

OpenDoor

Issue 18

The magazine for supporters and friends of The Open University

It's going
to help me
So much

You've gone
above and
beyond
So thank you

I feel much
better after
reaching out

I am
absolutely
delighted,
overwhelmed
and humbled

THIS WILL
HELP ME
MORE THAN
YOU CAN
EVER IMAGINE

This will
make a
huge difference
to me

Thank you
so much for
your help!
😊

I AM
VERY
GRATEFUL!

I'm so
pleased
I have help

YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

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On the cover, recipients of the Open Futures Fund share their messages of gratitude for the support of the OU family.

Thank you for making a difference to thousands of lives

Welcome to your latest edition of Open Door. Despite ongoing challenges, The Open University's alumni and supporter community has come together, time and time again over the last year, to help keep education open to all. When times are tough, you are beacons of hope for current and future OU students.

Your support enables the University to continue its vital work, improving the life chances of students, their families and communities.

There is plenty to thank you for and so many individuals whose lives you have helped to change in the past few months alone. This issue of Open Door is all about the people and projects you are supporting – told from their unique perspectives.

In the magazine you will hear from some of our carer and disabled veteran students who have received scholarships due to your support. Their stories are inspirational and their futures brighter as a direct result of your generosity. You will also learn about the University's range of grants and bursaries, including Student Assistance which is helping thousands of students to cope with the ongoing effects of the pandemic. For every story you read, there are many, many students out there who are all united with the same ambition to learn and transform their lives.

I do hope you enjoy reading about the impact of your support throughout these pages and the many exciting initiatives which the University is launching to continue transforming futures.

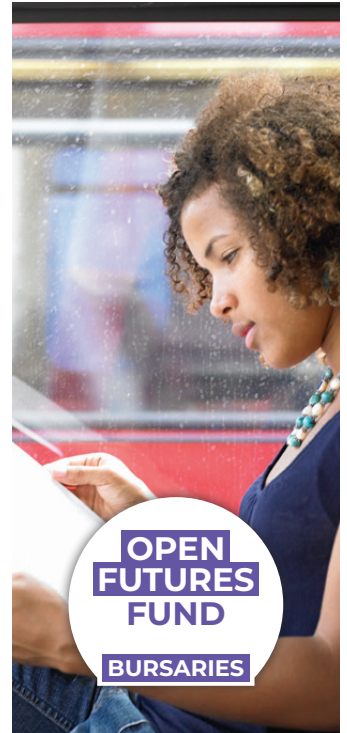
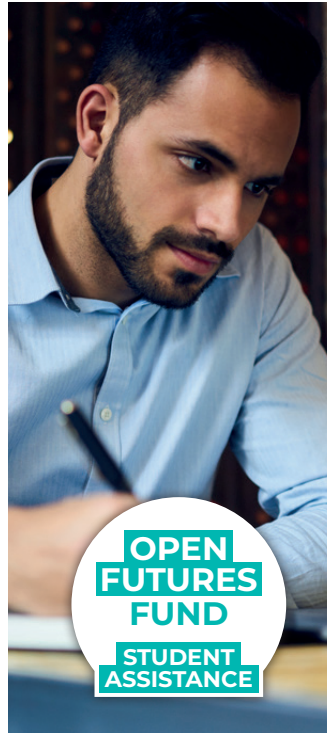
Your generosity is so valued, especially during the past year, and you have provided support when things have felt desperate for so many. Thank you so much.

Karen Hart

Karen Hart
Deputy Director
of Development



Rewriting futures one student at a time



Over the past 12 months, your gifts have helped the University to provide thousands of bursaries and scholarships through the Open Futures Fund. By the time you read this, that number will have grown even more. At the OU, we believe that where you start in life shouldn't limit where you go, and the Open Futures Fund is truly at the heart of our social justice mission. The Fund is in place to help provide life-changing opportunities for students who would otherwise miss out on education and the chance to rewrite their futures.

The Fund includes our Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund, Carers Scholarships Fund, plus Student Financial Assistance and a range of bursaries. Through your generosity, the Open Futures Fund has supported students facing desperate times due to the pandemic and provided more life-changing scholarships to disadvantaged students who believed education would always be out of their reach.

We are hugely grateful for the way you continue to help us break down the barriers to education. There are so many people who are now looking forward to very different futures – but there are also many more current and future students in need of help. That's where your support of the Open Futures Fund can make all the difference.

**Over the following pages
you can read about lives
you are helping to change**

Be part of the next chapter

You have already played such an important part in the OU story and we would love the opportunity to recognise your ongoing support in a very special way. Throughout 2021, if you make a donation to the Open Futures Fund for scholarships and bursaries you will have the opportunity to add your name and messages to a specially crafted 'Open Futures' book. Not only will you be helping to shape the lives of current and future OU students through your gift, you will be taking your place in the OU's historic archives. A copy of the book will also be displayed at the University campus in Milton Keynes and online for present and future alumni, students and visitors to be inspired by.

Thank you to all the hundreds of alumni who have already donated this year and shared their messages for the book.

If you haven't already, you can be part of this exciting piece of OU history by donating online at

www.open.ac.uk/donate



Caring for those who care for others



Every single day another 6,000 people¹ in the UK take on caring commitments. The day-to-day life of an unpaid carer is incredibly challenging and often, carers will put the needs and wellbeing of their loved ones above their own. By giving so selflessly to others, unpaid carers are often forced into unemployment or have to give up on their dreams of higher education.

We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to change their lives through the power of education.

We are immensely grateful that so many of you share these values and continue to support the OU's Open Futures Fund, which includes the Carers Scholarships Fund. Thanks to our incredible OU community and support from corporate partners such as CareTech Foundation, Hallmark Foundation and Merck KGaA, 50 carers have received scholarships and began studying with us from October 2020. We cannot thank you enough for your collective support. Read about Claire and Dawn to find out the difference your support can make.

'I want to show my children that anything is possible'

"My name is Claire and I began studying for an OU degree in 2020. My daughter was born with a disability, which meant I had to stop working and ultimately devote everything to being a mum, a physio and supporting her every need.

She has undergone major surgery and spent months at a time in hospital, but despite the doctor's diagnosis that she would never walk, eat or drink properly again, she's defied all odds. I have two other children that I have to be there for too, and although they are older, they need just as much support but in different ways.

When my daughter got older, I started to think about returning to work. Due to her needs, it's really difficult to commit to a role due to all the time I need off to help care for her. Thankfully, I was able to find a flexible role at a charity that supports children with disabilities. I began working with children that were excluded from school and who were displaying distressed behaviours. I was able to really connect with these children and build up their confidence to try and get them back into school. However, I still wasn't quite able to fully understand why their behaviours were happening as I didn't have that academic background and knowledge.

After completing a course and becoming a Thrive practitioner, I began to better understand where these children were coming from and this really opened up my world. I thought 'if I can do this, I can keep learning' and I applied for the OU's Carers Scholarships Fund. I began studying in October 2020 and hope to use this



qualification towards my dream of becoming a child psychologist.

The scholarship has given me the opportunity to be proud of myself for being able to achieve something, and it's given me the opportunity to support children in really challenging times. The more knowledge I gain, the more people I can support, including in my own home. The more I can be there for my daughter when she goes through challenging times, the better.

Completing this qualification will put my family in a better position financially and will make my children see that they should never doubt what can be achieved regardless of what we have to deal with on a day to day basis. I need to be a role model to my children. Unfortunately, my daughter has got lots of labels under her name due to her disability, but that will never define who she is.

Though I have found my studies challenging, I know the more I challenge myself the better I will be. The impact of this scholarship is absolutely amazing because it's allowing me to find myself again, but also by doing that, it supports my family and my children in so many ways which is absolutely fantastic."

DAWN'S STORY

'The outcome of your support will change my life forever'

"My name is Dawn* and I am a full-time unpaid carer currently studying English Literature with The Open University. When I realised my application to the Carers Scholarships Fund had been accepted, I burst into tears. I wanted to let you know about my journey so far and why a scholarship means the world to me.

I started university at 18 years old with dreams of becoming a teacher but left when my mum's health deteriorated. She was suffering untreated PTSD and anxiety following domestic abuse and began heavily drinking as a way to cope. The next few years were difficult, but I was determined to do everything I could to make sure mum received the care and the love she deserves.

Since April 2019, I have been her full-time unpaid carer and look after her 24 hours a day, seven days a week with intermittent respite. Due to the alcohol-related brain damage, mum shows similar symptoms to dementia, she can also be verbally and physically abusive, which makes getting appropriate respite care very difficult.

Despite all this, since I have been at home caring for her, she has put on weight and I have managed to get her medicines adjusted so she has more control of her emotions, this means that we have more good days than bad. Sometimes there are 'flashes' when the fog of my mum's illness will clear, and we get to enjoy moments together like we used to. Sadly, I know these special moments will get fewer as time goes on, so I just cling to them when they happen. The amount of love that I have for my mum and the unbreakable bond we shared before she got sick is what gets me through even the hardest times.

Over the past 10 years, I have given up so much (my degree, two jobs, security) to look after my mum and though it has been hard, I would always put her first as she means everything to me. Before my mum fell ill, she worked so hard at her job to give me the chance to go to university. I would be the first person in my family to get a degree with this scholarship and I am doing this for my mum as well as for myself. My mum has a picture frame ready for the iconic photo of me in cap and gown on graduation, but it still lies empty which makes me sad.

Thank you to our Carers Scholarships Fund supporters

- CareTech Foundation
 - Hallmark Foundation
 - Merck KGaA
 - Santander UK
 - The Bronwen and Brian Mills Charitable Trust
 - The Irving Memorial Trust
- And over 7,000 alumni, friends and OU supporters

A Carers Scholarship allows me to believe that I might be able to pursue the dreams we lost due to my mum's illness and have the professional career that she always imagined for me. I just want to give her that graduation photo as I know it will make her proud.

Caring for a loved one means it's very easy to stop being yourself. Thanks to this chance I feel alive, reborn, like I am back in control of my life and I am going to succeed. This scholarship has given me the hope that I will one day be the wonderful English schoolteacher that I dreamt of being.

I am so glad I found the courage to apply for the Carers Scholarships Fund. Thank you ever so much for making this scholarship possible. Your support has given me and my mum something to look forward to again. The journey will give me a great adventure that I never thought I would be lucky enough to have. The outcome of your support will change my life for the better, forever. If you are reading this, I am giving you the biggest hug and I promise you that I will finish my degree with a smile on my face."

(*We have changed Dawn's real name to protect her privacy.)



You have the power to change more lives

Since launching the Carers Scholarships Fund, more carers have applied to study with us than we have scholarship places for. With your help, we hope to make more scholarship places available for carers in 2021/22 so that carers like Claire and Dawn do not miss out on the opportunity to pursue their dreams of education.



Support more carers today

www.open.ac.uk/donate

The cost of caring

There are an estimated
8.8 million
carers in the UK

3 in 5
people will be carers
at some point in their
lives

1.2 million
carers live in poverty

8 out of 10
carers feel lonely or
isolated

¹ Source: Carers UK, 2019

Giving back to heroes



**OPEN
FUTURES
FUND**

**DISABLED VETERANS'
SCHOLARSHIPS**

When veterans are injured or disabled during or due to service, adapting to civilian life can feel like an impossible feat. We believe that these brave servicemen and women deserve the support and the opportunity to rewrite their futures. Thanks to your ongoing support of the Open Futures Fund, which includes the Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund (DVSF), 160 disabled veterans have received scholarships to study through the OU. Studying offers a way for these military heroes to retrain, to gain new skills and to take their first steps towards new dreams.

KATE'S STORY

'You've given me control of my life again'

"My name is Kate and I am currently studying through the Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund. In 2016, I was medically discharged from the Army and faced with the reality that neither of my former professions were viable options due to my mental health. My psychiatrist warned me not to expose myself to any more trauma in my life. I had spent the last eight years working as a nurse and prior to that, working as a police officer. I had built my life around helping other people. So after leaving the military I felt lost and I just didn't know what to do next. I didn't feel confident in myself or in all aspects of my life really.

I didn't think I would ever have a job again that gave me the same sense of achievement as being a nurse did. So when I saw the advertisements for the OU's Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund, I thought 'this is the plan!' I applied and was very, very grateful to be accepted. I originally began studying Law in my first year but have now switched to an Open Degree. I am really enjoying Arts and Humanities this year. Inspired by this and my current role at a primary school, my plan is to look into teacher training once I've completed my degree.

Studying has been massive in helping me to regain my confidence and to feel like I've got control of my life again. Because when I was medically discharged, everything about my life had changed so significantly that I didn't think I would ever be the same again. The DVSF has helped my self-esteem and my confidence. It's given me the opportunity to gain meaningful employment.

Studying during the pandemic while home-schooling and now while working has been challenging but my studies have definitely saved my sanity a little! Studying is basically a form of therapy for me. I have something to look forward to. Why think about the pandemic when I can be looking at the history of Cleopatra!

When I think back to my time as a nurse, I recall that people who have a sense of purpose, a focus, something to motivate them, generally have better outcomes. Schemes like the DVSF may not necessarily be the whole answer but it might be part of the answer for somebody and that could be the difference between a happy ending and a sad one. It's an incredible thing to do to help make somebody's life better, so if you can help support more scholarships please do.

To everyone who has made scholarships like mine possible I want to say thank you! I am eternally grateful for the opportunities that I've been afforded. To know that there are veterans out there getting support and that there are people who are willing to give towards scholarships is absolutely amazing. I'm just very grateful that this scheme exists and that there are lovely people who are willing to contribute and to change lives for people. Thank you all!"



**Kate Moth
Scholarship recipient**

OU scholarships and bursaries wouldn't be possible without the ongoing support of the OU family. Two corporate supporters of the Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund share why it's so important for businesses to give back to those who have given so much to their country:

“ When The Open University approached us about sponsoring their Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund, it was an easy decision for us to make. We are passionate about supporting our Armed Forces, those who serve, those who have served, and their families, and this lies at the very heart of our Company ethos. We are extremely proud to be part of this initiative to develop the wealth of talent and skills of our veterans and help to make a positive impact on those who have dedicated their lives to safeguard our nation.

Dr Deborah Allen
BAE Systems

”

“ Boeing is proud to support The Open University's life-changing Disabled Veterans' Scholarship Fund and contribute to the transformative effect of learning. This programme is at the heart of Boeing's community engagement efforts in the UK. Many of Boeing's UK employees are veterans or active reservists and we are proud to be holders of a Gold Award with the Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme and active supporters of the Armed Forces Covenant.

Sir Martin Donnelly
Boeing

”



'A big thanks for giving big'

"My name is Steven Wilson and you might remember me from last year's DVSF fundraising campaign. I wanted to let you know that thanks to the OU's fantastic community, £115,000 was raised in November and December, including £44,000 in one week during the Big Give. This is amazing and means even more disabled veterans will have the chance to study like I currently am.

When I left the military, I felt lost and ripped away from the life and sense of purpose I so loved. Studying through the OU has given me the chance to get a fresh start and to achieve something positive from the rest of my life. Thank you to everyone who makes this possible. You are giving others a light at the end of the tunnel and we are so grateful."

➤ **Support more veterans like Kate and Steven today**

www.open.ac.uk/donate

Supporting more students to succeed

Last year, two long-term supporters of the OU generously gifted the University £50,000 to launch 50 student bursaries as part of the Open Futures Fund. Howard and Elizabeth Brown wanted to use their gift to challenge under-representation within higher education, creating bursaries to support students from a Black, Asian and minority ethnic background. We are delighted that 50 students have now received bursaries of £1,000 which are split over their first two academic terms and can be used to support their study or other living costs.

"We are very committed to the OU's diversity and inclusion agenda," says Elizabeth. "Our experience is that Black, Asian and minority ethnic students are often under-represented in higher education. A bursary scheme seemed one good way of helping, and at the same time supporting the excellent work the OU does, especially in this field."

The OU is open to all – and that means we want to do our best to ensure that the OU reflects the whole of society. The Open Futures range of bursaries, so kindly supported by Howard and Elizabeth Brown, are part of the University's ongoing commitment to ensure that all students can fulfil their potential.

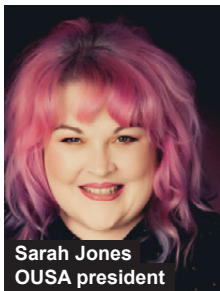


You gave students a lifeline when they needed it most



As an OU graduate, you know just how much of a challenge it can be to juggle your studies with a job and family commitments. For current OU students, the pandemic is making the balancing act even more difficult and pushing many to breaking point.

The Student Assistance Fund is in place to help students who are struggling. It is thanks to your ongoing support that we can continue to be there when our students need a helping hand. Sarah Jones, OU graduate and President of the OU Students Association, has been on the frontline of supporting students during the pandemic and shares an insight into just how much the Fund has meant to over 2,300 students in such a tough year.



Sarah Jones
OUSA president

“When I first started my OU Education degree in 2017, I never could have imagined I would finish it during a global pandemic. As a member of the graduating Class of 2020, a current postgraduate student and the President of the Students Association, I have seen just how much the pandemic has affected students across our

University. The resilience OU students have shown is nothing short of amazing, yet many are struggling like never before. This is where the Student Assistance Fund and your ongoing support of the Open Futures Fund has been so vital in offering a lifeline to those in need.

This year has affected our students in several ways. Many are getting in touch to say that they just don't have the essentials needed to study while at home, such as access to a computer, internet or a printer. The Fund is helping students to keep studying and, in some cases, even the smallest of things can make a huge difference. For example, one student got in touch and asked for just £4.95 to help them pay for a ream of paper to print their assignment. By asking for such a small amount they hoped more students in need could also receive support.

For other students, the pandemic has seen them lose jobs and income, leaving them worried about how they will manage to pay for their household bills, rent or food. They face the heart-breaking decision of having to sell their computers or give up their studies, when in some cases, they have already spent years working towards their qualification. Thanks to you, we can be there for these students when they need us most. The number of students contacting us is incredibly high and we have already provided support for over 2,000 students and counting.

On behalf of these students, I would like to say a huge thank you. The impact of your support to these individuals and their families cannot be underestimated.

This is one of the reasons our community is just fantastic – even though many of us have never met, we all understand how life-changing education is and that's why we come together to hold one another up. You are all amazing and the OU student community is extremely grateful.”

Your support matters

2000+ students have received Student Assistance

Majority of students receive support for **food, bills and study equipment**

Students supported **in the UK and worldwide**

Students receive from **£5 to £750** depending on their needs

'The difference you've made is unreal'

Rachel* is just one of the thousands of students who has received help from the Student Assistance Fund. During the pandemic, Rachel's partner became controlling and abusive, and she felt trapped. She says her OU studies were the only respite.

By Christmas last year, Rachel bravely left her partner and began living alone. With just one income, Rachel was struggling to cover her rent and pay for bills and food. She was also shielding and worried about being forced to find new accommodation. She reached out to the OU to talk about her concerns and thanks to you, she was eligible for Student Assistance to cover her immediate bills and ensure she could buy food for herself.

Rachel says the difference this made was quite unreal. It was a massive weight off her shoulders and thanks to Student Assistance, she could concentrate on her studies and work towards something positive.

Thank you for supporting Rachel and thousands of other students through your generosity.

* We have changed this student's name to protect her privacy.

 **Help support more students struggling in the pandemic**
www.open.ac.uk/donate

Supporting the leaders of tomorrow



VICKY'S STORY



In a post-pandemic world, the leaders of tomorrow will be more important than ever in helping to rebuild businesses, organisations and our way of life. There are so many talented people working hard in their chosen field who could achieve even more if given the opportunity. Our Future Leader Fund provides scholarships for the first year of the OU's Masters of Business Administration (MBA) for individuals who have the potential but lack the means to study. By supporting the Fund, you can help future leaders develop their skills so they can create a far-reaching, lasting impact within their organisations and the wider community.

Thanks to gifts from the MBA alumni community, seven students have received support to study for an MBA through the Fund. Recent recipient Vicky Gaillard is using her skills and passion to create positive change in her workplace and beyond.

'Without my scholarship, I would never have had the chance of studying for my MBA. Thank you!'

"I feel very honoured to be the recipient of the scholarship. Like many, I would not have been able to fund studying for the MBA myself. My employer wouldn't have been able to sponsor me either. As a not-for-profit organisation, their resources are fully utilised in helping to protect England's nature and landscapes. It's truly inspiring to see how my new, more focused skills are combining with other nature conservation practitioners to help combat climate change and other key environmental challenges that our planet faces.

Thank you for this opportunity. Being the recipient of the Future Leader Fund has not only given me an opportunity to undertake a world class course but also boosted my confidence to continue to progress in my career. I have learnt so much that I am already taking and applying to my working practices and sharing within my network. This Fund provides a real boost to the not-for-profit sector and makes a vital difference to the work that they do. Thank you!"

 Will you help us to support more future leaders like Vicky?
bit.ly/supportfutureleaders

New pilot schemes to support students across Wales

The Open University in Wales is working with Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) and Gower College Swansea (GCS) on two innovative pilot projects aimed at providing young Welsh students with more opportunities to succeed.

The colleges identified areas which often prevent students from completing an undergraduate or postgraduate degree and which leave students particularly vulnerable to becoming 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET). Through the pilot, groups of HND, Foundation and Honours degree students are invited to either study their 'top up'

Honours degrees or to progress to Masters pathways with the OU. They receive monthly intervention workshops to help them progress on their learning journeys and ultimately, to improve their life chances through the transformative power of education.

Those who successfully transition to OU study will be offered a bursary of up to £250 to help them with their continued study and ensure that they do not miss out on achieving qualifications and opportunities for a brighter future. We look forward to sharing their progress.

 alumni.open.ac.uk/NEET

Combating climate change one meadow at a time

How can nature-based solutions help to combat the climate emergency? This is one of the questions The Open University's Floodplain Meadows Partnership, along with partners Long Mead Local Wildlife Site and Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, hope to investigate following a significant grant from Ecover's 'Fertilise the Future Fund'. The team beat over 700 other projects across Europe to be crowned the UK winner of the competition and will receive funding to restore 50 hectares of species-rich floodplain meadows along the River Thames and collect evidence to show their value as carbon stores.

Floodplain meadows are grasslands that provide much-needed space for flood water to spread out. Their benefits are multiple and in addition to mitigating flood risks, they improve water quality, increase carbon storage, support sustainable farming and are home to a diverse range of plant and animal life. This funding will enable the team to not only restore and protect floodplain meadows but to demonstrate how they can be used as a critical defence against climate change.

Over the past few years, the OU and its partners have conducted research into carbon sequestration. Though tree planting is widely regarded as the most effective nature-based solution, the team hope to evidence that floodplain meadows are more effective and reliable. This innovative project could then show government agencies and policymakers how essential floodplain meadows are as a long-term defence against climate change.

 **Learn more and support future floodplain meadows research**
bit.ly/floodplainsecover

Take part in the 2021 meadow art competition

Calling all artists, crafters and nature lovers – you're invited to take part in the Floodplain Meadows Arts Competition 2021 to help raise awareness of the UK's important and rapidly vanishing floodplain meadows. Funded by the William Dean Countryside and Educational Trust and Mrs Judith Pursell, competition prizes include a £250 Field Studies Council voucher and the chance to appear in an exclusive art exhibition and a special 2022 meadow calendar.

 **Enter before 31 August 2021**
bit.ly/artcomp21

Thank you to our Floodplain Meadows Partnership supporters, including

- Ecover
- The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
- The John Ellerman Foundation
- The Halpin Trust
- Mrs Judith Pursell
- Mrs Rachael Webb

See you online... Join us at our next virtual event

Until we can come together in person, you can join in with a variety of exciting virtual events across the University. It's a great way to stay connected to the OU family and learn something new with fascinating talks from academics all available from the comfort of your own home.

To ensure you receive invitations to our next events, please make sure we have your email address by

contacting alumni@open.ac.uk with 'Stay in touch' in the subject line and your name. By giving us your email address, we will make sure you get all the latest news, events, fundraising appeals, campaigns and ways to get involved straight to your inbox.

 **See the latest events calendar**
alumni.open.ac.uk/news/events

Transforming people's lives through education

One of the many positive things about The Open University during the coronavirus pandemic, is that we have continued to be able to offer scholarships and bursaries to people who might otherwise miss out on the chance of higher education.

Gifts in Wills play a very important part in enabling us to do this. It helps provide a vital source of present and future funding that makes a huge difference to our work and ensures we keep education open for all.

In fact, legacy gifts have been a key part in helping the OU establish the Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund and also our far-reaching Open Futures Fund. These initiatives are having an incredibly positive impact on the lives of students, helping them to re-write their future through the power of education. This can benefit so many.

Making a life-changing difference now and in the future

Gifts left to the OU in people's Wills help to transform the lives of future generations of students. As well as helping to give anyone, anywhere, regardless of their circumstances, the opportunity to learn, legacy gifts will also help the OU be there for those who need to retrain, acquire new skills, or create new futures for themselves through education.

We are incredibly grateful to alumni and supporters who have already decided to leave a gift in their Will to the OU. The positive impact this will create in our society in the future cannot be underestimated and we cannot thank you enough.

Legacies help keep education open for all

Knowing that alumni and supporters have left a gift to the OU in their Will helps us look to the future with greater confidence, knowing that the lives of many more potential future students will be transformed.

If you do decide to leave a gift in your Will to the OU – or if you have already done so – we'd welcome the opportunity to talk to you about being recognised on a special plaque, to be displayed in our beautiful Legacy Garden when your gift is received.

Due to the pandemic we have been unable to hold an event to unveil the plaques from 2019 and 2020 but we hope to be able to hold an event later this year and will share details as soon as possible.

Contact us for an informal chat or to find out more about legacies



giving@open.ac.uk
01908 659 141



OpenMINDS Live!

26 May 2021

Join us for an afternoon of insightful talks and inspiring stories from the OU academics and alumni who are shaping our future. You'll hear directly from some of the students whose lives you are changing and learn more about the exciting projects happening around your University.

More details and speakers to be revealed soon, please make sure we have your email address to receive your invitation direct to your inbox.

Join us for the OU Giving Day



36 hours

to rewrite
futures



1

global OU
community



your University
needs
YOU



JOIN US
as a
Futuremaker



**See how you can
make a difference**

bit.ly/ou-futuremakers

Are you ready to help make OU history?

On 6th and 7th July, we will be holding the first ever OU Giving Day – a 36-hour challenge to raise funds for scholarships and bursaries that will forever change the lives of disabled veterans, carers and current and future OU students.

Now more than ever, it's vital that current and future students from all backgrounds are given the opportunity to succeed and rewrite their futures. By coming together as a global OU family in one fun 36-hour challenge, we can do so much good and keep breaking down the barriers to education that are holding people back.

How will you stand with the OU family?

There are so many ways to support the fundraising and get involved. As well as donating, one special way you can join in is by becoming an OU 'Futuremaker'. These amazing volunteers will play their part by raising money through a sponsored activity. It could be big or small, silly or serious, from a sponsored bike ride, to selling fairy cakes to friends and family. The most important part is that by saying yes to being a Futuremaker, you'll be doing something positive to raise money for projects that will change people's futures.

Don't worry if you're not sure how best to get involved. At this stage, you can just register your interest in volunteering as one of our OU Futuremakers by visiting bit.ly/ou-futuremakers. We can't wait to rewrite more futures thanks to you!

Get in touch



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