

GEORGE  
EASTMAN  
CIRCLE

YOUR PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT

2025

## **We are powered by passion**

When University of Rochester and Medical Center supporters make an annual pledge to any areas they're most passionate about, what happens next is invaluable: they fuel the possibilities for current and future generations. It's giving that keeps going. The George Eastman Circle is named for Rochester philanthropist George Eastman and other future-minded benefactors who saw the unique importance of being a renowned research university and how fueling our collective passions contributes to the greater good.

## **Support what you love**

George Eastman Circle members make a minimum five-year pledge of \$1,500 or greater annually to the area(s) of the University that's important to them, including the arts and sciences, Medical Center, patient care and research, and more. It's this sustained support that adds up to amazing.

## **Join the Circle**

Visit [GeorgeEastmanCircle.com](https://GeorgeEastmanCircle.com) to learn more.

## **Impact**

Throughout this brochure, you will find highlights of the incredible impact created by the generosity of George Eastman Circle members who have designated their support to hundreds of available funds. Highlighted totals represent all member pledge payments and outright gifts made between July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.



## ATHLETICS

**\$296,829**

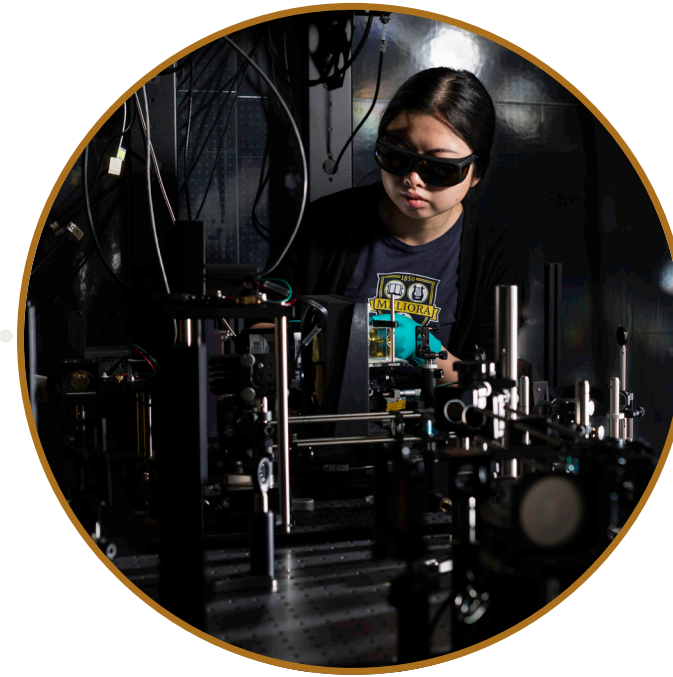
- Thanks in part to George Eastman Circle members, 2024-25 was a tremendous year for Rochester Athletics, featuring 154 All-Liberty League and All-UAA honorees, 83 All-Region selections and Liberty League championships in men’s golf, squash and women’s outdoor track & field. The ‘Jackets had 24 All-Americans and two Academic All-Americans, along with 11 Phi Beta Kappa honorees and 297 All-Academic selections. Rochester also had 10 teams ranked nationally throughout the season.
- Seven teams represented UR at the NCAA Championships this year: Women’s Cross Country, Women’s Soccer, Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track & Field, Golf, and Men’s and Women’s Outdoor Track & Field, while Varsity Football earned an ECAC Bowl berth for the first time since 2007. Overall, the athletics record was 165-142-7, equaling a .536 winning percentage.



## EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**\$525,729**

- Seventeen musicians were awarded George Eastman Circle Scholarships, and hundreds more received financial support through annual fund contributions. These scholarships allow Eastman to remain competitive by attracting the most dedicated students possible from a variety of educational and cultural backgrounds.
- The Eastman Musical Assistance Fund provides vital, year-round support for students that is critical to their education and professional success, helping cover urgent music-related needs like instrument repairs, travel for auditions or competitions. George Eastman Circle support ensures we can respond the moment help is needed.
- Eastman Community Music School (ECMS) enriches cultural life in the Rochester region by offering music instruction and performance opportunities for all ages. Annual fund support sustains key programs like Eastman Pathways, which provides scholarships to Rochester City School students in grades 4–12. These scholarships offer access to private lessons, ensembles, theory and history classes, and performances—tailored to each student’s goals. Since 2001, 96% of Pathways graduates (210 students) have pursued higher education. Today, the program supports about 60 students annually.



## HAJIM SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & APPLIED SCIENCES

**\$53,683**

- George Eastman Circle support fuels research and innovation across the Hajim School— attracting top students and faculty, advancing technology access, and driving hands-on discovery. These gifts strengthen our capacity to address complex challenges and push the boundaries of engineering and applied sciences knowledge.
- Experiential learning is central to a Hajim education. With donor support, students participate in career-aligned internships, pursue meaningful summer research, and study engineering in global contexts. These experiences help students apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings and prepare them to lead in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.
- Scholarship funding remains one of the most powerful ways George Eastman Circle members make a difference. Member generosity helps ensure that talented students - regardless of financial background- can access the full range of opportunities the Hajim School offers. These scholarships not only reduce financial barriers but also give students the freedom to focus on academics, explore research, and engage fully in campus life.



## RIVER CAMPUS LIBRARIES

**\$327,059**

- The River Campus Library Excellence Fund fuels priorities defined by our Dean—enabling experiential learning, strengthening infrastructure, and expanding digital access for students, faculty, and researchers.
- George Eastman Circle member generosity helps the library acquire rare and unique collections that enhance curricula, inspire exhibits, and foster collaborations with cultural institutions—deepening scholarship and creativity.
- Annual fund donors help support innovative programs like the Digital Scholarship and Innovation Studio and the iZone, where students develop critical skills in digital tools, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship. Access to Special Collections offers hands-on archival research and preservation experience.
- Through internships, fellowships, workshops, and community projects, students gain practical skills in data analysis, digital media, and communication—preparing them for success. Consultations, exhibitions, and training further promote innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration.



## SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

**\$3.9M**

- George Eastman Circle members helped defray costs for students and assisted undergraduate and graduate students through scholarships as well as other forms of student and financial aid.
- Twenty-two students received George Eastman Circle scholarships, helping the School attract top talent from across varied life experiences and circumstances. These scholarships reduce student debt and strengthen our ongoing commitment to access, enrichment, and educational opportunity.
- Member support helped to ensure research innovation grants were available that created opportunities for our undergraduate students across all spectrums of study. Be it in the lab, at the medical center, in the community or through virtual means, the ability for our undergraduates to research side by side with the faculty and their peers provided an experience that is uniquely Rochester.



## STUDENT LIFE AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

*All dollars pledged are included in the School of Arts & Sciences totals.*

- Students in the Class of 2028 hail from 33 countries and 42 U.S. states, including Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. Notably, 21% of these students are the first in their families to attend college—many supported through financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- Generous contributions from the George Eastman Circle enabled the University's Basic Needs Hub to fulfill 529 student requests for essential support, including food, living expenses, utilities, academic tools, and more.
- The Food Pantry received more than 2,300 student visits during the past academic year, including 782 undergraduate students from the School of Arts & Sciences.
- Thanks to donor support, 94% of students participated in at least one form of experiential learning—including internships, research, community-engaged learning, and education abroad. Among the Class of 2024, 60% completed an internship and 26% engaged in research. Additionally, 90% of students participated in one or more of the University's 285 student organizations.



## SIMON BUSINESS SCHOOL

**\$672,002**

- Scholarship support remained a vital component of Simon Business School's admissions strategy amid a persistently competitive MBA landscape. In the 2024–25 academic year, more than 90% of Full-Time MBA students received scholarship assistance, including eleven George Eastman Circle Scholarships.
- As the first STEM-designated MBA program in the country—regardless of a student's specialization—Simon was ranked No. 28 among the Best U.S. Business Schools by *Bloomberg Businessweek* for 2024–25, and No. 2 for return on investment (ROI). LinkedIn also recognized Simon as a Top Business School for Career Growth, placing it at No. 22 nationally. Among job-seeking graduates, 91% accepted employment within three months of graduation.
- In a business world where success is increasingly driven by economics and data analytics, Simon prepares students to lead through a rigorous, quantitatively focused curriculum. This impact is made possible in part through the continued generosity of donors.



## WARNER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**\$284,107**

- Warner launched Research Days: This inaugural event showcased Warner's commitment to integrating high-quality, relevant research into teaching and practice. Faculty and students explored topics ranging from food insecurity to the use of augmented reality in medical education—reflecting a vibrant research culture that informs the preparation of educators and researchers alike.
- To expand the reach of Warner's nationally respected doctoral programs, a fully online EdD option in K-12 School Leadership now offers educators greater flexibility to develop research-based leadership skills. This innovation builds on Warner's experience transforming schools through partnerships like the Education Partnership Organization with East High.
- With George Eastman Circle support to the Higher Education Support Fund, Warner increased professional development opportunities for students in higher education leadership programs. This included funding to attend international conferences, such as one on socially accountable medical education.



## MEMORIAL ART GALLERY

**\$407,005**

- The Memorial Art Gallery welcomed 163,190 visitors this year, including more than 12,453 schoolchildren who participated in free school tours of the museum.
- Two major Docent Gallery exhibitions were presented: Drawing as Discovery: 500 Years of Drawings and Watercolors from MAG's Collection and Composing Color: Paintings by Alma Thomas.
- Through the MAG–RCSD Expanded Learning Collaboration (ELC), the Gallery served 500 students in grades 2–4 from five Rochester City School District (RCSD) schools, as well as kindergarten students from RCSD.



## EASTMAN INSTITUTE FOR ORAL HEALTH

**\$97,587**

- Charitable giving has enabled Eastman Institute for Oral Health (EIOH) to conduct vital research aimed at understanding and preventing early childhood tooth decay. Current studies include evaluating whether the antiseptic 10% povidone iodine can help prevent cavities and exploring the oral microbiome in early infancy. EIOH is also advancing maternal and child oral health through innovative technologies, including a smartphone app that detects early signs of tooth decay in photos.
- Recognized globally for its advanced dental education, EIOH stands out for specialized training in treating patients with special needs and complex medical conditions. Residents and trainees apply their skills in EIOH's specialty care clinic, serving the greater Rochester area and surrounding communities.
- EIOH provided care to more than 190,000 patients, over 40% of whom have complex conditions that cannot be treated elsewhere. We are the region's only medical center offering operating room services for pediatric dental patients with special healthcare needs, delivering life-changing care to those most vulnerable.



## GOLISANO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

**\$661,288**

- In 2025, Golisano Children's Hospital (GCH) celebrated 10 years of hope and healing in its dedicated hospital tower. Since the 2015 expansion, more than 10,000 critically ill children have received care in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, over 12,000 newborns have been treated in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and surgeons have performed more than 30,000 operations—all made possible by generous community support.
- This year, donor support enabled GCH to open a new pediatric Interventional Radiology Suite—designed specifically for children—that supports minimally invasive procedures using X-ray, CT, ultrasound, and other imaging technologies, providing faster, safer care and shorter recovery times.
- GCH also marked five years of youth mental health care at the Golisano Behavioral Health and Wellness Center. The center averages more than 100 new referrals per week and has helped reduce the number of children visiting emergency rooms for psychiatric concerns locally, even as such visits continue to rise nationally.



## HIGHLAND HOSPITAL

**\$125,914**

- Thanks to donor support, Highland Hospital partnered with musicians from the Eastman Performing Arts Medicine Center to provide live music in the hospital lobby—offering comfort and relaxation for patients and visitors.
- Charitable contributions also helped meet essential needs for underserved patients. Donations covered the cost of medications, personal care items, and even infant car seats for families lacking safe transportation for their newborns. Additionally, donor support helped fund transportation to and from medical appointments, ensuring continued access to care.
- Educational experiences for Highland's patient care providers were made possible through philanthropy, allowing them to attend conferences and pursue professional training to enhance their skills, improve care quality, and advance their careers.

## PRESIDENT'S STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES FUND

**\$267,743**



## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

**\$1.41M**

- Eight George Eastman Circle Scholarships helped the school attract the nation's best and brightest medical and graduate students from a wide range of backgrounds, reducing student debt and furthering our commitment to access and opportunity for our students.
- Funding for research supported more than 3,000 faculty and staff dedicated to innovative scientific research in programs of excellence—from RNA biology and immunology to cancer and the neurosciences. Nearly 500 graduate students and over 100 postdoctoral appointees are in training to become the basic, translational, and clinical investigators of the future.
- Charitable giving supported the school's innovative medical curriculum, helping 96 MD and 8 MD/PhD students, as well as more than 900 trainees in accredited residency and fellowship programs, develop their practice in collaborative and compassionate medical care.



## SCHOOL OF NURSING

**\$108,407**

- Philanthropic support expanded access to a University of Rochester nursing education through vital scholarships for aspiring and practicing nurses. These students are prepared to build meaningful careers, meet workforce needs, and improve health in their communities and beyond.
- Donor investment fueled faculty and student research with real-world impact—from advancing healthy aging and resilience to developing AI that improves heart attack detection in emergency departments. This support helped accelerate discoveries that address health inequities and elevate patient care.
- Rigorous preparation and mentorship, made possible by donor-funded resources, including innovative technology and hands-on learning spaces, have helped ensure that our students are skilled and adaptable, ready to lead and shape care across a wide range of healthcare settings.



## STRONG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

**\$251,635**

- The URM Food Pantry continued to provide emergency food assistance to patients in need through a partnership with Foodlink. The Food Pantry expanded to an additional site and now provides food to over 500 individuals each month.
- Charitable giving helped support interpreter services to improve healthcare access. The program oversees a team of 70 interpreters, providing spoken language, American Sign Language (ASL), or remote services that offer real-time translation in 41 languages through video and more than 240 languages over audio, minimizing the potential for language barriers to impede patient care.
- Strong Memorial Hospital is undergoing a major expansion to meet the needs of a growing region—tripling the size of the Emergency Department, expanding the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program, and adding space for cardiovascular services and inpatient rooms. When complete, the updated hospital will be one of the largest in the country, with 940 beds and an additional 650,000 square feet of space.



## THOMPSON HEALTH

**\$140,044**

- Donor generosity helped fund college scholarships for individuals pursuing healthcare-related studies. These scholarships ensure that compassionate, skilled caregivers—whether nurses, technicians, or other health professionals—can advance their education without being held back by financial barriers.
- The Healthcare Education Fund remains a top priority—made possible through the continued support of our generous community. This fund provides stipends to entry-level associates who are returning to school to grow their skills and advance their careers. By helping offset lost wages, childcare expenses, and transportation costs, these stipends serve as a crucial safety net—empowering associates to attend school full-time while working part-time. Contributions to this fund help foster a stronger, more skilled healthcare workforce.
- This year, our donors raised nearly \$1 million to support a new 12-unit Memory Care Neighborhood at Clark Meadows, enhancing dementia care while allowing residents to remain in a familiar home.



## UR MEDICINE HOME CARE

**\$62,846**

- With support from George Eastman Circle members and other generous donors, Meals On Wheels delivered more than 260,000 nutritious meals to homebound individuals across Monroe County—each one brought by dedicated volunteers.
- UR Medicine Home Care provided over 132,000 home health visits last year to patients throughout the Rochester and Finger Lakes regions. These visits included services such as nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, health aide support, and social work. The pediatric team alone made 6,800 visits to children in need of in-home care.
- The hospice team delivered compassionate, high-quality support to 1,685 patients and their families during the final stages of life. In addition, bereavement counselors collaborated with local partners to host Camp Heartstrings—a summer program that helps children cope with the loss of a loved one by fostering healing, understanding, and acceptance.



## WILMOT CANCER INSTITUTE

**\$499,457**

- Donor support funded Wilmot's Team Science Pilot Program to jumpstart research projects. This year's recipient, a team led by Jeevisha Bajaj, PhD, is bringing scientists closer to finding new ways to target leukemia, which is one of the most aggressive blood cancers.
- Thanks to supporters, Wilmot was able to hire new team members and increase our pilot grants which allowed our researchers to publish their work—all leading to acquiring the National Cancer Institute's accreditation which designates Wilmot as one of the country's most elite cancer centers.
- Annual funds supported Wilmot's recent recruitment of new faculty who bring a bold vision for the future, including leading Rochester breast cancer surgeon Lori Medeiros, MD, as well as Susan F. Dent, BSc, MD, who will lead our new cardio-oncology clinic. This means even more brilliant minds are available to solve complex cases in our region.

**HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION  
\$41,725**

## 2024-2025

### George Eastman Circle Volunteer Council

Thank you to all those who volunteer on behalf of the George Eastman Circle, the University's premier leadership annual giving society.

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 Courtney E. Astemborski '14, '15 (MS)  
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 Nila S. Bragg '88  
 Robert Castellano '14S (MBA)  
 Daniel J. Cohn '12  
 Claire E. Crowther '13  
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 Dr. Edward J. Fox '91, '95M (MD)  
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 Carol Lustenader '82S (MBA)

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 Di Wu '94, '95 (MS)  
 Vivian Wu '23  
 Mark S. Zaid '89



## Join us

The work being done at the University of Rochester and Medical Center will have an impact on the world for generations to come. Your George Eastman Circle membership, which provides critical annual support to any funds you wish, will enhance the University's ability to transform lives and make a profound impact on society.

## Categories of membership

Membership is granted to those who make a five-year pledge at one of the following levels annually:

**MEMBERS \$1,500–\$4,999**

**FELLOWS \$5,000–\$9,999**

**SCHOLARSHIP \$5,000+**

**BENEFACTORS \$10,000–\$24,999**

**PATRONS \$25,000–\$49,999**

**FOUNDERS \$50,000+**

**ASSOCIATES \$800–\$1,499**

Open to undergraduates who have graduated in the past 10 years, and graduate degree alumni in the past 5 years.

Visit [GeorgeEastmanCircle.com](https://GeorgeEastmanCircle.com) for more information, and to learn about all of our Circle leadership.





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