The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), founded in 1963, is the charitable arm of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). The mission of the AVMF is to develop resources to advance the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.

GIFTS IN ACTION
Through the generosity of donors, the Foundation has been able to help veterinarians help animals through a variety of education, service, advocacy, and research programs and activities.

Scholarships
By investing in the education of veterinary students, donors play a role in ensuring that future veterinarians have the skills and training necessary to treat our pets, safeguard our food supply, and protect public health.

Since January 2016, the Foundation has provided 62 scholarships for veterinary students in North America, the Caribbean, and abroad. We are pleased to continue our partnership with Merck Animal Health who has funded national and international student scholarships over the past three years. We recently received information that Merck will continue to fund this program in 2017 with $185,000.00. The Auxiliary to the AVMA Legacy Endowment has now supported 28 scholarships for outstanding students. Future Auxiliary scholarships will be supported from the income from this permanent endowment. The Harold Wetterberg Foundation is also a major donor and increased their support for scholarships with a gift of $80,000.

Achieving, Leading and Learning (ALL) for Students
Student Chapters of the AVMA use this funding to provide programming in four key areas: Leadership, Wellness, Professional Development and Community Outreach. Since January 2016, the Foundation has received $100,000 from AVMA LIFE for this program.

Externships and Externship stipends
The AVMF assists students seeking to broaden their education through experiences in diverse areas of veterinary medicine, including externships at the AVMA headquarters and abroad. The Foundation will support 10 externships and 10 externship stipends in 2016.

Research Support
The Foundation supports the following research scholarships and awards:

   Second Opportunity Research Scholarships - 5 to be awarded in 2016
Young Investigator Awards – 3 to be awarded in 2016
2016 AVMA Lifetime Excellence in Research Award
2016 AVMF/Winn Feline Foundation Research Award

In addition, the Foundation will provide general support for the Merial - National Institutes of Health Research Scholars Symposium to be held later in the year.

AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund
The Veterinary Care Charitable Fund is a program created to provide veterinarians with a simple and effective way to offer charitable veterinary services to clients facing personal hardships, as well as a means to support animals rescued from abuse and neglect.

Through this program, donors make gifts to the AVMF in support of the charitable work of the practices enrolled. AVMA member veterinarians can then request a grant from those donated funds so they may be reimbursed for the charitable veterinary services they provide. As of May 31, 2016, the Foundation was tracking the donations for 167 enrolled practices. New fundraising tools for the enrolled practices include digital “donate” buttons that practices can include on their websites. In addition, direct mail and email campaigns to encourage enrollment are planned for the remainder of calendar year 2016.

AVMF Our Oath in Action™
Community service events will take place in seven states beginning in August 2016. These events utilize the time, talents and skills of volunteers including veterinary students, faculty members, community veterinarians and those working in animal health and welfare. This year, activities include pet health education at the New York State Fair, shelter rehab, and spay/neuter surgeries. The Banfield Foundation is supporting the program with a three-year total commitment of $200,000 through 2018. This program demonstrates a collaborative effort with staff and volunteers from AVMF, AVMA, and Banfield Foundation all working together in the planning and execution of these events.

AVMA Congressional Fellowships
The AVMF will help support the AVMA Congressional Fellowship program again this year. Three fellows will spend a year on Capitol Hill advising members of Congress and their staff on matters of national concern from animal welfare to food safety and public health.

AVMA Awards
The Foundation is administering the AVMA Awards program providing funding for recognition and travel expenses for awardees. Most of the annual awards will be presented at the AVMA Convention in San Antonio, TX.

Partners for Healthy Pets
Led by the AVMA and the American Animal Hospital Association, Partners for Healthy Pets provides tools and resources that help communicate the value and benefit of preventive care. Resources for practices are freely available at www.partnersforhelathypets.org including
information on a Lapsed Client program, Forward Booking, and internet marketing and social media. The initiative, in its sixth year, is supported through corporate contributions.

**Websites and Social Media**
The Foundation maintains two websites: [www.avmf.org](http://www.avmf.org) for the Foundation and [www.vccfund.org](http://www.vccfund.org) for the AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund. Both websites have been updated with user-friendly functionality and more photos for visual appeal, plus security measures have been enhanced on the donation forms. The AVMF Facebook page has 22,013 total page “likes,” which shows an increase of 29% since January 2016.

**Student Outreach**
The SAVMA President-Elect, who serves on the AVMF Board, helps with student outreach. We believe an ongoing and strong relationship between AVMF and SAVMA helps promote the value of AVMA membership for students even after they graduate. AVMF has photos and quotes from scholarship recipients and plans to request videos as well. The goal of sharing these, “A Day in the Life of a Vet Student,” videos online, is to provide donors and prospects with a visual reference of “Gifts in Action.”

**Meetings and Conventions**
The AVMF staff and volunteers exhibited at the following events:
AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago, IL
NAVC in Orlando, FL
WVC in Las Vegas, NV
SAVMA Symposium in Ames, IA – AVMF Vice Chair also gave a presentation for all attendees

We are deeply appreciative of the donors who help make all of these programs possible.

**FOUNDATION OPERATIONS**
The Foundation Board is comprised of veterinary and non-veterinary representatives from the AVMA Executive Board, AVMA HOD and the Auxiliary to the AVMA. Additionally, volunteers serve on the following committees: Executive, Grants/Awards, Finance Administration, Audit, Strategic Planning, Committee on the Board, and Partners for Healthy Pets.

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