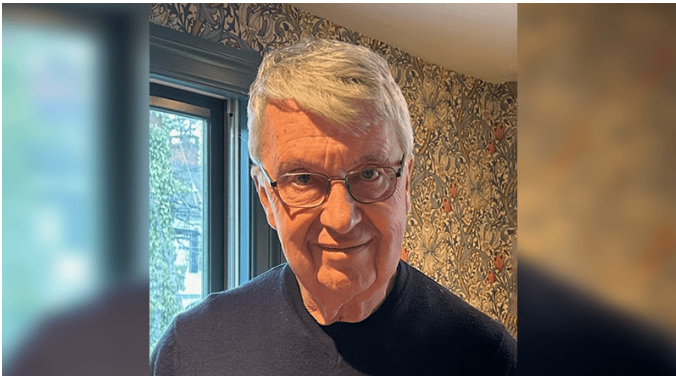




A MIND IS SOCIETY

AMI SPOTLIGHT



James F. Rogers and his legacy of paying it forward through education

James F. Rogers understands the profound value of paying it forward. The support of a community member paved the way for his father to become the first in the family to attend college, marking the beginning of a new generation in higher education. This awareness has fostered a practice of giving for Rogers and his wife, Kate E. Van Buskirk Rogers, with UNCF as one of their beneficiaries.

Rogers's first exposure to UNCF came through the famous "A mind is a terrible thing to waste"® ads he watched during summer visits to his grandmother, who owned the only color TV in town. He found the UNCF motto to be "absolutely spot on. It was a very memorable line—not only memorable, but it resonates. People look at that and think, you know what, that's really true."

Reflecting on his own experiences, Rogers acknowledges the importance of opportunity in education, sharing a personal

story about his father, who almost had "his mind wasted," he said, due to family circumstances. Fortunately, a local minister stepped in to push him in the right direction. "He saw the potential in my dad, helped him get into a feeder school for Northwestern in Evanston, assisted him in finding a place to live and a job, and even drove him up there to give him a start. Isn't that amazing?"

As a donor to UNCF for more than 11 years, the echo of "A mind is a terrible thing to waste"® continues to resonate with Rogers. He reflects on how many minds have likely gone untapped due to lack of resources. "You wonder, how many Albert Einsteins never had a chance, right? If we can help people achieve their potential—which is what I think we all ought to be trying to do—that's great."

Rogers hopes to see an educational future where higher education is viewed as more than just a pathway to the job market. He believes that college can offer much more: "I'm hoping that higher education can prepare people for careers, but also for life—in the sense of becoming good citizens, contributing members of society, while also helping them secure a good job."

He recognizes the critical role of generous donors who help offset the challenges faced by students from less privileged backgrounds. "By donating, what we do is not only allow people to get an education, but to focus on that education as opposed to other things they might have to do, and really get the highest benefit out of the education," he explained.

Rogers's advice to potential donors is straightforward: "Give. Stop thinking about it, just give."

James F. Rogers exemplifies the spirit of giving, driven by a deep understanding of the transformative power of education. His commitment to supporting disadvantaged students not only honors his father's legacy, but also paves the way for future generations to thrive. And that kind of belief and giving attitude is how we ensure better futures for us all.

"I'm hoping that higher education can prepare people for careers, but also for life—in the sense of becoming good citizens, contributing members of society, while also helping them secure a good job."



AMI EVENTS

The 24th Annual South Florida Leader’s Luncheon at the Marriott Harbor Beach in Fort Lauderdale was a powerful gathering of leaders and changemakers.



(left to right)
Roxanna Blisset, Development Director; Sunrise Mayor **Michael Ryan**; **T. Carlton Williams**, Partner, VP, Employee Benefits Consultant at USI Insurance Services and a UNCF South Florida Leadership Council Member; and **Maurice E. Jenkins, Jr.**, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer, UNCF

On January 16, 2025, UNCF Seattle hosted an evening “A Mind Is Society” reception. The event, co-chaired by Isa Ellis and Jack McCullough, honored 17 AMI members at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Linda Thompson-Black, Area Development Director, and Cathy Dupe, Development Director, said the event provided an opportunity for community leaders to learn how their support impacts UNCF students and member schools.



UNCF Seattle AMI - Investors in Better Futures Members.

(left to right)
Linda Thompson-Black presents Attorney **Jack McCullough** his Ambassador Andrew J. Young Society lapel.





1944 MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Lorraine Mayhew Hinds: A **Lifetime Advocate** for Access to Education

A long-time teacher, Lorraine Mayhew Hinds believed in the power of education. Lorraine's family originated from Surrey County, VA, but during the Great Migration, they moved to Mt. Vernon, NY, where she was born.

Mrs. Hinds was very active in her church and was a classically trained pianist. She attended and graduated from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. Her first cousin, Bonnie Williams, said that her voice was "like a pure bell when [Lorraine] began to sing, there was total silence."

After graduating from college (being the first in her family to do so), she briefly worked in social services, but Lorraine soon discovered her true calling: educating children at the elementary school level. Mrs. Hinds taught third grade, was a reading lab teacher, and retired as an administrator in the Bronx. She loved her students in the South Bronx and talked about them constantly to her family and friends. "If the children saw [her] as a role model," Lorraine believed, "they would have the confidence to achieve their goals."

Lorraine later obtained two master's degrees in education, enhancing her knowledge of and training in the field. Throughout her life, Lorraine was a strong advocate for equitable access to higher education and particularly for helping underserved students. After Mrs. Hinds passed away, a former student said of her, "Mrs. Hinds had so much patience and style."

Lorraine's bequest designated UNCF as the beneficiary of her teacher's retirement fund, and it will help countless students in their journey toward achieving a college degree. We are truly grateful for Mrs. Hinds's remarkable life spent educating children and for her commitment to UNCF's mission where we will proudly realize her legacy by helping deserving students get to and through college. If you would like information on including UNCF in your estate plans, please contact **Jason Osborn at 312.724.7078 or Jason.Osborn@uncf.org.**

AMI SOCIETY LEVELS



Dr. Frederick D. Patterson
\$10,000,000 +



Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune
\$1,000,000 - \$9,999,999



UNCF President's
\$100,000 - \$999,999



Ambassador Andrew J. Young
\$25,000 - \$99,999



Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole
\$5,000 - \$24,999



Investors in Better Futures
\$1,000 - \$4,999



1944 Society
Planned gifts

“A MIND IS ...”[®] Annual Giving Society

The UNCF “A Mind Is...”[®] Annual Giving Society honors individuals who have generously invested in the future of UNCF and our students.

Your contribution helps UNCF achieve our mission to build a robust and nationally recognized pipeline of students at HBCUs and help them become highly qualified graduates and leaders in our society. Donors receive membership at the appropriate society level based on their giving within the calendar year. Membership is renewable annually.

For information on how you can be a part of “A Mind Is...”[®] Society or to make a gift, please **contact LaJuana Chenier, Vice President Major Gifts, at 202.810.0168.**

