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Dayton Foundation Grant to Support UD Outreach

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DAYTON, Ohio, May 24, 1985 -- A $27,000 gift of The Dayton Foundation to the Campaign for the University of Dayton and an additional $54,000 contribution from a University trustee will help to strengthen UD's service and commitment to the Dayton community. With over 50 diverse community programs and projects, UD students and staff annually volunteer thousands of hours of service to the Miami Valley.

The University of Dayton Urban Program Endowment Fund was announced today by UD President Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M., and Dayton Foundation Director Frederick Bartenstein III. "UD is known for its urban outreach efforts," says Bartenstein. "That is why we (The Dayton Foundation) want to contribute to the growth and continuation of these efforts."

The Dayton Foundation grant is from the Wallace and Florence B. Stauffer Fund. It has been initially designated to the Urban Fellowship Program by UD, but can be used by the University toward any Dayton community outreach effort.

"One of the five objectives of our $38 million campaign is 'to extend the outreach of the University to the local community,'" noted Fitz. "Such gifts enable us to be a private enterprise which serves public interests. The extent of our community roles continues to distinguish us from most private universities. UD is very involved in Dayton, and we want to be more involved."

For the past four years the University of Dayton Urban Fellowship Program has provided selected City of Dayton employees with access to University facilities and staff to conduct research. The City of Dayton has reciprocated by placing selected University faculty members with City agencies or departments relevant to their research interests. UD has underwritten the costs of the Urban Fellowship Program.

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Eight City of Dayton employees and six UD faculty members have been named Urban Fellows to date. Usually four individuals (two from the City and two from the University) are chosen each year for terms of four to six months.

In January, the Urban Fellowship Program expanded to include representatives of Dayton's neighborhood organizations. This expansion is known as the Neighborhood Fellowship Program.

Two City of Dayton employees appointed as Urban Fellows began their work on research projects in January. J. Jeffrey Payne, senior planner, is researching the use of the computer as a land data tool and the possibility of setting up a land data resources bank to market potential development sites. Forrest K. Betche, financial analysis supervisor, is researching the process necessary to convert the City's record of transactions to a new form based on generally accepted accounting principles. Both research projects are currently in progress.

Beginning in September, Theo Majka, Ph.D., of UD's Department of Sociology and Anthropology will survey one or two Dayton neighborhoods to study their cohesiveness and community. He will do this as an Urban Fellow.

"One of the interesting things about the program is that there are always two different perspectives involved," says Patrick Palermo, Ph.D., director of the Urban Fellowship Program. "The City is always nitty-gritty nuts and bolts: 'We've got a job to do, and we want it done.' As for the University, he continues, "There must be an educational component -- a development of that person professionally -- but one that isn't always tied to immediate applications."

Dean Lovelace of the University's SRD program manages the Neighborhood Fellowship Program. The first Neighborhood Fellows are Angie Popovich, community advisor for the Northwest Priority Board, and Corrie Watts, coordinator for the Community Help Center, Incorporated. The two plan to research various neighborhood issues, including management skills for neighborhoods, accounting, and the identification of funding sources for neighborhood based groups.

Interested persons must submit study proposals to a three-person committee. Those selected as Fellows in either program must agree to commit substantial amounts of time to their projects.

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Brother Fitz considers the gifts and the programs to be "good for UD and Dayton. We consider the programs important in improving the ability of key people in the community to respond to the challenges of making Dayton one of the most vital and thriving cities in our country."

The Dayton Foundation and a trustee donor obviously agree. For further information, contact:

Richard T. Ferguson  
University Communications  
(513) 229-3241

Patrick Palermo  
Urban Fellowship Program  
(513) 229-4615

Frederick Bartenstein III  
The Dayton Foundation  
(513) 222-0410

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