2020 Foundation Annual Report: Rocket to Rocket Fund

(250 words)

**Rockets Respond to Pandemic with Emergency Aid for Students in Need**

Thanks to nearly 800 members of the University of Toledo community, students facing unexpected financial hardships during the coronavirus pandemic were assisted with housing, utilities, medical bills, food and other critical expenses.

The COVID-19 Student Emergency Support Crowdfunding Campaign began with an initial goal of $30,000, which then grew to $75,000. In a little more than three months, the campaign ultimately raised more than $131,000.

In addition, nearly 60 student organizations mobilized to donate $187,000 to the Rocket to Rocket Fund. The contributions came from University-allocated funds that student organizations had budgeted for activities, events and campaigns during spring semester that could not be used.

“When we got word that funding was frozen, we asked if we could put it toward students who had lost their jobs and can’t pay their rent or buy groceries,” notes **Becca Sturges ’20**, former Student Government president. “Whether we can be together on the campus we love or not, we support each other, especially those of us facing tremendous financial stress and anxiety right now.”

**Callout: UToledo’s Student Food Pantry expanded to the Health Science Campus in fall 2019. Learn more or make a gift at [utfoundation.org/pantry](https://www.utoledo.edu/studentaffairs/food-pantry/).**

Through September 2020, the University has awarded more than $190,000 in aid to 282 students. Meanwhile, the Student Food Pantry has distributed more than 24,000 meals to 2,800 students.

“I’m so grateful to benefit from this program,” says Trudy-Gaye King, currently an early childhood education major at UToledo. “I had been affected by COVID-19, became unemployed, and this fund helped me to pay rent and buy food for my family.”