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DARRELL K ROYAL
R E S E A R C H F U N D
for ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Fundraiser spotlight: UT Austin students unite to raise \$35,000 for the Darrell K Royal Research Fund for Alzheimer's Disease

Austin, May 2017: A group of 78 UT Austin students known as the Legacy Council Rookies, part of the Darrell K Royal Research Fund for Alzheimer's Disease, have raised \$35,000 to benefit the Fund, which will be directly granted to Texas researchers searching for a cure to the life altering disease. Co-chaired by 3 seniors (Rob Montgomery, Jenna McGaw, and Allyson Poujol), these students came together in a matter of two months to meet their individual goal of raising \$500 by April 20th, 2017.

Started in 2016 with 25 members and a fundraising result of \$15,000, Coach Royal's Rookie team has tripled in size and more than doubled in the amount raised in 2017. Rob Montgomery, senior and co-chair of the Rookies, writes, "Many of the DKR Rookie members have had family members affected by Alzheimer's disease or grew up in neighborhoods where community members were affected. The Legacy Council Rookies has given our generation a way to help fight the disease." He continues, "The Rookies are a small piece to beating Alzheimer's disease (AD), but as we have been taught by attending the University of Texas at Austin, "What Starts Here Changes the World," and our hope is that we can spread the word and recruit more young people to continue to do so as well."

In celebration of their accomplishment, the DKR Fund threw a night of fun for the hard-working Rookies at Cheers on 6th street on April 20th, 2017. The night was a huge success, with dozens of the Rookie's friends and colleagues attending, and additional donations exceeding \$2,000 from non-Rookie UT students.

About the Darrell K Royal Research Fund for Alzheimer's Disease

Darrell K Royal, former football coach and athletic director at The University of Texas at Austin, is one of college football's greatest legends. Throughout his lifetime, Coach Royal touched thousands of lives both on and off the field. In November 2012, Coach lost his life to Alzheimer's disease. His loving wife, Edith, created the DKR Fund with a commitment to excellence in research and care for Texans, the nation, and the world. Since the Fund was created in 2012, \$3,330,000 has been raised and \$2,600,000 has been committed to MD and PhD researchers across Texas.

The DKR Fund represents the pinnacle of commitment to excellence in research and care for Texans, in attempt to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease in our lifetime, as well as to expand research in Mild Cognitive Impairment and Traumatic Brain Injury. Additionally, the Fund aims to promote the paradigms of care and access to resources for Texans, enabling exposure to preventative care and treatment strategies aimed at combatting the epidemic. The Fund, in Coach Royal's honor, provides national recognition and a profile to this disease, which is the most dreaded and feared by the demographic over 55. With no cure in sight and no drugs available to alter the course of this disease, it is time to pick up the pace and get ahead of Alzheimer's disease. Coach Royal's legacy gives a voice and face to a disease that has too long been hidden behind closed doors. For more information, visit www.dkrfund.org