



# 2024 Annual Report



## A Message from our President

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*Dear Friends,*

*I continue being inspired by how the transformative power of collaboration, generosity, and innovation is helping shape the future of our university and the communities we serve.*

*In 2024, we developed new exciting initiatives that are at the core of our 2050 strategic vision of preparing the next generation of leaders for our food systems. We convened partners from UC Davis, McGill University, University of Pretoria, and University of Sao Paulo to initiate the design process for a new collaborative master's program on food systems leadership. We also expanded the Mastercard Foundation – EARTH University Fellowship program to four partner universities in Africa to support effective transition pathways for more young people across the continent. In addition, we continued to strengthen our Academic Program, with 80% of our courses now revised and enhanced with food systems focus, and we systematized priority solutions for farmers, farmer producer organizations and rural youth led by EARTH Futures, our solutions center, to prepare for greater scale and impact.*

*This Annual Report highlights how these and other partnerships and initiatives are driving growth and opportunity, and strengthening our impact on education, research, and food systems.*

*We are also inspired by the growing number of graduates who, having experienced firsthand the life-changing power of education, keep developing new strategies to expand support among the EARTHianos network and are investing in the prosperity of their home countries and the agricultural sector.*

*Thank you all – donors, boards, allies, graduates, students, faculty, staff, and friends – for your work and support. At a time of global climate challenges and uncertainty, your generosity is a beacon of hope.*

*Warmly,*

**Arturo Condo**  
EARTH University President





Marcelina grew up in an Indigenous community in Mexico, where access to higher education seemed like a distant dream. However, after two of her older brothers graduated from EARTH, she was able to follow in their footsteps. Now, the three of them share a common purpose: contributing to the economic, social, and sustainable development of their community.

*“When two of my brothers were admitted to EARTH, that became my dream too. My parents didn’t have the resources to support us, so we looked for a scholarship, but I felt that studying in another country was out of my reach. Today, I am here, and I feel special. I know that not many have this opportunity, and like my brothers, I have a scholarship thanks to the Kellogg Foundation, which is incredible. It covers everything. I don’t lack anything. I am grateful for this unique experience.”*

## Marcelina Gómez

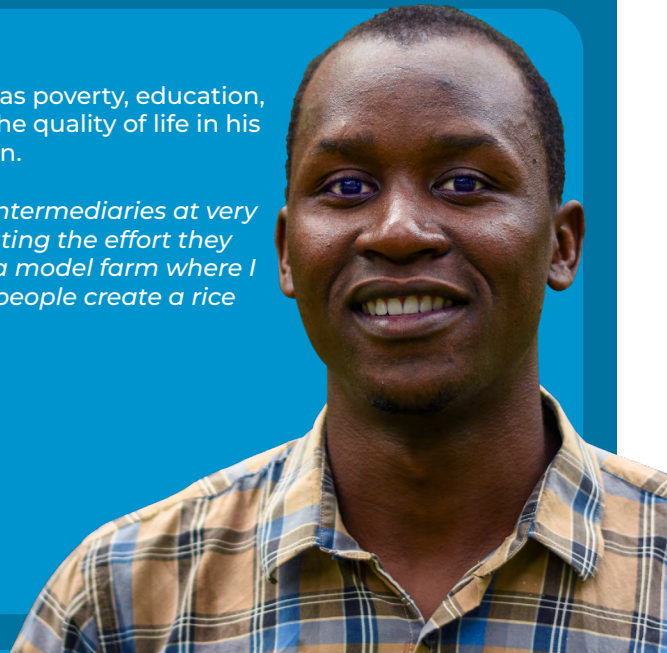
Class of 2027, Mexico

Esau leads various initiatives addressing crucial issues in his region such as poverty, education, and early marriage. He has a strong passion and motivation to improve the quality of life in his community, empower young people, and improve agricultural production.

*“In my country, we produce rice in large quantities, but people sell it to intermediaries at very low prices. Growing rice requires a lot of work, but people are not evaluating the effort they put into it. They are earning just enough to survive. My goal is to create a model farm where I can teach others good agricultural practices. Eventually, I want to help people create a rice brand to export and add value, so they can benefit from their efforts.”*

## Esau Higenyi

Class of 2026, Uganda  
Mastercard Foundation Scholar at EARTH



Jessenia arrived at EARTH driven by the strength of her indigenous roots and a calling to help more people access nutritious food. She created Allpamanta, a project to make better use of medicinal plants in the production of infusions and other food products such as kombucha and potato cookies, which generate added value from local resources and help reduce waste.

*“With this project, I designed a strategy to help my community. The University allowed me to strengthen my foundations in resilience, communication, and research. Most importantly, this project has taught me not to stay silent but to raise my voice.”*

## Jessenia Mármol

Class of 2024, Ecuador



## Beyond Agriculture: EARTH Futures Continues to Empower Agricultural Communities

The third phase of the Resilient Agrifood Systems (RAS) Project aims to benefit over 2,200 smallholder farmers in Costa Rica and Guatemala with a focus on empowering women producers, fostering economic inclusion, and promoting climate change adaptation.

This phase, approved in 2024, is made possible through financial support from the Walmart Foundation. Building on its two previous phases since 2020, the project has focused on strengthening the capacities of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), promoting sustainable practices, improving market access, and developing community leadership.

Priority will be given to actions aimed at enhancing the technical and financial skills of women producers, as well as developing their leadership roles in their communities. All interventions will continue to adapt to the realities of the communities, incorporating cultural and linguistic strategies, and technical support will be optimized to maximize producers' results in their own endeavors.

With the launch of this phase, the Developing Solutions pillar of EARTH Futures reaffirms its commitment to transforming food systems. The implementation of this model seeks to lay the foundation for its replication and expansion into new horizons, contributing to the development of rural communities.



# The Mastercard Foundation – EARTH University Fellowship Program Expands its Reach

The Mastercard Foundation – EARTH University Fellowship Program supports young African leaders focused on agriculture and rural development. The program offers one-year fellowships with host organizations to accelerate professional transitions and enhance their impact on sustainable agricultural development. Over its first three years, over 30 EARTH University graduates from 12 African countries completed the program, gaining valuable professional growth and networks, while host organizations benefited from having skilled professionals contribute to their work.

In 2024, the program expanded to include Mastercard Foundation Scholars from four partner institutions: University of Abomey Calavi (Benin), CAMFED Ghana, Makerere University (Uganda), and Africa Leadership University (Rwanda). This expansion aims to empower a new wave of leaders to transform Africa's food systems. With 20 Fellows from six countries in 2024, the program plans to grow to 40 Fellows per cohort by 2026.

*"The Program is having an important impact: 83% of Fellows who have completed the Program have secured employment, continued with their entrepreneurial endeavors, and/or commenced graduate studies focused on positively transforming*

*agriculture and food systems in Africa. The Fellowship Program not only gives them a platform of engagement with host organizations that provide meaningful employment opportunities, it also helps Fellows get more grounded in their area of focus. For the ones moving on to graduate school, they are doing so with a more focused intent,"* says Naboth Bwambale, Director of the Fellowship Program.

At EARTH University we remain committed to supporting young agricultural leaders to reach their full potential. These Fellows are poised to lead the transformation of food systems, creating innovative solutions and generating employment within their communities.



# The Legacy of Our Graduates: Supporting New Generations



The year 2024 marked 25 years since Allan Acosta (Class of 1999) graduated from EARTH. Allan grew up in a rural area of Guatemala. From an early age, he saw education as a tool to break the cycle of poverty surrounding his community. Thanks to the financial support of donors who believed in his potential, he was able to pursue higher education, propelling him toward a successful career.

Over the years, Allan has gained a deeper understanding of the impact that the support of others had on his life, and he has embraced the principle of “paying it forward”: giving back what was once received. This commitment led him to support EARTH’s mission of changing the world through educating leaders who transform food systems and build a better future. As part of this effort, he awarded a partial scholarship to

Desirée Chang (Class of 2025), a young Guatemalan whose journey reminded him of his own.

*“You can’t change the whole world, but you can change the course of one person’s life,”* says Allan, who understands that his commitment to Desirée goes beyond financial support—it is an investment in the future of agriculture and proof that supporting others can transform the world.

Collaboration among our graduates is crucial for EARTH to achieve its mission: to impact millions of lives around the world while protecting natural resources. We take great pride in Allan and Desirée’s story, because it powerfully demonstrates that when one graduate supports another, a multiplier effect of opportunities is created.

# EARTH in Numbers 2024

**408** students from

**38** countries



**80%** students from Latin America and the Caribbean

**19%** from Africa &

**1%** Others



**90%** of our students receive financial support



**40** faculty members from

**18** countries

**102** leaders of change graduated in 2024

**2,945** alumni from

**55** countries



## Internships

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We thank the following organizations around the world who hosted our third-year students as interns in 2024. The Internship helps our students build critical leadership skills and networks while deepening their knowledge and giving them the opportunity to apply the skills developed at EARTH in a professional setting.

- AARFS A.C.
- AGQ Labs
- AgroPro Panamá
- ALIANSA
- Arava Institute for Environmental Studies
- AulaViva Tropical
- Auburn University
- Bananera Nacional S.A.
- BIOFARMA Agropecuaria S.A.
- Cabaña Sausalito
- Café Jesús Martín
- Cafeología
- Carnes San Martín
- Clemson University
- Colorado State University
- Corporación Lanec S.A.
- Corporación Palmar
- Cornell University
- Costa Farms
- Desarrollos Agroindustriales Cada Cero Dos del Atlántico S.A.
- Druetta S.A.
- Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR Campeche)
- FANOVA
- Finca La Hilda
- Fundación Local Partners
- Fundación Poligrow
- Fulmipalma S.A.
- Fumidrone
- Fyffes
- Geospectral
- GT Consultores
- Hacienda Aliaga
- Hacienda Ganadera Betania & La Nena
- Hacienda San José
- Hacienda Santa Quitería
- Ingenio Palo Gordo
- Kalsec, Inc.
- Kansas State University
- Kentucky State University
- LIFE RID de AMVAC Costa Rica S.R.L.
- Lignetics, Inc.
- MARS, La Chola
- MARS, Ghana
- Miami Fruit Company
- Michigan State University
- North Dakota State University
- Penn State University
- Pecege - Instituto de Pesquisas e Educação Continuada em Economia e Gestão de Empresas
- Plastiseed S.A.
- Popoyán S.A.
- Precisión Agrícola
- Robinson Fresh
- SEKEM Labs Egypt
- T&K Dairy Farm
- Torio Resort and Golf S.A.
- Tres Jotas
- True Natural
- Two Brothers Organic Farm HRP
- University of Arizona
- University of Florida
- University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- University of Maine - Center for Cooperative Aquaculture Research
- University of Nebraska - Lincoln
- University of Tennessee
- Vía Orgánica
- Villa de Patos



# 2024 Financial Results

## Year Ended December 31

### EARTH University

Careful stewardship of resources, together with growth in charitable gifts and commercial activities, are contributing to a healthy financial picture that enables us to fulfill our mission.

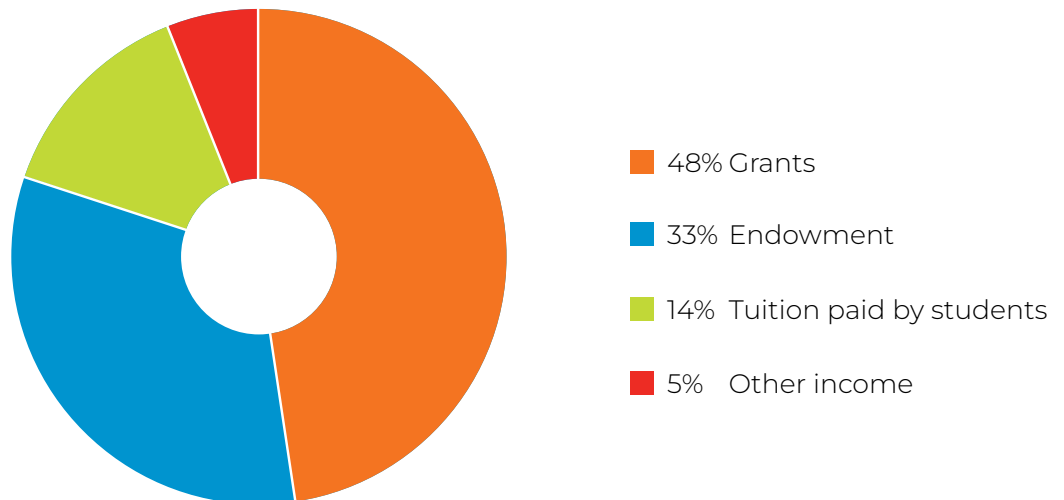
#### Expenses

Salaries and benefits for personnel	\$ 14,218,676
Operating expenses	\$ 7,499,523
Equipment	\$ 643,356
Contingencies	\$ 21,538
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,383,092</b>

#### Sources of Revenue

Grants	\$10,669,048
Tuition paid by students	\$ 3,115,675
Other income (commercial activities and other)	\$ 1,240,913
Endowment	\$ 7,357,455
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 22,383,092</b>

#### How our Budget is Funded



# 2024 Financial Results

## Year Ended December 31

### EARTH University Foundation

From its headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, the EARTH University Foundation – a registered 501 (c)(3) public charity – provides vital funding for EARTH’s educational mission, programs and projects thanks to generous gifts from a global community of supporters.

#### Financial Statements

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,927,889
Pledge receivables, net	\$ 2,771,219
Endowment and other investments	\$ 80,149,063
Other assets	\$ 789,267
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 87,637,438</b>

Liabilities and Net assets	
Liabilities	\$ 390,374
Net assets	\$ 87,247,064
<b>Total Liabilities and Net assets</b>	<b>\$ 87,637,438</b>

#### Statement of Functional Expenses

	Programs	Fundraising	Administrative	Total expenses
Scholarships	\$ 6,094,642	-	-	\$ 6,094,642
Project and program expenses	\$ 2,097,861	-	-	\$ 2,097,861
Foundation Operations	\$ 272,464	\$ 672,284	\$ 571,311	\$ 1,516,059
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,464,967</b>	<b>\$ 672,284</b>	<b>\$ 571,311</b>	<b>\$ 9,708,562</b>

# Our Boards and Leadership Team in 2024

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## **EARTH University Board of Directors**

### Members

Alan Kelso, Chair  
Mark Brouse, Vice Chair  
Alejandra Cobb, Secretary  
Ana Regina Aguirre de Riojas  
Marisa Brenninkmeyer  
Franklin Chang-Díaz  
Francis Durman  
Adriana Echandi  
Dele Olojede  
Khan Nedd  
Oliver Niedermaier

### Emeriti

Isabel Abreu  
Pedro León  
Theodore (Tim) Solso  
† Eduardo King Carr  
† Glen Taggart  
† Hernán Fonseca  
† José Elías Sánchez  
† Jorge Manuel Dengo O.  
† Luis Alberto Monge  
† Norman A. Brown  
† Rodolfo Cortés R.  
† Salvador Alemany

## **EARTH University Foundation Board of Trustees**

### Members

Mark Brouse, Chair  
Erika González-Akre, Vice Chair  
Tracy Hoover, Secretary  
Mark McGahan, Treasurer  
Claire “Yum” Arnold  
Ross Arnold  
Georgie Benardete  
Jane C. Black  
🎓 Andros Bracamontes  
Christopher Carter

Ian Davidson  
🎓 Gustavo Manrique  
Sonia Medina  
Adrienne Meisel  
Julia Novy  
Mark Ohrstrom

### Emeriti

Charlotte S. Metcalf  
† Samuel Kaymen

# Our Boards and Leadership Team in 2024

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## **EARTH University Trust Board of Trustees**

Alan Kelso, Chair  
Mark Brouse, Vice Chair

Alejandra Cobb, Secretary  
Francis Durman

## **EARTH Ventures Board of Directors**

Francis Durman, Chair  
Michael Besançon, Vice Chair  
Arturo Condo, Secretary

Tanya Avellán  
Adriana Echandi  
Hernán Sáenz

## **EARTH University Leadership Team**

Arturo Condo  
President

Yanine Chan  
Dean and Vice President of  
Academic Affairs

Marita Caillaux  
Executive Director of EARTH Trust &  
CEO of EARTH Ventures


Kevin Duffy  
Executive Director of the EARTH  
University Foundation & Chief Global  
Development Officer

Kate Flores  
Director of Institutional Learning

Alexa Glo  
Director of the President's Office &  
Board Relations

Emily Fintel Kaiser  
Strategic Advisor to the President

Patricia Loría  
Vice President of Finance & Operations



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*“Meeting students from diverse regions and walks of life and watching them grow into true leaders in food systems and agriculture is beyond inspiring. As a board member, I am deeply humbled and honored to be part of the EARTH movement—a movement for the Earth itself. I embrace my leadership role not from the top down, but by learning from the bottom up—listening, understanding, and contributing in ways that empower the next generation of changemakers. It is a privilege to help shape a future where these students drive sustainable solutions for agriculture, food security, and our planet’s well-being.”*

**Erika González-Akre**

EARTH University Foundation Board of Trustees



## Our Donors

The work to fulfill our mission would not be possible without the support of many individuals, businesses, foundations, governments, and organizations. We recognize and appreciate the generous support of the following donors whose gifts were received in 2024, with special thanks to those whose lifetime giving exceeds US\$1 million.

### Lifetime Gifts Over \$1 Milion

Anonymous (3)	Katherine John Murphy Foundation
Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)	Mastercard Foundation
A.G. Leventis Foundation	Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas de Panamá
Agencia Sueca de Cooperación Internacional	Moore Family Foundation
BAC Credomatic	Norad - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo - Fondo Japonés	Karin and Mark Ohrstrom
† Anne H. Bass	Onward & Upward Initiative: A Charitable Trust
Jane and Dameron Black III	Open Society Foundations
Charles R. O'Malley Charitable Lead Trust	SENESCYT
The Coca-Cola Foundation	Denny† and Tim Solso
The Cummins Foundation	Standard Fruit Company
Five Together Foundation	U.S. Agency for International Development, American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (USAID/ASHA)
Fundación CRUSA	U.S. Department of Energy
Fundación Simón I. Patiño	W. K. Kellogg Foundation
Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky Foundation, Inc.	The Walmart Foundation
Instituto para Formación y Aprovechamiento de Recursos Humanos de Panamá	The Wege Foundation
Kalsec, Inc.	WEM Foundation

*“EARTH University, for me, is the future of education in food systems. In challenging times, when we need more than ever leaders who understand food production from a holistic point of view—including not only agronomy, but also ecology, processing, business, and entrepreneurship— EARTH is providing the holistic education needed, with the especially impactful mission of allowing the sons and daughters of smallholder farmers from the Global South to step into this leadership role. We need thousands of EARTH Universities around the world. It’s a showcase of what education in food systems should be”.*

### **Fernando Russo**

Partner & CEO at Meraki Impact



## Gifts received in 2024

### \$5,000,000+

Mastercard Foundation

### \$1,000,000-\$4,999,999

Anonymous

U.S. Agency for International Development,  
American Schools and Hospitals  
Abroad (USAID/ASHA)

### \$250,000-\$999,999

†Anne H. Bass

Five Together Foundation

Gerald A. and Karen A. Kolschowsky  
Foundation, Inc.

Denny† and Tim Solso

The Walmart Foundation

### \$100,000-\$249,999

A.G. Leventis Foundation

Banco de Desarrollo Rural, Sociedad Anónima

The Butler Foundation

The Coca-Cola Foundation

Fundación Alberto Motta

Fyffes

Starr Moore and James Starr Moore  
Memorial Foundation

Dr. Khan Nedd - WKKF Trustee Advised Fund

Sally and Ken Ohrstrom

Karin and Mark Ohrstrom

SSB Charitable Corporation

The Wege Foundation

### \$50,000-\$99,999

Anonymous (3)

AgroAmérica

Tracey Robertson-Carter and Christopher Carter

Fidinam International Charity Foundation

Kalsec, Inc.

Ministry of Education, Culture,  
Science and Technology of Belize

Lilla and Chris Ohrstrom

### \$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous

Claire Lewis Arnold and H. R. Arnold III

Banco Davivienda

Karen B. Caplan

The Catesby Foundation

Kathleen and Douglas Colson

The Edward Colston Foundation Inc.

Barbara and Ivor Freeman

Hoffman-Brouse Foundation

Kathleen Binnicker Swann Foundation

Katherine John Murphy Foundation

George L. Ohrstrom Jr. Foundation

The Trio Foundation of St. Louis

*"Five Together Foundation is proud to fund scholarships for EARTH students. We know that investing in education can change the life trajectory of young people with financial need, and we appreciate that at EARTH that is only the start of our impact. Our first EARTH scholar just graduated, and we look forward to what he and the incredible young leaders we support in the four classes after him do after graduation – for smallholder farmer livelihoods in their communities, and sustainable agriculture and food security in their regions and our world."*

**Laurie Toll Franz**

Chair of the Five Together Foundation Board



**Wilson Muñoz**  
(Class of 2024, Colombia)  
Five Together Foundation  
scholarship recipient

**\$15,000-\$24,999**

Anonymous (2)  
 BAC Credomatic  
 John Bryant  
 Jackie and Doug Wiggins  
 Laura Frey and Erico Gomes  
 Fundación Riojas Aguirre  
 Journey Charitable Foundation  
 Adrienne Meisel and Rand Sparling  
 Pontes de Arrpal, S.A.  
 Jeannie Wright

**\$10,000-\$14,999**

Anonymous  
 Susan Carter  
 Diane and Richard Clark  
 🎓 Fundación ENLASA  
 Fundación Poligrow  
 Kelly and Dush Pathmanandam  
 The Sustainability Laboratory Inc.

**\$5,000-\$9,999**

†Anonymous  
 Auto Mercado S.A.  
 Banana Enterprises Limited  
 🎓 Cercol S.A.  
 🎓 Juan De La Cerda Bianchi  
 Dream Volunteers  
 Edna Wardlaw Charitable Trust  
 Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC  
 Interra International  
 The Isaf Family Foundation, Inc.  
 Karen and Robert Kustel  
 Barbara McGahan  
 Mark McGahan  
 Sharon Pauli  
 Trade Winds Citrus Ltd.

**\$2,500-\$4,999**

🎓 Allan Acosta Castro  
 🎓 Beca Semilla Graduados Guatemala  
 Deb Broderick, Kay Nesbitt, Annie Cooper  
 Kristina and Michael Caplin  
 The Coca-Cola Company  
 Arturo Condo and Leonor Gutiérrez Fernández  
 Prudence and William Finn  
 Emily Fintel Kaiser and Andrew Kaiser  
 F. Martin and Dorothy A. Johnson Family Fund  
 Gina and Rich Kelley  
 Manuel Ramírez Umaña  
 Faith Vrugink and Victor Sanchez

**\$1,000-\$2,499**

Diane and Kent Alexander  
 🎓 C.H. Robinson Worldwide  
 Kevin Duffy  
 Wendy and Hugh Durden  
 Janet Eastridge  
 Empresa Comercial del Pacífico S.A.  
 Marty Fluharty  
 Erika González-Akre and Thomas Akre  
 Elizabeth and F. Sheffield Hale  
 Christine and Jon Hoek  
 Tracy and Scott Hoover  
 Jamaica Producers Group  
 Bobbo Jetmundsen  
 Philip S. Khoury, H 2016  
 Louise and David Lutton  
 🎓 Golfredo Mendoza Díaz  
 Carolyn and W. Thomas Mobley, Jr.  
 Larsen Fund / Susan Ritz  
 Claudia Ossenbach Kröschel  
 Panama Rainwater  
 Jeanine and Guy Saperstein  
 Jeffrey Scales  
 Kay Betts and John Sibley  
 Stumptown Coffee Roasters  
 L. Ann Thrupp, Ph.D.  
 Susan and Richard Vander Veen III  
 Amy and Andrew Vaughn  
 Margaret and Robert Terry Wittenberg  
 Randi S. N. Yoder and Michael J. Henley





**Thank you for believing  
in EARTH's mission!**

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