the size of their unrestricted gifts, make a difference in the lives of those impacted.

Arrows and inspiration

For example, Katelyn Holmes of Benton, Iowa, a recipient of a general \$3,000 undergraduate scholarship made possible in 2015 by generous unrestricted charitable gifts to the Angus Foundation, conveyed her appreciation in a handwritten note. She wrote, "I cannot express how much it means to me to receive this scholarship. It is truly an honor to receive this scholarship from an organization who does so much for the Angus community. This scholarship has been a great help in allowing me to follow my dreams and attend the University of Missouri and major in agricultural education in hopes of advocating for an industry that has done so much for me."

Another very appreciative recipient of a general \$3,000 scholarship made possible by unrestricted charitable gifts is Michaela Clowser of Milford, Neb., who said, "Thank

you for the generous scholarship. I really appreciate all your support of the junior Angus activities. Thank you for helping me further my education and providing scholarships."

Allison Hawthorne of Westby, Wis., wrote, "I want to sincerely thank you; your

generosity will aid me in my journey to Iowa State University. While there I have intentions to double-major in genetics and animal science, hoping to be able to

improve an already great breed. Someday I hope to give back and help younger youth. Maybe I will inspire them to consider an agriculture profession, just as I was [inspired]."

Recipient of a \$5,000 graduate student general scholarship, Allison Dubs of Billings, Mont., communicated, "Thank you so much for awarding me a graduate scholarship; I am so honored to be a recipient. I really appreciate all the support I have received from the Angus Foundation. Not only has the Foundation had a great impact on my life, but [it] has also positively impacted many other juniors."

Above are only a few of the heartfelt notes of appreciation our office received from the 55 recipients of general undergraduate and graduate scholarships made possible by unrestricted gifts this past year.

Targeting success

Funding from unrestricted gifts provides for junior and education programs such as:

- General undergraduate scholarships — \$100,000
- General graduate scholarships — \$25,000
- National Junior Angus Association Board of Directors — \$90,000
- Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) — \$15,000
- "Women Connected" Conference — \$20,000

- Young Cattlemen's Conference — \$5,000
- Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) — \$80,000
- Raising the Bar — \$15,000
- Cattlemen's Boot Camps — \$12,000

Funding levels for these programs are determined through the Angus Foundation's annual budgeting process based on projected unrestricted giving during the fiscal year and other sources of unrestricted revenue from fundraising activities.

Yes, the Angus Foundation has experienced unprecedented growth during recent years, and we welcome all types of charitable contributions.

Ironically, however, the reality is that the vast majority of gifts to the Angus Foundation are received earmarked (restricted) for specific purposes, such as a permanent endowment fund with only the investment earnings available each year thereafter for expenditure in accordance with the endowment's agreement between the donor and our organization.

Throttling back on the levels of investments made by the Angus Foundation in Angus youth and education programs would run completely opposite to our historical progressive strategy, which would be to even further expand our support of Angus youth and adult education in the future.

Aiming high

Achieving our goal this year will require everyone to do his or her part. Your generous unrestricted gifts and mine, combined with support of the Angus Foundation's fundraising activities this year, will enable us to continue making an impact on the lives of others through scholarships and education.

Let's keep our sights aimed high and hit this year's mark for our Angus breed!

EMAIL: mjenkins@angusfoundation.org

Author's Note: *Milford Jenkins is president of the Angus Foundation. Visit www.angusfoundation.org for more information regarding the Angus Foundation.*