



## **2024-2025 Butler Giving Circle FAQs**

### **What is the Butler Giving Circle?**

The Butler Giving Circle is a community of alumni donors dedicated to supporting two mission-critical elements of Butler University's Butler Beyond comprehensive fundraising campaign: Student Access & Success and Community Partnerships. Joining the Butler Giving Circle as a shareholder is an innovative way for donors to maximize their collective philanthropic impact and make valuable connections within the Butler community.

### **How do I join the Butler Giving Circle?**

Through an annual gift of at least \$500 to the Giving Circle Fund, any Butler graduate, parent or friend can become a shareholder and voting member in the Butler Giving Circle. The deadline to join the Butler Giving Circle and vote for the 2025 community grant recipient is May 31, 2025.

### **Both my partner/spouse and I are Butler alumni. Can we give more than \$500?**

Yes! For a \$1,000 charitable contribution to the Giving Circle Fund, partners/spouses can each become shareholders and voting members. Each Butler graduate is entitled to one vote only.

- \$500 = 1 Share/1 Vote
- \$1,000 = 2 Shares/2 Votes (1 per partner/spouse)

### **How is Butler Giving Circle shareholder funding distributed?**

Annual contributions from shareholders are pooled and distributed as follows:

- 40% to the Butler Fund for Student Scholarship, ensuring long-term sustainability of Butler's financial aid program
- 40% to the Butler Giving Circle community grant recipient, informed by annual shareholder vote
- 20% to Butler Giving Circle's priority partner



## **Do I have to live in Indianapolis to join the Butler Giving Circle?**

No! The benefit of being a Butler Giving Circle shareholder, regardless of location, is the opportunity to maximize the collective impact of the Butler community. Support for the Butler Giving Circle inspires students and faculty to imagine new ways of broadening Butler's community partnerships, while providing much needed scholarship funding to students in the process.

## **Can shareholders vote remotely?**

Shareholders must attend the Annual Shareholder Meeting in June (either in-person or via a remote option) to cast votes. Proxy votes are not permitted.

## **What opportunities exist outside of voting?**

As a Shareholder, you can look forward to opportunities to engage with students, alumni, Butler leaders, and community partners throughout the year, and will receive regular updates on student-driven project(s) funded by the Giving Circle community grant.

## **How are Butler Giving Circle community grant finalists selected?**

Current Butler students, faculty, and staff engaged with Indianapolis community partnerships may submit project ideas that aim to make a meaningful impact in the organization and in the community. After an initial review of project proposals by Butler University Advancement and the Butler Giving Circle Executive Committee, Butler Giving Circle shareholders will have the opportunity to recommend final recipient(s) by vote at the Butler Giving Circle annual meeting in June 2025.

Applications for the 2025 Butler Giving Circle community grant cycle will be accepted during the 2025 spring semester.

## **How many grants has the Butler Giving Circle awarded?**

Since its inception in 2019, the Butler Giving Circle has completed five cycles of grant funding:

In July of 2020, the first annual Butler Giving Circle community grant was awarded to the Desmond Tutu Peace Lab at Butler University to support local nonviolence training workshops in partnership with the Martin Luther King Community Center.



In June of 2021, Shareholders voted to award grant funding to the Butler University College of Education, in support of their proposal *Mentoring toward Social Justice and Equity in our Schools and Communities*. Funding will be used to develop a mentoring program in which experienced teachers of color from the Partnership for Inquiry Learning's Leadership Group will mentor small groups of COE students in inclusive, culturally responsive, anti-racist teaching.

In June of 2022, Shareholders voted to award grant funding in the full requested amount to the Hub for Black Affairs and Community Engagement in support of their proposal *Empowering Young Black Voices – MLK Day Oratorical Contest*. Funding will be used to establish the annual MLK Oratorical Project in partnership with Indianapolis Public Schools. Additionally, each of this year's three remaining BGC grant finalists was awarded \$3,437 from the BGC's annual pool of funds as seed money toward their proposals.

In June of 2023, Shareholders voted to award grant funding to the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Pharmacy Practice Department in support of their proposal Butler University Community Outreach Pharmacy Educational Enhancement Project. Funding will be used to purchase a pill counter which will allow the pharmacy to fill medications faster and allow students to spend more time with patients. Funds will also purchase educational supplies and pharmacy room enhancements to help educate patients at the appropriate level and allow staff to better communicate amongst one another. We were also able to award \$3,657 to each of the three runners-up.

In June of 2024, Shareholders voted to award grant funding to the College of Education in support of their proposal Fishers High School Future Black Leaders. Funding will be used to support its 7th Annual Black Student Leadership Summit on Butler's campus in 2025. The student-led Summit brings middle and high school students from surrounding communities and their teachers together with Butler students, FBL alumni from other universities, and Butler faculty and staff to connect and learn from one another.

### **Why does the grant recipient have to have an existing partnership with Butler University?**

Butler University is a 501(c)(3) organization and is not legally allowed to take tax-deductible donations from individuals and direct them to another not-for-profit organization. Grant funds are transferred to and spent by the Butler entity listed on the grant application and cannot be granted to the community partner organization directly. The requesting Butler entity must use funding to support a community impact project in partnership with an Indianapolis organization.



### **Is my gift tax deductible?**

Charitable gifts made by individuals and entities to Butler University are eligible for deduction under the direction of federal tax laws.

### **Does my \$500 shareholder contribution count toward other Butler Giving Societies?**

Yes! Your \$500 gift counts toward your President's Club annual gift and also toward your cumulative cash giving for Carillon Society.

### **How do I make my gift?**

Online via credit card: <https://www.butler.edu/givingcircle>

Phone: Call Sarah Smith, Associate Director of Butler Community Engagement, at 317-940-6467 to make your gift by phone.

Mail: Make your check to *Butler University Giving Circle Fund* and mail to:

Butler University  
University Advancement  
4600 Sunset Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

### **Have additional questions about the Butler Giving Circle?**

Contact **Sarah Smith, Associate Director of Butler Community Engagement**, at [sksmith3@butler.edu](mailto:sksmith3@butler.edu) or 317-940-6467.