“Words cannot truly express how grateful I am,” Patrick Makokoro says. “Your support is what enables students like me to build a better future where all children of the world have access to basic education and lifelong learning opportunities.”
Gift Supports Educators Worldwide

Dr. Jean Downie Dey was a passionate educator who joined the Faculty of Education at UVic in 1963 (coincidentally on the same day UVic actually became a university). Her belief in the power of education was evident throughout her life. Today, Godwin Nnko, Kassim Dadi, William Pastory and Patrick Makokoro, four students from Africa, are completing their PhDs at UVic thanks to a bequest Dr. Dey made in her Will.

“Education has the power to change everything,” Godwin Nnko explains. “You are not just supporting one person, but a community, country and world.”

Support from the Dr. Jean Downie Dey Student Mobility Award, and a partnership with the Dar es Salaam University College of Education, is also allowing several UVic education students to complete an exchange in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. “The sharing of ideas through this partnership is exciting to us,” says William Pastory.

Simi Ono, BSc Nursing ('18)
Recipient of a Margaret A. Evans Memorial Scholarship in Nursing

Nursing is a second career for Simi who spent her twenties working as a Respiratory Therapist. She was inspired to pursue her passion for community health and nursing after volunteering internationally. “My volunteer work was focused on chronic disease management and primary care,” she explained.

Simi returned to university and graduated from UVic in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), with distinction. She was awarded the Margaret A. Evans Memorial Scholarship in Nursing in her third year of study.

“I was blown away by the dedication of practitioners in remote communities and I realized I wanted to be able to spend more time with the patients I was helping.”

Today, Simi is helping to manage the COVID-19 pandemic through her work as a community health nurse with the Tsawout First Nation on Vancouver Island. She has played a key role in communicating the importance of early detection, preparation and planning during the pandemic.

The Margaret A. Evans Memorial Scholarship in Nursing was established by Bernard “Bernie” Evans in 1987 to honor his late wife. He left a gift in his Will to ensure Margaret’s scholarship would continue to support nurses like Simi, and those they care for, well into the future.
What is legacy (or planned) giving?

A legacy gift is a planned future gift that designates a specific amount or residue of your estate as a donation to the University of Victoria. While the most common type is a gift through your Will, future gifts can come in many forms and some of them can provide tax benefits now.

Your legacy gift makes an impact

Your legacy gift will touch generations and contribute to the future of UVic. These gifts fund students and researchers in many ways including bursaries, awards, scholarships, library resources, research projects, student travel, teaching or research chairs and educational equipment.

How to make a legacy gift to UVic

Our goal is to ensure your legacy is managed and administered according to your wishes. We can work closely with you and your advisors to capture the true spirit and intent of your gift.

Thank you for considering a legacy gift to the University of Victoria

You are Never too Young to make a Difference

At the age of 28, most people haven’t even considered drafting a Will, let alone contemplated leaving a gift to charity in it. But, for Claire Aitken, her bequest ensures the legacies of her mother and grandmother will support and encourage female leaders of tomorrow. The little difference you make today are like ripples that can have a powerful effect on tomorrow.

“My mom always taught me that one of the most important things in life is Education, Education, Education.” It was only natural that when she passed away in August 2017, I would honour her legacy by ensuring those same values will continue in future generations.

“She had an incredible respect for the environment and its ability to facilitate personal reflection, “Claire continues. “It was this value that I wanted captured in her legacy.” Through the Sandra Ann Chisholm MacLean Aitken Graduate Award, Claire has ensured that Indigenous female graduate students are supported as they pursue a degree in environmental studies.
An Amazing Woman of “Firsts”
Dr. Dorothy “Anne” Pomeroy Autor

When someone is described as “accomplished” it usually means they are experts in one or two fields. What then do we call someone who excelled in every area of human endeavour? Dr. Anne Autor was such a person. She was a scientist, educator, parent, world traveler, athlete, organic farmer, mentor, volunteer and philanthropist.

Dr. Autor’s career started at Victoria High School, where, at the age of 13, she decided to become a scientist. She went on to take science at Victoria College, the precursor to the University of Victoria. Her sons say it was “her early academic experiences at Vic High and Vic College that were always especially meaningful to her.”

After Vic College, she earned honours bachelor and masters degrees at UBC, a doctorate at Duke University in North Carolina and completed post-doctoral studies at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Anne Autor was one of the pioneers of the mid-20th century; an “only” or “first” woman. She was the only woman in the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programmes in biochemistry at UBC and Duke, the first woman post-graduate in her department at Michigan and then the first woman lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Iowa, where she received her initial faculty appointment.

In 1983, Dr. Autor returned to British Columbia where she taught in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and was a clinical researcher at St. Paul’s Hospital. In addition to her university and hospital laboratory responsibilities, she also opened the first DNA forensic lab in the province and worked closely with the RCMP.

For over 30 years, Dr. Autor continued her research in the fields of biochemistry, toxicology and pathology; her work contributed to many scientific advances, including cancer research and the understanding of infant mortality. As a woman in science, she considered it especially important to mentor younger women entering the profession and helped launch the careers of a large number of graduate students.

She strongly believed that science and humanities were linked and her lectures always included the history behind the science. Her son says, "She embraced intellectual curiosity with a passion which didn't stop at the gates of Science."

In 2018, UVic was honoured to be a recipient of Dr. Anne Autor’s legacy gift establishing a lectureship in biomedical sciences and providing scholarships to full-time undergraduate students.