A Gift for Good

COUPLE MAKES GIVING BACK A PRIORITY IN NEW LIFE TOGETHER

JIM AND AMANDA CRANE haven’t had a chance to check out Colorado’s renowned rivers and hiking with their beloved dogs yet, but they are excited about the opportunity to get out and explore. The couple, married in September, is an adventurous duo who also has a passion for giving back.

Though Jim and Amanda initially met at Washington D.C.’s Gallaudet University, it wasn’t until they connected years later at a friend’s wedding in Maryland that the sparks flew. A year ago they moved to Colorado, where Jim works for a private equity investment company that supports start-up businesses for people with disabilities. Amanda, a licensed mental health professional, is starting a private counseling practice with a goal of providing mental health services to deaf clientele.

In July, the couple, who live in Englewood, Colorado, established the Jimanda Foundation, a Donor Advised Fund at The Columbus Foundation, to support causes and organizations they are both passionate about. They encouraged wedding guests, through their wedding website, to donate to the fund in lieu of gifts.

“For a long time, ever since we’ve met, we both wanted to set up a foundation where we could give to different nonprofit organizations,” Jim explained. “My whole family has always used The Columbus Foundation. It is so trustworthy, and it just made sense that we would choose to work with the Foundation.”

Jim grew up in Columbus, earned his undergraduate degrees from Gallaudet and his juris doctor from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Amanda grew up in central California, graduated from Gallaudet, and earned her master’s degree in management and family therapy from California State University, Fresno. Both came from charitable families, and feel giving back comes naturally.

“My parents have always taught me the importance of giving back to your community and how that comes back to you. It’s been ingrained in me my whole life,” Jim explained.

For Amanda, she also recognizes the importance of it in her professional life.

“For a mental health professional like myself, it’s so important to give back to the community to make sure that people feel like there is someone there for them. My family has always taught me the value of giving back to others,” she said.

Jim and Amanda, who are both deaf, plan to use their foundation partly as a springboard to help provide opportunities to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

“We understand firsthand what the barriers are in the Deaf Community, and we know that with the foundation we’ll be able to help a little bit with that,” Jim said. “I know there’s a long way to go, but it’s a start.”

Amanda added, “We see so much potential for intellectual individuals in the Deaf Community, but often they are overlooked due to their disability. We want to create a variety of opportunities for Deaf people to contribute to society and show the world all they have to offer.”

The couple’s first grant was awarded to the Rocky Mountain Deaf School in Denver. Jim and Amanda hope to provide the charter school with funding that will expand projects and an afterschool program.

“We have big dreams. We hope this foundation will be forever,” Jim said.

To learn more about Jim and Amanda and their foundation, visit jimandafoundation.com.

In 2016:

- Grants totaled an all-time high of $205.8 million and benefited more than 3,300 nonprofit organizations in a wide range of fields
- Gifts made to new and existing funds and Supporting Foundations totaled $314.7 million—marking the seventh consecutive year of gifts exceeding $100 million
- The Foundation’s assets, held in 2,440 unique, named funds and 28 Supporting Foundations, totaled $2.01 billion as of December 31, 2016
- 152 new funds were established
- 42 Planned Gifts were created, with a projected value of more than $78.1 million

Since 1944:

- $2.06 billion in grants has been awarded to thousands of nonprofit organizations
- $2.8 billion in gifts has been received

**GIFTS OF KINDNESS GRANTS TOP $1 MILLION!**

Incredible News! In August, the Gifts of Kindness Fund granted its one millionth dollar to support individuals and families in our community. The fund, initially established in 2014 through the generosity of the Margaret and Robert Walter Foundation, helps central Ohioans who are experiencing an unexpected setback and have an immediate financial need.

The Foundation works with 22 partner nonprofit organizations to identify individuals to receive one-time grants, estimated to be between $500 and $3,000 each.

“This amazing accomplishment is a testament to our generous community and kind spirit,” said Kelley Griesmer, Senior Vice President and Manager, Walter Family Philanthropy for The Columbus Foundation. “These grants lift up those in need and provide financial help when they may have nowhere else to turn.”

The kindness continues. As of October 31, 2017, Gifts of Kindness has awarded 635 grants, totaling $1,000,688, with an average grant amount of $1,718.

You, too, can spread Gifts of Kindness this holiday season! Join us in helping families with an emergency need. Anyone can make a gift to the Gifts of Kindness Fund using a credit card, Donor Advised Fund, or Supporting Foundation through The Giving Store at columbusfoundation.org.

TAKE ACTION: Learn more about the historic 2016 year, and read inspiring stories about donors and nonprofits making a difference in our community in #KD, the Foundation’s 2016 Annual Report, at columbusfoundation.org.