



# Barry University

## PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2025 | JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025



## A Message from the **PRESIDENT**

**B**arry University's momentum is grounded in our deep dedication to student success. Across our community, those who believe in Barry continue to transform lives and expand opportunity.

This year, we took meaningful steps to prepare students for a rapidly changing world. The launch of Barry's AI Center marked an important investment in interdisciplinary learning and technological innovation, equipping students with skills that will shape the future of the workforce. Through the second annual Conference for the Institute of Immigration Studies, Barry reaffirmed its role as a convener and leader of issues that matter locally and globally.

Our commitment to academic excellence remained at the forefront. The reorganization of the College of Health Professions and Medical Sciences strengthened the alignment between our programs and the evolving needs of the healthcare field. This year, we celebrated our hard-working students at a joyful commencement ceremony at the Broward County Convention Center.

The progress reflected in these pages is a testament to what is possible when vision is met with generosity and trust. Together, we are shaping an institution that empowers students to lead with compassion and transform the communities they serve.

Thank you for being part of Barry University's enduring mission and future.

Sincerely,

**Mike Allen, Ph.D.**  
President



This Impact Report reflects a remarkable season of momentum across our university community. Thanks to the support of our alumni, donors, and partners, Barry continues to expand opportunity for students while strengthening the mission that guides everything we do.

Within these pages, you will see the many ways your generosity creates meaningful change. You will read about students like Zhasmina Kerimova, an international,

first-generation scholar whose journey was made possible through the Stamps Scholars Program. You will also meet Alicia Guillaume, whose scholarship support helped her complete her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and begin her career as a registered nurse.

This report also highlights the visionary philanthropy that continues to strengthen Barry's future. The Honorable Dr. Billy Joel and his wife, Sandra Joel, established an endowment that transforms students' lives. Partnerships like the recent investment from Santander Bank further broaden opportunity, supporting the university's AI Center and Last Mile Scholarships and advancing our mission to empower every student to succeed.

These stories illustrate a vibrant season at Barry defined by growth, innovation, and shared purpose. Thank you for believing in our students and for helping shape the future they will lead.

Sincerely,

**Smilka Melgoza '03, MBA '24**  
Vice President of University Advancement



# SUPPORT THE BARRY SUCCESS FUND

*Your generosity turns dreams into reality*

[www.barry.edu/givesuccess](http://www.barry.edu/givesuccess)

# YOUR INVESTMENT IN EXCELLENCE

## Your Scholarship Support Empowered One Student to Pursue a Career in Finance



When Zhasmina Kerimova '25 arrived at Barry University from Turkmenistan, she carried ambition, determination, and the hopes of her family. As an international and first-generation college student, an American education once felt out of reach.

That changed with the Stamps Scholarship and SMIF Award. With full financial support, financial barriers were removed, allowing Zhasmina to fully embrace the Barry experience. *"I did not have to constantly worry about finances," she shares. "Instead, I focused on academics, leadership, internships, and giving back."*

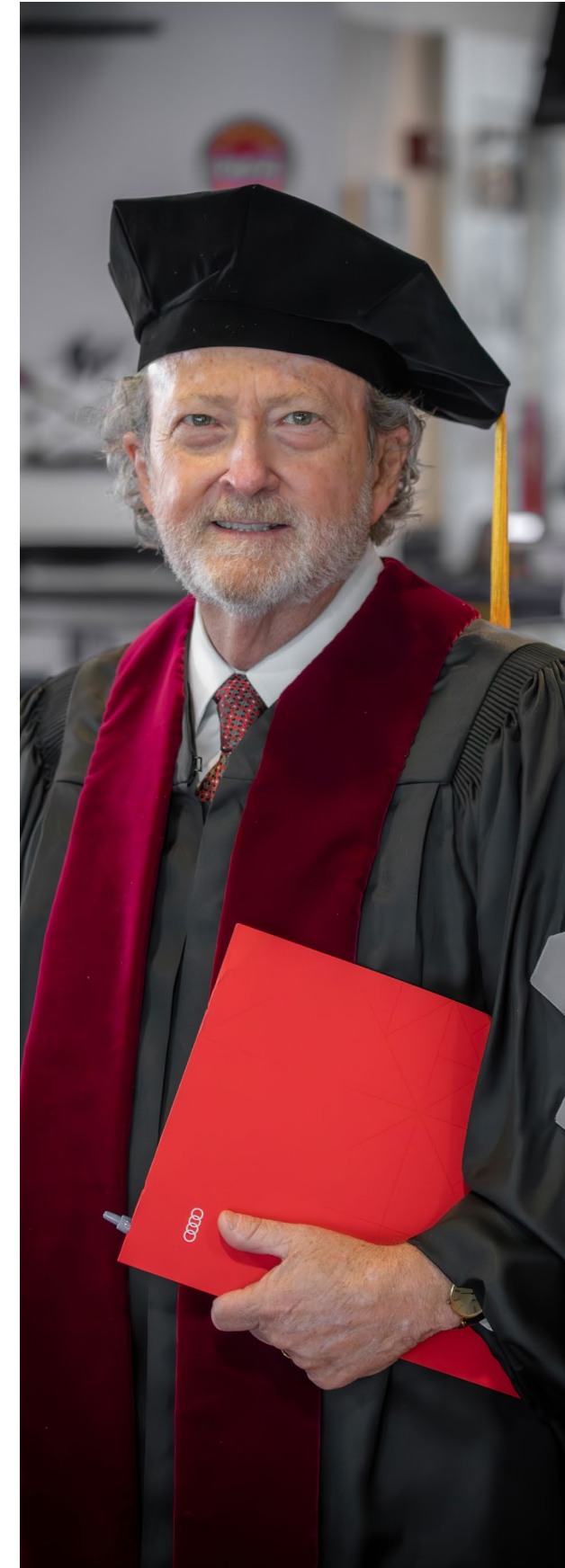
From her first year, she became a Student Ambassador, welcoming prospective students and families. She later served as Co-Managing Director of the Student Managed Investment Fund (SMIF), mentoring peers and leading real world investment strategy.

Through this experience, she earned a competitive internship with Morgan Stanley in New York City, gaining hands on experience in wealth management and portfolio construction. *"Scholarship support gave me the confidence to aim higher," she says.*

Now completing her MBA, Zhasmina has passed the Securities Industry Essentials exam and recently sat for CFA Level I. She plans to build a career in wealth management and earn her CFA charter.

*"Thank you for believing in students like me," she says. "Your support created opportunity, confidence, and direction."*

Zhasmina's story shows that when you invest in a student, you invest in leadership, excellence, and impact far beyond campus.



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# POWERING THE FUTURE OF BARRY STUDENTS

## Santander Bank Invests in AI Education and Last Mile Scholarships

Santander Bank has committed a \$500,000 investment over two years to support the Barry University AI Center and the Last Mile Scholarship. This partnership advances two priorities that shape the university's future: preparing students to succeed in an economy increasingly influenced by artificial intelligence and ensuring that students who are close to graduation can complete their degrees.

Support for the Barry University AI Center expands the university's capacity to integrate artificial intelligence across academic programs. AI concepts and tools are being incorporated into coursework across disciplines, including business, health sciences, education, law, and the liberal arts. As these integrations continue, the impact will extend across Barry University's campus community of approximately 6,800 students. Students will graduate with exposure to emerging technologies, a practical understanding of AI applications, and skills aligned with evolving workforce demands.

The investment also supports the Last Mile Scholarship, which assists students facing financial barriers during the final stage of their academic journey. As students near graduation, many face small but impactful financial gaps

that can interrupt or prevent their ability to finish their degrees. Last Mile Scholarships provide targeted support during a student's final semester, allowing them to remain enrolled and graduate on time. Access to this assistance reduces financial stress and ensures that years of academic progress lead to a completed degree.

Combined support for the AI Center and Last Mile Scholarships expands opportunity and improves outcome for Barry University students. AI integration enhances the educational experience across the institution, while Last Mile Scholarships help students nearing graduation cross the finish line and begin their professional careers.

Barry University offers immense appreciation to the Santander Bank leaders whose partnership and engagement made this investment



possible, including Jean G. Bélizaire, Senior Vice President; Graham Chapman, Director, Strategic Programs; César Rodrigo Méndez Guerrero, Business Development Director; and Ronaldo Rondinelli, Executive Vice President and Head of Santander Universities U.S.

Their leadership broadens opportunities for Barry University students to graduate with confidence to enter the workforce and shape the future of their communities.

**Santander Bank Presented a Check of \$500,000 at the Annual Scholarship Dinner and Distinguished Alumni Awards**

# Your Impact at Barry University

# \$8.5M

PHILANTHROPIC COMMITMENTS

FY2024-2025



**\$4.2M**

SCHOLARSHIPS

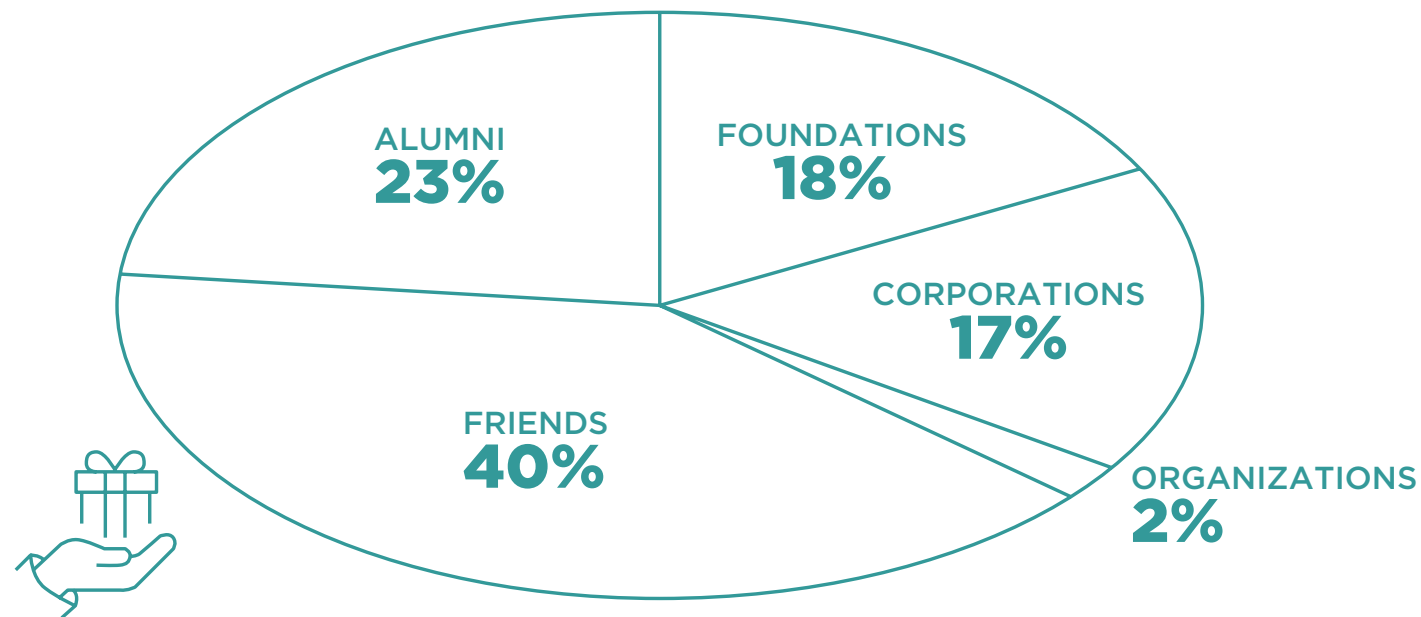
**\$1.4M**

ENDOWMENT

**\$2.9M**

PROGRAMS

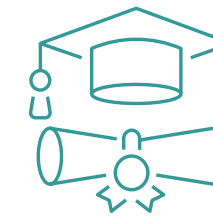
## WHO SUPPORTS OUR MISSION?



**6.8K**

ENROLLMENT

(Fall 2024 Data)



**78K**

ALUMNI  
WORLDWIDE

**7**

COLLEGES &  
SCHOOLS



**15:1**

STUDENT TO  
FACULTY RATIO

**18%**

FIRST GENERATION  
STUDENTS



**79%**

MINORITY  
STUDENTS



**34%**

HISPANIC  
STUDENTS



**81**



COUNTRIES

**20**

NCAA DIVISION II  
ATHLETIC TEAMS



**29**

DIVISION II NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

# SHOWING UP WITH HEART

## How The Honorable Dr. Billy Joel, L.H.D. (h.c.) '25 Inspired Future Barry Leaders



During Barry University's 2025 Doctoral Commencement Ceremony, The Honorable Dr. Billy Joel, L.H.D. (h.c.) '25 delivered a message that deeply resonated with the Doctoral Class of 2025. He invited graduates to pause and fully absorb the weight of their accomplishment.

*"You. Did. It."*

In a room filled with celebration, Dr. Joel shifted the focus away from accolades and toward responsibility. He reminded graduates that their degrees were not merely titles to carry, but tools to use in service of others. Rooted in Barry's values, his words challenged each scholar to consider how their expertise would shape the lives of those around them.

*"Wherever life takes you, show up with heart," he urged. "Show up for the people who need your voice. Show up for the issues that demand your expertise. Show up for yourself with confidence, integrity, and compassion."*

His message centered on the idea that true success is measured not only by achievement, but by impact. It is defined by how one leads, how one serves, and how one chooses to live with purpose.

That message did not end when the ceremony concluded.

Following commencement, Dr. Joel and his wife, Sandra, strengthened their commitment to Barry students through

the establishment of The Honorable Dr. Billy Joel & Sandra Joel Scholarship Endowment. What began as a call to responsibility became a tangible investment in opportunity. The endowment reflects the couple's enduring belief that education is the foundation of community well-being and that for many students, a college degree represents hope not only for themselves, but for their families.

Already, that investment is making a difference. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Courtney Michel, marking this the first direct impact of the fund. For students like Courtney, this support represents more than financial assistance.

It is encouragement, affirmation, and access. It serves as a reminder that someone believes in their potential and is willing to stand behind it.



***"There are students whose families are counting on their success. For many, a college degree represents the opportunity to break cycles of multi-generational poverty. They are students that we believe in."***



***"My wife Sandra and I are deeply committed to student success. We understand that education is the foundation of community well-being."***

Dr. Joel has often spoken about students whose families are counting on their success and about the power of education to break cycles of hardship. Through this endowment, those convictions take shape in real and measurable ways. His honorary doctorate recognizes a lifetime of service. The scholarship ensures that service continues through the lives of Barry students who are prepared to lead with integrity and compassion.

What was spoken from the commencement podium now lives on in action. Showing up with heart has become more than advice. It has become a legacy that opens doors, strengthens futures, and reinforces the belief that education remains one of the most powerful forces for lasting impact.

# BECAUSE OF YOU

## A Journey From Nursing Student to Graduate

Dear Matt, Lisa, and Family,

The Allen Family Foundation Scholarship played an impactful role in helping me pursue my career as a registered nurse.

By easing the financial burden of tuition, books, and other academic expenses, it allowed me to fully focus on my studies and clinicals without the constant stress of financial strain. Instead of worrying about how I would cover costs each semester, I was able to focus my time and energy on strengthening my skills, building confidence, and preparing to care for patients safely and compassionately.

Without your support, I would not be where I am today. Your support has helped me graduate with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing and successfully begin my dream career as a registered nurse. As I begin my journey as a new nurse, I carry with me the resilience and strength that your generosity helped cultivate.

I am forever grateful to The Matt and Lisa Allen Family Foundation for its investment in my education and future. I hope to honor your support and sacrifices by providing the care I give to every patient I serve.

Sincerely,

Alicia Guillaume '25 BSN, RN



# BE THE REASON

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# Barry University

Division of University Advancement

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