

# Sidney Kimmel Medical College Receives \$2 Million Gift from Nancy and Jim Baxter to Support Scholarships and Diversity Programs

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By **Gianna DeMedio**

*Thomas Jefferson University*



As the nation prepares to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who dedicated his life to racial equity, Thomas Jefferson University is proud to announce a \$2 million gift from Nancy and Jim Baxter that will support the organization's mission to promote and cultivate an inclusive environment that celebrates the diversity of our patients, families, students, workforce, and the communities we serve.

The gift will provide scholarships to underrepresented students in medicine and support diversity programs at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College. The scholarships, to be named the "Baxter Family Scholarships," will award full tuition to the Sidney Kimmel Medical College to four students in each of the

incoming classes of 2020 and 2021.

This is the second gift Mr. and Mrs. Baxter have given to Jefferson, with a previous being used to establish an endowed fellowship in neonatology. A column in a Jefferson newsletter from the Office of Institutional Advancement about scholarship support helped to motivate Mr. & Mrs. Baxter in making the decision to donate to this specific cause for their second gift.

"Our family is very pleased to support Jefferson's increased focus on diversity and inclusion within The Sidney Kimmel Medical College," said Jim Baxter on behalf of himself and his wife. "We're hopeful our commitment will help to reduce the significant healthcare disparities that

exist in our city today."

Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA, President and CEO of Thomas Jefferson University and Jefferson Health, is honored for the organization to be the recipient of this gift. "I have come to know the Baxter family closely, and their dedication to the betterment of society is truly remarkable," he said. "They share the goal of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College of changing the DNA of healthcare one student at a time, especially to those who have not had the opportunity in the past. Thanks to this gift, worlds will be opened to some very deserving young people." Chief Diversity Officer at Jefferson,

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Joseph Hill, commented on the significance of the Baxter's gift by saying, "At Jefferson, we believe that a diverse and inclusive environment is fundamental to our mission for the advancement of health and the achievement of health equity. This

generous gift from the Baxter family will ensure that students of diverse backgrounds will be afforded the opportunity to gain their medical education and help to change the landscape of healthcare."

Dr. King's contributions to the Civil

Rights Movement greatly advanced the position of our society today, but efforts can always be made to enhance equality. Jefferson is thankful for the Baxter family and for their generous donation.