



2024 Annual Bulletin

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PHOTO CREDITS: Front cover and alumnae photos from reunion, Lisa Abitbol; page 1 photo, Natasha Moustache. NOTE: Although WSAS support reaches two-thirds of all Wellesley students, those pictured in this bulletin are not necessarily recipients of WSAS aid.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of WSAS,



As December arrives, the days at Wellesley grow shorter and the nights longer. Yet, amidst the darkness, the Wellesley Students'

Aid Society shines brightly, offering hope and support to the College and its students.

While much of Wellesley Students' Aid Society's support, both in the past and now, provides essential loans and grants for tuition, our mission has expanded to address a broader range of needs for low-income students. Wellesley Students' Aid Society continues to offer emergency grants and loans, stepping in during critical moments—whether it's an unexpected trip home to visit an ill parent, dental work not covered by insurance, or urgent repairs to a laptop. But our reach doesn't stop there. We now provide student service grants to various College departments and offices, supporting everything from graduate school preparation to physical education gear, and even professional development opportunities. These important grants, totaling \$77,000 this past year, have made a tangible impact on student life, allowing them to seize opportunities they might otherwise miss.

Another cherished tradition, the Clothes Closet, continues to provide students with clothing for interviews and everyday wear. But now, Wellesley Students' Aid Society has taken this a step further with our Residential Resource Closet. Stocked with essentials like shampoo, deodorant, and laundry detergent, this closet offers everyday items that many of us take for granted but can be out of reach for low-income students. Additionally, Wellesley Students' Aid Society offers a winter clothing grant, ensuring that once during their time at Wellesley, students can receive a brand-new winter coat. For some, it's the first new coat they've ever owned—an experience that is both heartwarming and transformative.

How does all of this happen? It happens because of you. Your generosity fuels the Wellesley Students' Aid Society and allows us to continue supporting students in meaningful and life-changing ways. Please continue this support by making a tax-deductible donation today, either by returning the enclosed form or by visiting our website to donate online.

With my warmest thanks,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jamie Ann Sabino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jamie" being more prominent.

Jamie Ann Sabino '75
President, Wellesley Students' Aid Society



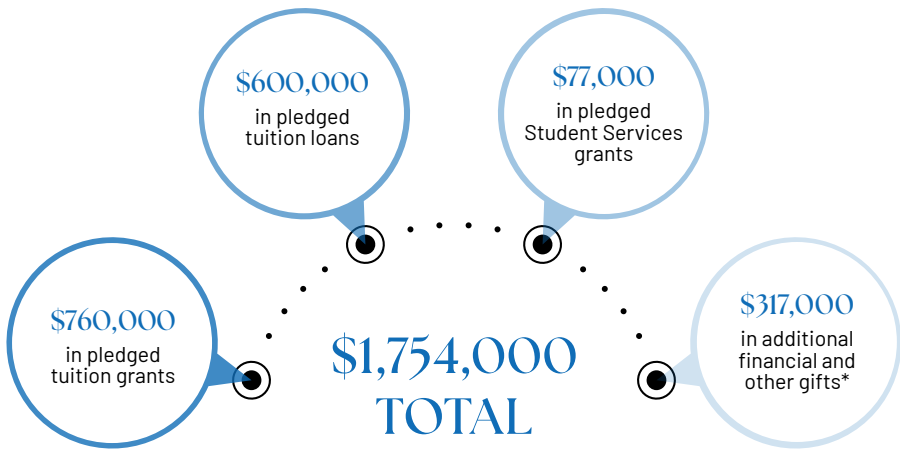
YOUR GIFT MATTERS

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
MAKE A DONATION

2023–2024 Impact

Supporting today's Wellesley students in their educational pursuits is about more than just guidance—it's about shaping the change-makers of tomorrow. By giving them the resources, mentorship, and inspiration they need, we empower them to break barriers, innovate, and make their mark on the world. These students will be the visionaries, the trailblazers, and the thought leaders driving positive change in society.

Thanks to your generous support, in 2023–2024, WSAS was able to provide:



** Gifts include funding for medical and other emergencies, support for all students on financial aid (including gift cards for textbooks), and necessities such as winter clothes and linens.*

In 2023–2024, WSAS pledged nearly \$1.4 million in tuition aid, along with \$210,000 in gift cards for textbooks and other learning materials. We also supported opportunities like internships, fellowships, and study abroad.

For the 2024–2025 academic year, WSAS has committed \$600,000 in tuition loans and \$760,000 in tuition grants to the college. This pledge is in addition to of thousands of dollars in emergency funding, no-interest loans, student services grants, and essential resources for students.

146
YEARS SUPPORTING
STUDENTS

STUDENT SERVICES GRANTS PROGRAM

The Wellesley Students' Aid Society (WSAS) has continued its Student Services Grants program for its 5th year, collaborating with Wellesley College departments to address student needs.

As of May 2024, WSAS awarded 63 grants totaling \$360,150. These grants support various student services, from professional development to financial assistance, with a focus on aiding students with financial need.

SPECIFIC GRANTS INCLUDE:

Wellesley Career Education: \$10,000 for graduate school preparation, offering \$100 awards to help cover application-related costs.

Health Professions Advising: \$2,000 for a cohort supporting underrepresented students in medicine, including transportation funding for program activities.

LGBTQ+ Programs: \$8,000 for gender-affirming gear, benefiting transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming students.

Office of Intercultural Education: \$5,000 for professional development grants, supporting conferences and credentials for underrepresented students.

Office of International Study: \$10,000 for study abroad expenses, including passports and visas, for high-need students.

Office of Student Success: \$10,000 for summer storage fee waivers for first-generation, low-income students.

Phi Beta Kappa: \$3,500 to cover membership dues for students on financial aid.

PERA Physical Education: \$10,000 for PE gear for students with financial need and \$1,000 for Outdoor Adventure Access for low-income students.

Slater International Center: \$4,500 for U.S. work authorization fees for international students and \$3,000 for food accessibility during academic breaks.

Stone Center Counseling Service: \$10,000 to help reduce financial barriers to mental health services.

5

YEARS OF STUDENT
SERVICE GRANTS
(BEGINNING IN 2019)

\$360,150

IN TOTAL GRANT FUNDING
SINCE 2019

63

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

\$77,000

TOTAL GRANT FUNDING IN
2023-2024

Launching the Leaders of Tomorrow

The Wellesley Students' Aid Society was founded within Wellesley College and incorporated in 1916 "for the purpose of securing, holding and dispersing funds to be loaned or given to students of Wellesley College whose personal means are insufficient for their support in college" (WSAS articles of incorporation).





WSAS is known for providing tuition assistance, but we also set aside hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to help students with other crucial expenses, giving them the freedom to focus on their studies. Here are just a few areas where WSAS gifts and no-interest loans have made a vital difference:

- Tuition aid and much more
- Funds to cover unexpected medical expenses
- Airfare for students facing a family illness or other crisis
- Professional attire for job interviews
- Senior gift of \$150 to each student graduating who is on financial aid
- Warm clothing and boots for cold winters
- Gift cards for textbooks

"Times have changed but the mission of Students' Aid has not. The gratefulness of former recipients like myself will endure forever."

Peg Kessler '49

WSAS: A constant source of unwavering support for students

"Because of the support from the WSAS, many of my necessities, like winter clothing, toiletries, etc. were supplied by this team, which is a privilege that is not available at most other schools. However, the most meaningful aid I received from the Students' Aid Society occurred this past Fall. In September, I flew home due to a family emergency. When I came back to campus, I returned as an orphan, with no guardians who could support me financially during my final year at Wellesley. Whilst trying to stay on top of my coursework, I discovered that my laptop was no longer functioning. After getting it checked out, I was told that it could not be fixed, and I needed to buy a new one. At this point, I was extremely overwhelmed. My sister was over 500 miles away, and we were navigating medical bills, funeral planning, and our finances on our own for the first time. On a whim, I called the Wellesley Students' Aid Society, and found myself on the line with Kat. She assured me that I could apply for a grant. Within a couple of days, my request was approved, and I found myself with a brand new laptop at no cost. I was able to finish out my last semesters at Wellesley feeling supported, despite the tremendous loss I had just experienced."



Isabella Chung '24
Speech at the 2024 WSAS Annual Celebration

"There have been many times WSAS has helped me. Whether it was offering to pay for my wisdom teeth surgery when I was in between health insurances, keeping the clothes closet stocked with formal wear, covering months of my phone bill when I couldn't, or most recently, helping me with a grant to repair my broken laptop, the Aid Society has been a constant source of unwavering support for its students, who otherwise, have nothing to fall back on."



Sumaiyea Uddin '24
Speech at the 2024 WSAS Annual Celebration

You can find the text of the speeches for Ms. Chung and Ms. Uddin on www.wellesley.edu/studentsaid/events

\$50

ADDITIONAL WELCOME GIFT FOR
EACH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID

\$48,250

IN SENIOR GIFTS
DISTRIBUTED TO THE
CLASS OF 2024

1,400+

AMAZON GIFT CARDS
DISTRIBUTED

45%

OF SURVEYED FIRST YEAR
STUDENTS USING THE
RESIDENTIAL RESOURCE
CLOSET

Stay Connected

We always love to receive new or gently used clothing for the WSAS Clothes Closet. With winter coming, those coats, boots, mittens, or sweaters at the back of your closet can bring warmth to a current student. You can also donate unopened personal items.

All donations are tax-free, and you may either drop them off or mail them to our office or donate to our Amazon wishlist or Donation page below.

If you would like to learn more about the extensive programming your donations have made possible—or to donate—please go to our website www.wellesley.edu/studentsaid.

Please follow us on Instagram (www.instagram.com/wellesleysas) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/wellesleystudentsaid) to see how we are impacting students.

WSAS WINTER CLOTHING GRANT:

As we enter our fifth winter season, we have been able to honor every winter clothing grant request totalling 597 winter clothing grants. This is in addition to the support offered with the Clothes Closet.

\$59,700

WINTER CLOTHING GRANT TOTAL

On behalf of the generations of students WSAS has sustained, we extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our donors. Your generosity nurtures the seeds of strong Wellesley women and prepares them to forge their own path to the future.

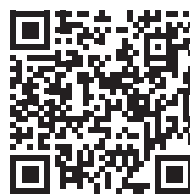
DONATE TODAY!

AMAZON WISHLIST CLOTHES & RESOURCE CLOSETS



Donations can be dropped off or mailed to our Schneider Center office, or you can buy items from our Amazon wish list. Learn more at wellesley.edu/studentsaid/donate/clothing.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO MAKE A DONATION



Support Wellesley students by making a donation online today! WSAS accepts one-time and recurring gifts through the Wellesley College Marketplace. We thank you for supporting our students!

WSAS Board of Directors and Staff 2023-2024

PRESIDENT	Jamie Sabino '75
VICE PRESIDENT	Dana Sundblad '90
SECRETARY	Anna Ehrlich '18
TREASURER	Denise Robbi '90
DIRECTORS	Tracey Bowen Bell '92
	Beth Bernhardt '79
	Lauren Brignone '00
	Stanley Chang (Faculty Representative)
	Esther Chung '09
	Shelley Cobb Dowling '90
	Heather Kispert Hagerty '95
	Rachel Lam '15
	Tess Mattern (Staff Representative)
	Anhar Mulla '81
	Esther Han Silver '99
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Catherine Kefalas '89
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Kat Longee



"Because we can respond quickly when a need arises, we're able to provide aid when and where it will do the most good. WSAS is always there for students who need just a little help to succeed in school so they can take their place among tomorrow's leaders."

Catherine Kefalas '89
WSAS Executive Director



Meet our WSAS Student Assistants



Anaejah Battle '27

Hi, I am Anaejah Battle, a sophomore neuroscience major on a pre-medical track. I am from Providence, Rhode Island; I enjoy crocheting, walking, and listening to music. It's my second year working at WSAS, and I enjoy helping and meeting my fellow Wellesley Siblings. Being a part of an influential resource on campus is empowering and such a privilege.

Adani Clarke '26

Hi, I am Adani Clarke and I am a sophomore majoring in chemical physics. I am an international student from Jamaica; I enjoy going to the beach, reading and listening to music. I am also a professional chess player. This is my first year working at WSAS and I look forward to an engaging collaboration with my team members and at large my Wellesley family.



Sofia Dewey '27

Hi! I'm Sofia Dewey, a sophomore majoring in International Relations—Economics with a CAMS minor. I call Cleveland, OH home, and love to read, cook, and travel. This is my second year with WSAS, and I'm excited for another year of helping connect students to needed resources.

Jessalyn Liang '28

Hi! I am Jessalyn Liang, a freshman and a hopeful Computer Science major. I was born in Brooklyn, New York but I call North Adams, Massachusetts my home. In my free time I love solving logic puzzles like minesweeper and reading books. This is my first year working at WSAS and my favorite part of the job is whenever I help to make one of my fellow sibs smile. Whether it's helping them find something they need or even just saying hi their smile becomes my smile.



TANYA ROY '81:

20 Years of Visionary Leadership



The Wellesley Students' Aid Society (WSAS) has been guided by the dedication of many strong and passionate board members, all united by a shared vision: to help the next generation achieve greater success with fewer financial burdens in their pursuit of education. This vision is embodied in WSAS's long-standing mission to "secure, hold, and distribute funds to be loaned or given to Wellesley College students whose personal resources are insufficient to support their college education."

While this mission drives the entire organization, the responsibility of "securing, holding, and dispersing funds" was particularly central to Tanya Roy, class of '81, during her tenure. She began her service as Director in 2004 and served as Treasurer from 2006 to 2024.

A Personal Journey Meets Professional Leadership

As an alumna, Tanya's connection to WSAS is deeply personal. While a student, she recognized the vital role the WSAS played in supporting her friends and classmates. Although much has changed over the years, the fundamental needs of students remain. Tanya still reflects on the limitations of school-sponsored aid, noting how it often falls short in addressing the real needs of students—gaps that the WSAS works to fill.

Tanya lights up when discussing the progress made over the last 20 years.

"The depth and breadth of our aid have truly expanded," she says. "We've introduced a new department grant program that has been incredibly successful and popular. We've also expanded our gift card program to include all four classes of students. Our clothes closet has been a resource for many years, and more recently, we've established a resource closet stocked with basic hygiene items for women—essentials that can be quite costly for students."

Tanya emphasizes that the WSAS's ability to meet students' needs is due to the dedication and talent of its staff, the commitment of the board of directors, and the unwavering generosity of its loyal donors.



A Community Effort: Driven by Loyalty and Generosity

"Our mission remains the same, but our scope has broadened," Tanya explains. "We've been able to expand our aid to students thanks to our loyal and dedicated alumni, along with their friends and family, who contribute year after year. Many alumni have even included us in their estate planning. These contributions are vital for supporting our operations and growing our endowment."

Tanya has skillfully guided the Students' Aid Society through a period of economic growth, ensuring that donations are thoughtfully cultivated for the benefit of recipients. Whether students need a winter coat, a swimsuit, hygiene products, or the empowerment to meet their needs through gift cards or loans, the Wellesley Students' Aid Society is dedicated to fulfilling their basic needs. This support allows students to fully engage in their education and enjoy their college experience. With donations of funds, time, or service, more Wellesley students will achieve greater success with fewer burdens in their educational journeys.

A Legacy That Lives On

Tanya's legacy is marked by compassion, leadership, and unwavering dedication to students. Thanks to her vision, more Wellesley College students can pursue their education with confidence, knowing that the Wellesley Students' Aid Society (WSAS) is there to support them every step of the way.

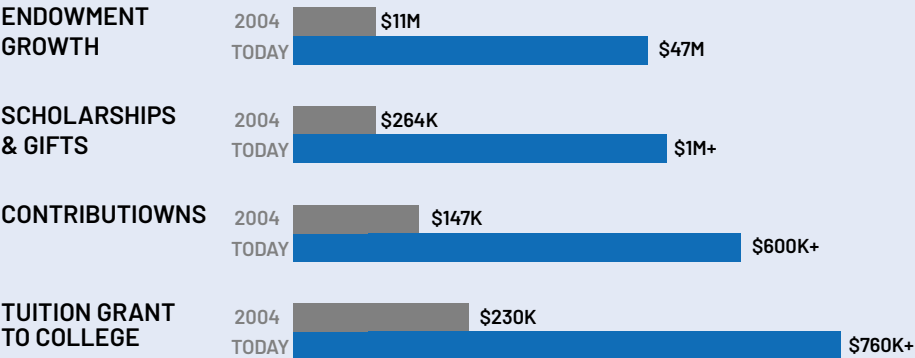
Since stepping down as Treasurer, Tanya has remained a passionate advocate for the WSAS, as well as for the staff and donors who make its work possible. You might catch a glimpse of her crossing the finish line as a marathoner and triathlete, but she's always on the move, making it hard to find her in one place for long.



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WSAS's ability to meet students' needs is due to the dedication and talent of its staff, the commitment of the board of directors, and the unwavering generosity of its loyal donors."

Over the past 20 years, our organization has undergone significant transformation through smart decision-making and strategic growth. These efforts have not only enhanced our operations but have created a lasting impact, allowing us to support more students than ever before.



Financial Statement

THE WELLESLEY STUDENTS' AID SOCIETY, INC. STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET ASSETS

	JUNE 30, 2024	JUNE 30, 2023
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$930,296	\$705,768
Loans receivable	\$1,287,431	\$1,465,711
Investments	\$46,946,134	\$42,234,267
Prepaid expenses, software, furniture	\$1,061	\$1,603
Contribution receivable		\$2,087
Accrued interest receivable	\$22,994	\$27,658
TOTAL ASSETS	\$49,187,916	\$44,437,094
NET ASSETS		
Total unrestricted	\$48,415,137	\$43,693,823
Temporarily restricted	\$726,139	\$714,346
Accrued expenses	\$46,640	\$28,925
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$49,187,916	\$44,437,094

The Wellesley Students' Aid Society applies the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Board of Directors has designated as unrestricted scholarship funds all permanent funds donated to the Society without restriction on the use of income earned on investment of the principal fund balance. The income earned thereon is available to unrestricted general funds to assist in funding the operations of the Society.

A provision is made for doubtful loans when they are determined to be uncollectible.

The Society has committed \$1,360,000 for financial aid to students at Wellesley College during the academic year 2024-2025. Of this amount, \$760,000 will be given in the form of scholarships and \$600,000 as student loans repayable to the Society.

The above statement of assets, liabilities, and net assets as of June 30, 2024, has been derived from the Wellesley Students' Aid Society, Inc.'s audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024.



WHO YOU HELP

"I brought some winter clothes from Pakistan, but due to the climate difference, I find that the winters here are much colder than expected. As the season progresses, I anticipate needing larger, warmer jackets, which I currently do not have. This grant would help me purchase those essential items to better prepare for the cold weather. I would greatly appreciate your support in helping me manage this transition."

2024 Winter Clothing
Grant Recipient

Celebrate with us in 2025

Thank you to everyone who attended the WSAS Annual Celebration on May 25th! The day was a huge success!

We thank Wellesley College President Paula A. Johnson for taking time out of her very busy Reunion Weekend schedule to come and speak about the collaboration between Wellesley College and WSAS in supporting students.

We hope you'll join us for next year's celebration, which will take place Saturday, May 24, 2025—Wellesley College reunion weekend. Watch our website for details coming soon!

STAY CONNECTED WITH WSAS

Address: Wellesley College
Schneider 117
106 Central St.
Wellesley, MA 02481-8203

Telephone: (781) 283-2292

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Email: Catherine Kefalas '89
Executive Director
ckefalas@wellesley.edu

Kat Longee
Assistant Director
klongee@wellesley.edu

Website: www.wellesley.edu/studentsaid

Facebook: www.facebook.com/wellesleystudentsaid

Instagram: www.instagram.com/wellesleysas