

1. Why is Giving Back so Important to Hamilton?

Giving back is a defining characteristic of who we are as members of the Hamilton family. We contribute time, talent and treasure to the institutions and causes we believe in most deeply. For many of us, Hamilton is central among our priorities. We give to the College to support curious, motivated students and the professors who teach them. We give to provide a rich variety of experiences to students inside and outside the classroom. We give to ensure that Hamilton's doors are always open to the most deserving young people, regardless of their economic circumstances.

Hamiltonians have supported students on College Hill for generations. In a tangible way, Annual Fund gifts repay the generosity of those who came before us and make a powerfully symbolic statement about our commitment to the liberal arts. Our nearly 200-year tradition of giving back links generations of Hamiltonians in a cycle of philanthropy that honors Hamilton's past, sustains core traditions and advances the mission of the College. Simply said, **it's who we are.**

Recent economic challenges underscore how important annual gifts are to Hamilton's continued success. Through the unrestricted support of alumni, parents and friends, the College is able to provide the best liberal arts education possible. As a volunteer you play a vital role for Hamilton. Every new and renewed gift you solicit moves us toward this year's Annual Fund goal of \$6 million and 53 percent participation.

Thank you for helping our College continue its tradition of excellence by encouraging those you contact to give as generously as they can to the 2009-10 Annual Fund.