


# \$23.5 Million Legacy Celebrates Generations of Accomplishment

Williamson family gifts support efforts around campus



“It is young men and women who are supposed to ‘dream dreams.’”  
—James Wood Williamson

For two centuries, the Williamson family made an indelible impression on the city of Cleveland. This spring, it became clear that the family responsible for many of the institutions that define Cleveland as a center of industry and philanthropy will continue to shape dreams at Case Western Reserve University. The family’s last local descendant, James Wood Williamson, passed away in 2009, but not before securing the Williamsons’ legacy on campus with \$23.5 million in gifts. “This extraordinary commitment will touch every corner of our campus and benefit students, faculty and society itself for decades to come,” President Barbara R. Snyder says.

The commitments will support scholarships, professorships and programs at the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Medicine, the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences and the Case School of Engineering.

“As a university we’ve always been committed to the proposition that any student who has the qualifications to attend and wants to attend should be financially able to,” says Cyrus C. Taylor, PhD, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Albert A. Michelson Professor in Physics. Taylor says scholarships created from the Williamson commitments will go a long way toward helping well-qualified students find success at Case Western Reserve.

At the School of Medicine, the Williamsons’ legacy will help bring fresh produce to local food deserts by supporting the Department of Nutrition. “There are many neighborhoods in inner-city Cleveland where fruits and vegetables are rare,

and fast food is abundant,” says Pamela B. Davis, MD, PhD, dean of the medical school and vice president for medical affairs. “This gift will help in our efforts to make healthy foods more available and reduce the incidence of chronic disease in the Cleveland population.”

Grover C. Gilmore, PhD, dean of the Mandel School, says the commitment will live on for generations through graduates of the social work school, who work in the community to address child welfare, poverty, homelessness and other social concerns. “The gift from the Williamson family is transformational,” he says.



**William D. Ginn**, a friend of the Williamson family and senior retired partner at Thompson Hine LLC

## A Long Line of Dreamers

In designating \$23.5 million in gifts to Case Western Reserve, James Wood Williamson paid tribute to his family’s distinguished legacy.

“The problems of the future are not easy ones to solve,” he once wrote. “It is young men and women who are supposed to ‘dream dreams.’ Problems get solved, I guess, by teaching students how to solve them.”



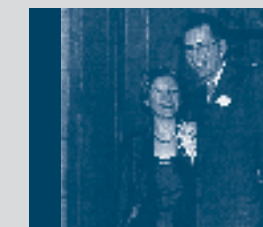
**Samuel Williamson**  
founded Society for Savings (now KeyBank)



**James DeLong Williamson (WRC 1870)**  
co-founder of the Community Chest and the Welfare Foundation, predecessor organizations of the United Way and the Center for Community Solutions  
founding pastor of the Church of the Covenant  
teacher, trustee and two-time acting president of Western Reserve College



**Arthur P. Williamson**  
developed and manufactured valve stems, which were critical to the successful development of air-filled rubber tires



**James Wood Williamson and Angela Bowen Williamson (FSM '53)**  
He was a developer of software that helped inform policies for the alleviation of poverty. She was a nutritionist who promoted good nutrition throughout her life.