

Guardians of Our Legacy

The Guardians of Our Legacy are a group of loyal and generous alumni who have taken it upon themselves to champion the support of their alma mater, Meharry Medical College. Guardians are members of the Royal Society, a donor group established to recognize those who have given \$100,000 or more. The Royal Society is named in honor of Dr. Frank S. Royal, Sr., the first alumnus and African American to chair the Meharry Board of Trustees and one of the first to contribute \$100,000 to the College.

These exceptional benefactors have provided substantial sums of money and time, often at great sacrifice, to ensure the stability and progress of the nation's largest, independent, private historically black academic health science center.

They project the essence of what it means to be a "Meharrian" – lifelong achievement, leadership, love of humankind, the unwavering call to give back, commitment to family and a deep sense of pride.

We encourage *all* alumni to consider becoming Guardians. If you believe as strongly as these individuals in the urgency of our mission and the need to protect Meharry's unique legacy, then consider becoming a Guardian by joining the Royal Society. If you cannot join the Royal Society, please know that your participation in giving at any level is vital and deeply appreciated.

Annual Giving (*The Vision Fund*)

During the last capital campaign (1997-2004) Meharry chose to title its annual giving program *The Vision Fund*. Each year, Meharry depends on the steadfast and loyal support of alumni, friends, corporate, and foundation donors to help finance the fundamental academic and administrative operations of the College.

Of particular importance are those dollars that are donated free of restrictions on how they are spent. These monies are critical to finance the College's operations, because of the flexibility they permit to target special needs, student aid, and unforeseen opportunities.

It is important that the amount of unrestricted financial resources continue to grow the College's annual giving program. Unlike endowment, which generates funds according to a strict spending formula, the full value of annual unrestricted gifts is immediately available for use where it is most needed. The annual fund helps bridge the gap between tuition and the true costs of health professions education,

Contributors who provide substantial annual gifts are recognized through Meharry's specially designated donor circles and clubs, and are acknowledged in the College's Honor Roll of Donors. [Click here to make an online gift](#)