

A foundation built on family

To one J.B. Speed School of Engineering and School of Medicine alumnus, philanthropy is all relative

FOR BOBBY BAKER '78, '82, the University of Louisville isn't just where he trained to become a physician – it's where he met his wife, Julie, and where their son, Alex Baker '12, '13, later earned his bachelor's and master's degrees.

"I attended UofL for nine years. First at the Speed School, then in medical school and internship," Bobby said. "Being a Cardinal is in my blood. I will always remember UofL for giving me a start in life to become the doctor that I wanted to be."

That gratitude, coupled with deep family pride, inspired the family to establish the Dr. Bobby and Julie Baker Foundation, with Alex joining in leadership. Together, they are working to ensure today's students, especially those from rural backgrounds like Bobby's hometown, can access the same opportunities that shaped their own lives through the UofL Medical Scholarship.

"Our mission is to help the vulnerable," Bobby said. "I realized that there were people like me who likely did not even have medical school on their radar because it was just too expensive for them to even consider. So, helping a student from my hometown not only makes it possible for them to become doctors, but it also helps the community attract doctors who know and love their hometown."

Though new, the Bakers' scholarship program is already making a difference. "The guidance counselor at Washington County High School told me there is no question this scholarship will make a difference



▲ **Bobby, Julie and Alex**



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Scholarship recipient Sarah Downs echoed that sentiment, noting how the Bakers' generosity reshaped her journey. "Receiving the Baker scholarship has lifted a financial burden and reminded

me that my community believes in me and my journey," she said. "Growing up in Washington County, I have always dreamed of returning home to serve in rural Kentucky, and this award gives me the encouragement to keep moving forward. The Bakers' generosity inspires me to work hard and one day pay it forward for future students."



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To Bobby, giving back isn't only about changing individual lives but about creating a ripple effect for generations. "The older I get, the more I love giving much more than receiving," he said. "When we created this perpetual scholarship, I realized that this was a legacy that could give back for many years to come."

That legacy is one he hopes his children and grandchildren will carry forward. "I hope all our future generations will know how much I cared about UofL, my hometown and the potential of students there who only needed that opportunity to make a dream a reality," Bobby said. "It would give me great joy to see my children and grandchildren follow this lead and help make others' dreams come true."

For the Baker family, supporting UofL is rooted in their family's dedication to philanthropy. And through their foundation, they're ensuring the Cardinal spirit continues to inspire and give back for generations to come.