Thank You

In 2020, Your Unrestricted Giving Helped MIT Help the World

Dear friends,

Donors to unrestricted at MIT, have a consequential impact on the ability of our students, faculty, and staff to make lifesaving discoveries, innovate, problem-solve—and rise to meet any challenge.

This was especially true in 2020, a year like none other in living memory.

Thanks to unrestricted giving, the Institute was able to hold its community close, as it pivoted to remote learning and worked to bring essential parts of campus back to life. Simultaneously, unrestricted dollars helped to ensure MIT’s position at the forefront of the efforts against Covid-19, helping and healing through education, research, and innovation.

Please read on to learn more about the power of unrestricted giving at work last year. As we work toward a better year to come, please know that unrestricted giving will continue to power the MIT community across many critical areas of focus.

Thank you to our unrestricted donors for being there for MIT, when MIT needed to be there for the world.

Steven Larky ’84
Chair, MIT Annual Fund Board

By the numbers: The impact of your giving

- 42% of MIT’s operating budget relies on unrestricted dollars
- Over 13,000 alumni and friends annual fund donors made unrestricted gifts
- Unrestricted funds covered 31% of MIT’s undergraduate financial aid

How Unrestricted Dollars Helped MIT Answer the Call

- Bringing MIT magic to first-years everywhere
  The Office of the First Year (OFY) kicked into high gear in the spring to build a foundation for the incoming Class of 2024, who were remote during the Fall 2020 semester. At the heart of many of these efforts, from academics to social life, was an emphasis on building personal connections among the Class of 2024 members—as well as with other students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

- How quarantines impact Covid-19’s spread
  A team of MIT engineers developed a model that uses data from the Covid-19 pandemic in conjunction with a neural network to determine the efficacy of quarantine measures and better predict the spread of the virus. The researchers say their model is the first to have integrated machine learning with epidemiology.

- Blocking coronaviruses’ ability to enter human cells
  In the early days of the pandemic, a team of MIT chemists designed a drug candidate that they believe may block coronaviruses’ ability to enter human cells. The potential drug is a short protein fragment, or peptide, that mimics a protein found on the surface of human cells.

- Institute plays key role in Massachusetts effort to produce PPE
  The Institute community stepped up when state officials announced the Massachusetts Emergency Response Team (M-ERT) to help manufacturers produce personal protective equipment and other medical devices for health care workers. Soon, M-ERT was aided by students, faculty, staff, and alumni in these lifesaving efforts.

Thank you for your confidence in MIT