

My story



From Benya Kraus <donate@email.obama.org>
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I was given a life changing opportunity thanks in part to people like you.

I want to share my journey from my small rural community, to The Obama Foundation Scholars program, to co-founding an organization that helps other young people invest in *their* hometowns and make a difference for their friends and neighbors.

I know firsthand what an incredible difference The Obama Foundation's work can have. I also know how important it is to support that work, especially now, with a rare \$25,000 matching gift offer available.

[Please, help The Foundation reach their 1,000 Giving Tuesday donor goal and unlock \\$25,000 in matching funds for The Obama Foundation—we only have until midnight on Tuesday!](#)

GIVE NOW

When I started the Scholars program, I knew it was my responsibility to bring the voices and lived experiences of the people I grew up with into the extraordinary community of Scholars I was joining.

Growing up, **I saw how rural communities were losing their future leaders.** It inspired me to start a nonprofit that empowers college graduates to return to and reinvest in their hometowns through national service fellowships.

I came to the University of Chicago determined to build on this work and bring urban and rural leaders together to fix the policies and economic incentives that hurt communities across the country. It was here that I personally benefited from the Scholars program.

In Chicago, I was inspired not only by the power of the Scholars community, but also by the ability to grow and channel the resources and connections I made through the program back to the places and people who got me here in the first place.

Which means your gift not only makes a difference in the lives of participants in the program, but all of those we will continue to reach. **It's an incredible impact that's only made possible through the [generous support of The Obama Foundation community.](#)**

Join in, and make this same opportunity possible for other students and changemakers across the world. **It's important we all act in community today because a generous donor will donate a huge \$25,000 gift to The Obama Foundation, but *only* if 1,000 other people make a gift for Giving Tuesday!**

[Your gift is urgently needed](#) as potential leaders are waiting for the opportunity to unlock their full potential. [By making a gift right now](#), you are helping shape a better tomorrow.

HELP US UNLOCK \$25,000

When you [make a \\$25 Giving Tuesday gift you're not just helping The Obama Foundation get closer to our 1,000 donor goal to unlock a \\$25,000 matching gift](#), you're also supporting the amazing programming that is preparing young leaders around the world to bring the change we need in the world.

We can't let this opportunity go to waste. [Make a \\$25 Giving Tuesday gift today](#) and help strengthen and grow the programs The Obama Foundation makes possible.

Thank you,
Benya

Benya Kraus
Obama Foundation Scholar

GIVE NOW



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