2020-2021 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 alumni 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 can become a shareholder and voting member in the Butler Giving Circle. The deadline to join the Butler Giving Circle and vote for the 2021 community grant recipient is May 31, 2021.

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 fund Butler student experiential learning projects and internships with Project 44, 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 alumni 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 engaging with students, alumni, Butler leaders, and community partners through networking and service events, 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 potential applicant projects by Butler University Advancement and the Butler Giving Circle Executive Committee, Butler Giving Circle shareholders will have the opportunity to recommend final recipients by vote at the Butler Giving Circle annual meeting in June 2021.

Applications for the 2021 Butler Giving Circle community grant cycle will be accepted from March 1, 2021 - April 30, 2021.

How many grants has the Butler Giving Circle awarded?

On July 16, 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.
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 give 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

Mail: Make your check to Butler University Giving Circle Fund and mail to:
  Butler University
  University Advancement
  4600 Sunset Avenue
  Indianapolis, IN 46208

Phone: Call Chelsea Smock ’12, Associate Director of Alumni Relations & Engagement, at 317-940-3057 to make your gift by phone.

Have additional questions about the Butler Giving Circle?

Contact Chelsea Smock ’12, Associate Director of Alumni Relations & Engagement, at csmock@butler.edu or 317-940-3057.