

October 31, 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Olden Bears,

Another year has nearly ended, and it is time to update you all on our activities. First, it is important to say that we should all be proud of this year's work. We continue to meet on the third Wednesday of the month on a zoom call at 6pm. The calls focus on what we are doing and why we are doing this work. The collaboration has been fantastic. Usually, five to nine people are on the call. These calls bind us together and really give meaning to our work as well as providing context for our actions. Overall, the Olden Bears have provided nearly \$500,000 to the causes we support and have truly made a difference in many lives. We end the year with a bit more than \$40,000 in our account and will raise more funds this coming year.

This year we provided:

Berkeley Hope Scholars (<https://hope.berkeley.edu/home>) with **\$92,500** representing a 15% increase over last year's funding. Please see the thank you note at the end of this update.

Supported Cal's Basketball transfer Mady Sissoko and his work through the Mali Foundation (<https://www.si.com/college/cal/basketball/cal-basketball-s-mady-sissoko-lifting-others-back-home-in-mali-01jbafs3jt0q>) with **\$24,000**



Mady Sissoko assists on a basket at the school he funded / Photo courtesy of Mady Sissoko

UC Berkeley Men's Basketball Excellence Fund **\$15,000**

Berkeley Journalism Summer Intern Fund, **\$15,000**

Berkeley Law School Fund, **\$2,500**

The past year's Olden Bears Fiat Lux Scholarship supported Vy Ly and the year's distribution was \$3,347. This is estimated to grow and provide a payout above \$5,000 this year. The fund is estimated to mature and provide continuous support and distributions around \$7,000+ in perpetuity, shaping generations of Fiat Lux Scholars. This year the Olden Bear Fiat Lux Scholarship supports two students: Daniel Rodriguez Sotelo (Genetics & Plant Biology), and Amani Woodridge (Undeclared). This scholarship uses the **\$100,000 gift from the Olden Bears and a matching \$100,000 from another generous donor**. Please see the attached PDF.

We will support the Golden Buddies Program in 2025 with full program support, approximately **\$11,000**. The Golden Buddies Program is a collaborative initiative involving Cal football players Myles Williams, Jack Endries, and Fernando Mendoza, the Cameron Institute, the Special Olympics of Northern California, and Exceptional Sports (e-sports). The program invites athletes and students ages 6-13 to California Memorial Stadium for a one-day free clinic that fosters inclusivity by allowing students with intellectual disabilities to engage in football drills, connect with Cal football players, and learn about nutrition, sun safety, and hydration. The Clinic empowers youth through sports while providing a fun, supportive, environment. Last year 100 youth participated in the Golden Buddies Program and this year the organizers hope to involve 200 youth.

Thank you all for this exciting and rewarding year.

The note from Charly King Beavers, Director of the Berkeley Hope Scholars.

Dear Olden Bears,

Thank you for your continued support of Berkeley Hope Scholars and the recent contribution from the Olden Bears. Your generosity last year truly transformed how we can create opportunities and provide essential support to our students. Your partnership directly impacted our students and ensures that they have the support and opportunities they need to develop as leaders and scholars in their pursuit of a Cal degree.

Your timely gift at the start of this semester reinforces your belief in these programs and their impact on elevating the student experience. Thanks to your support, we can continue offering internship opportunities, emergency grants, and holistic support that help build a strong, resilient community on campus.

I'm excited to share updates on how your contributions directly benefit our students.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to join you on November 22nd due to a prior commitment, but I am working closely with Andrew to ensure that you'll receive program updates and have opportunities to hear directly from our students during your visit. I know you will have a meaningful visit and learn more about the ways your support benefits our student community.

Thank you once again, Olden Bears, for your generosity and ongoing support. We are deeply grateful!

Warm regards,
Charly

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