

## OCU continues to lead



*As a preeminent nursing program, Oklahoma City University's Kramer School of Nursing continues to innovate its offerings to produce some of the most highly skilled nurses in our region.*

The school fosters a learning environment where students are challenged to think critically and holistically, encouraging them to use their passion and knowledge to advance the profession of nursing. With students consistently exceeding the national licensure pass rates for the traditional Bachelor of Science degree and certification pass rates for the Doctor of Nursing practice family nurse practitioner, and high job placement rates after graduation, it's not a surprise to see that OCU's Kramer School of Nursing was included in the Nursing Schools Almanac's 2020 rankings of the best U.S. nursing schools.

The fall of 2020 brought additional career advancement

opportunities for OCU's Kramer School of Nursing students. LPNs now have the option of an LPN-BSN degree track. Nurses who want to pursue their master's degree, but need flexibility, can choose the MSN-HyFlex program. Nurses who work within the context of population-focused care have the option of getting an MSN in the Community Based Public Health (CBPH) track,

See KRAMER Page 2

## OMRF, Langston University program aims to diversify science



Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation scientist Valerie Lewis, Ph.D., is a student liaison for OMRF's Langston Biomedical Research Scholars. The program aims to change the complexion of biomedical research in Oklahoma.

A new Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation program developed in partnership with Langston University aims to change the complexion of biomedical research in the state.

This month, OMRF will welcome its inaugural class of Langston Biomedical Research Scholars. Six undergraduate students from Oklahoma's only historically Black college or university will work alongside OMRF scientists for eight weeks on research in cardiovascular disease, osteoarthritis,

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OCU

Continued from Page 1

which is also offered as a DNP Completion track. In addition to the programs, OCU's KSN enrolled their first cohort in the BSN-DNP, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track, the first BSN-DNP PMHNP program in the state.

The Meinders Simulations Center offers a seven-bed high-fidelity laboratory mirroring the hospital environment, allowing students to practice with realistic patient care scenarios.

Crystal Westmoreland, PhD, MSN, RN, Chair of Traditional BSN Education at Kramer, states, "I love the collaboration between faculty, staff and students. The mentorship program allows faculty and staff to really get to know students as individuals, helping them through life's obstacles as they pursue their degree. As with all of our programs, Kramer doesn't have wait lists and offers students a variety of full-time and part-time options."

KSN offers an outstanding RN-BSN program in which RNs can complete their BSN in just two semesters, with no prerequisites

required. "We have small, individualized classes taught by a group of amazing faculty, who love working with practicing nurses" said Pam Tucker, MSN, RN, Chair of the RN-BSN program. "The RN-BSN program continues to be an excellent career advancement path for nurses." The program features the best of both worlds with nursing courses meeting face-to-face half day per week and the remaining elective/general education courses offered online. The program is currently offered at OCU, Mercy Hospital-OKC, and Norman Regional Hospital. No nursing exams, care plans or clinical hours are required. RN-BSN students are awarded a discounted tuition rate from the standard OCU tuition.

**ADVANCING PRACTICE**

Vanessa Wright, PhD, MSN, RN, Associate Professor and MSN Program Coordinator notes the MSN program is now offering Hy-Flex program delivery options where students may choose to attend face-to-face, synchronously using video conferencing, asynchronously fully online, or some combination of the three based on their life schedule and preferred learning

modality. The MSN currently offers tracks specializing in Education and Leadership, and Community Based Public Health.

Elizabeth Diener, PhD, RN, PNP, CNE Chair of Graduate Education discusses the Doctor of Philosophy degree. "The PhD degree prepares expert nurses in the roles of nursing education, research, and leadership to serve the community, state, and nation," she said. Students meet on campus for 2-3 days at the beginning of each semester and then complete courses online over the remainder of the semester.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice Completion program is for nurses with careers in all types of health care settings who already hold a master's degree in nursing, advanced practice, or a related field. The program is 30-32 credit hours, post-masters. Focus areas include clinical, community based public health, and executive leadership in organizational or educational settings. Post master's certificates are also available for advanced practice nurses who seek additional certification in an advanced practice role.

Gina Crawford, DNP, APRN-

CNP, FNP, CNE, Assistant Dean and Chair of Advanced Practice Programs points out, "Kramer School of Nursing was the first to offer a post-bachelors Doctorate of Nursing Practice program in the state of Oklahoma. It's been very fulfilling to see this program grow and see the success of our alumni who are now working in a variety of clinical settings and some who own their own clinics." Kramer School of Nursing is the first in Oklahoma to offer the BSN-DNP Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner option.

OCU'S KSN is offering a virtual information session for the Community-Based Public Health programs monthly from 5:30-7 pm. Prospective students can join an informative webinar and then participate in a breakout session to meet with program advisors and faculty for information specific to the program of their interest. For more information, visit: [www.okcu.edu/nursing](http://www.okcu.edu/nursing).





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changed. It's hard to imagine what my family's life would have been like without it. Imagine the difference you could make as an organ donor!

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Thanks to the family of an accident victim, I received a kidney transplant in 1986. It's been over 27 years since my life was





## OMRF

Continued from Page 1

neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and autoimmune diseases as part of paid internships.

But, say foundation and university officials, the program is much more than a summer job. Following the internship, students can choose to work with OMRF mentors on ongoing research projects.

"In a typical internship, you might learn a few exciting things, but at the end of the summer, the research project for the student comes to an end," said Byron Quinn, Ph.D., chair of Langston's biology department. "Here, we've tried to build something more permanent – long-term relationships between LU students and OMRF mentors that will last years, not months."

OMRF leadership and LU President Kent Smith, Ph.D., Vice President of Academic Affairs Ruth Jackson, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Alonzo Peterson, Ph.D., Chemistry Chair John Coleman, Ph.D., and Quinn set out to develop the program in response to the underrepresentation of Black people at all levels of

STEM, with a focus on Oklahoma.

According to the National Science Foundation, between 2000 and 2017, Black undergraduates earned 9.1% of bachelor's degrees in the biological sciences at U.S. institutions. At the doctoral level, the figure is less than 5%.

"OMRF is not homogeneous. A third of our employees identify as people of color, and our staff represents more than 30 countries," said OMRF Vice President of Human Resources Courtney Greenwood. "But in our 75-year history and particularly at our highest levels, Black scientists are lacking."

In response, foundation officials explored how OMRF could facilitate a mentoring partnership. One that would train young Black scientists in biomedical research so that, in time, the group is better represented at institutions like OMRF.

OMRF scientist Valerie Lewis, Ph.D., a post-doctoral researcher in the foundation's Arthritis and Clinical Immunology Research Program and a former LU staff member, formed a bridge between the institutions. In the discussions that followed, Langston's leadership noted its challenge: keeping promising science students in Oklahoma.

"We see a lot of our top students apply to out-of-state internship programs," said Quinn, noting that it often results in them leaving Oklahoma following graduation. "It would be nice to keep some of the students here," he said.

"That resonated with us," said OMRF's Greenwood. "We wanted something lasting." So, rather than concluding work at the end of the summer, OMRF's Langston Scholars will have the option to launch research projects and mentorships that will extend through their undergraduate careers.

Greenwood said such long-term mentoring could be a game-changer for a young scientist at a crossroads. "As these students chart their career paths, they'll have the guidance and support of researchers with decades of experience," she said. "That's invaluable. We are eager to see how this program evolves."

Quinn noted that the program is the only one like it that he knows of in STEM. "It's an impressive initiative," he said. "We're excited to give our students this world-class opportunity right here in Oklahoma."

The 2021 OMRF-Langston Biomedical Research Scholars and



Langston University Biology Chair  
Byron Quinn, Ph.D.

their majors are:

- Andrianna Buxton, Biology
- Jihra James, Chemistry
- Trejon James, Biology
- Laura Mejia, Biology
- Yamiah Mitchell, Biology
- ShanTeara Robinson, Nursing

For more information about the program, visit:  
[www.omrf.org/langston](http://www.omrf.org/langston).

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# Educator, Mentor and Pediatrician at OU-TU School of Community Medicine Receives Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award

Jeanne O. Hayes, M.D., MPH, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the OU-TU School of Community Medicine in Tulsa, has been honored with the 2021 Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award.

The award, now in its 38th year, recognizes University of Oklahoma College of Medicine faculty members for excellence in teaching. It was established through an endowment made by the late Oklahoma City businessman Stanton L. Young. The award comes with a \$15,000 cash prize, one of the largest in the nation for medical teaching excellence.

"We are grateful to have a faculty member like Dr. Hayes who embodies excellence in the mission of academic medicine," said John P. Zubialde, M.D., Executive Dean of the OU College of Medicine. "She is universally admired

by students, and her commitment to community medicine is evident in her everyday interactions with students and patients."

Hayes was born and raised in a suburb of Chicago. Her father's change of jobs moved the family to Texas, where Hayes earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Austin. She then began medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, completing two years. When her future husband matched for his residency in Oklahoma City, she requested a transfer to the OU College of Medicine, where she earned her medical degree. She then completed her residency in pediatrics on the Oklahoma City campus and, later, earned a master of public health degree from the Hudson College of Public Health at the OU Health

Sciences Center.

Hayes spent the first 15 years of her career in private practice settings in Tulsa while also volunteering as the pediatric provider at an area free clinic. A re-examination of her career goals after the unexpected loss of her husband to leukemia resulted in her pursuit of an academic career, specifically for the opportunity it provided to be involved in the education of students.

Hayes is known as a dedicated educator and mentor for medical and physician assistant (PA) students at the OU-TU School of Community Medicine. During her first eight years as faculty, she served as pediatric clerkship director, overseeing the clinical education of all medical and PA students in pediatrics. While in this role, she received two Crimson Apple awards and two Aesculapian

awards, honors bestowed by students for teaching excellence to the faculty members who, in part, stir their thirst for scientific knowledge and passion for helping others. In addition, she was chosen by the Academy of Teaching Scholars to receive the Dewayne Andrews, M.D. Excellence in Teaching Award.

In her current role as associate dean, she oversees the functions of the Tulsa Student Services office, which includes admissions to the SCM track, and she has developed programming that helps students reach their potential as future physicians. The majority of her time is dedicated to providing academic and career advising throughout all four years of medical school, and mentoring students as they choose a career and go through the residency

See HAYES Page 5



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**HAYES**

Continued from Page 4

match process.

"In Student Services, the main goal is to support our students in any way we can to help them be successful in whatever career path they choose to take. I prioritize making myself available for when students need me," she said. "I enjoy talking to the students and finding out who they are, what their dreams are and where they might want to end up one day. Having these conversations with students is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job."

Hayes continues to play a role in teaching and curriculum development at the OU-TU School of Community Medicine. She teaches clinical reasoning and communication skills as part of the Introduction to Clinical Medicine I and II courses and, along with Michael Weisz, M.D., co-directs the Clinical Transitions course, which prepares second-year medical students to shift from their first two years of preclinical education and into the hospital wards and clinics of their third and fourth years.

In a nomination letter for the Stanton L. Young Master Teacher Award, a student wrote:

"Any professor can effectively teach information, but only a select few are able to also establish the kind of relationship and rapport with students that she has. She has worked tirelessly to maintain the quality of our education and experience. She has consistently worked for the students' best interests, advocating for our clinical experiences while always ensuring our safety in clinical settings. All of this she has done while continuing clinical and teaching duties. Since day one at SCM, I have thought she is superwoman, and this year has convinced me of that fact."

Hayes is board-certified in general pediatrics and sees young patients in the General Pediatrics Clinic two half-days a week. She also provides clinical teaching for residents in the same clinic. She leverages her public health degree continually in her work, she said, as the principles of pediatric preventive medicine go hand in hand with the public health goal of maximizing the health potential of communities through the primary prevention of disease.



Jeanne O. Hayes, M.D., MPH, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

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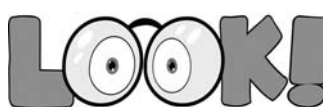
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(AS PUBLISHED IN THE 2021 EDUCATION GUIDE TO NURSING)

# Love of life: Nursing Home enriches lives

Danelle Edgar loves seeing the smiles on the faces of the elderly while serving as a registered nurse at Perry Green Valley Nursing Home. Someone has got to make their sunset years special for them, she said.

"It's not something I initially thought I would do. But once I got in here, you just really bond, they kind of become your family," Edgar said at the long-term care and skilled nursing center.

The nursing home is not necessarily a place where the elderly spend their years being inactive. Each moment at Perry Green Valley is dedicated toward the enrichment of lives reaching their personal best.

"COVID has kind of thrown a wrench in everything, but we work around it, evolve and change. That's kind of how nursing is anyway," she said. "We have to do smaller group activities or even individual activities to fit in with the guidelines."

Edgar has been a registered nurse since 2017

when she earned her degree at Oklahoma City Community College. She began her career as a licensed practical nurse at Perry Green Valley.

Edgar works with both long-term care and rehab patients. Compassion, patience, empathy, and teamwork combine to make the patient-centered home function well, she said. And there is not a high turnover rate among the nursing staff. Leadership and the staff pull together for the common.

"We've all been here together for a long time, and so we kind of know how each other works," Edgar said.

Working in a nursing home is not a job for everyone, she said. It takes a special type of person. "Especially the CNAs, They're in there doing the hands-on work. They're our eyes and ears. They help our nurses tremendously. We could not do our job without them. So, I really admire that they have the heart to be in this line of work and continue to do what they are doing with the long hours and stress. They are



Danelle Edgar, RN, is a busy nurse with a heart of gold when it come to time spent with each of her residents at Perry Green Valley Nursing Home. **Continued on next page**



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## PERRY

Continued from Page 10

very adaptable and compassionate."

Her life is often touched by the gains she witnesses in her patients' lives. She recalls when one of a gentleman was first admitted to Perry Green Valley on hospice about four years ago.

"We didn't think we had very long with him," she said. "He has gotten better over the years. When he first came, he was bedridden, didn't talk and was very contractured. And now he's walking — he's participating in activities — he's very happy and gets along well with all the staff. We all love him. It was just really inspiring to see someone go from not being able to do anything, and now he's doing activities. He doesn't even use a walker. He is our miracle story."

It's important to understand that how a patient behaves with dementia is not the way they lived in decades past. Dementia changes them, she said.

"You just have to have a good relationship with the family,

communicating with them to see how they were — what things did they like," Edgar continued.

Research points to redirecting people with dementia when they act as if they are living in the distant past. Perhaps a loved one had died, and they don't realize it. Nurses are trained to meet the resident where they are in life.

"If they are in 1970 at home and we're their kid, then you go with that, because there's more behaviors if you try to tell them 'No, you're wrong. You're not there. Your mother is dead,' or things like that. It's traumatic for them and they're having to relive that every five minutes, if that's how long it takes their brain to process. You just have to be in their world. That's what we are learning."

Many of the nursing home residents were farmers or farming wives. Many of them know and grew up with each other in rural surroundings.

"There's kind of that sense of friendship in here as well," Edgar said. For more info visit:

[/www.greenvalleyhealthcare.net/](http://www.greenvalleyhealthcare.net/)

## President Burger's Retirement Celebration Scheduled for June 8th

You're invited to join us in celebrating Martha Burger's tenure as university president! June 8th 2021 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Wilson House & the surrounding outdoor areas on the OCU main campus, 2501 N. Blackwelder Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73106

The celebration will include live music, oversized outdoor games, a beer garden, and food trucks owned by OCU alumni & community partners will be featured at this celebration.

Blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged; some food and drinks will be provided with additional items available for purchase.

Registration is encouraged, but not required: <https://trueblue.okcu.edu/e/burger/>



Martha Burger, the 18th president of Oklahoma City University.

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# OU College of Medicine Builds Diversity Through Medical School Readiness Program

Across the United States, there is a lack of diversity in medical schools and in the physician workforce. To break down some of the barriers that underrepresented minorities face, the OU College of Medicine recently completed its first medical school readiness program, an intensive five-month course that prepares college students to apply to medical school.

The program, called OU Med REV UP!, concluded in May and was comprised of 148 students from across Oklahoma who are interested in medical school. There were 42 students who are African American/Black; 32 who are Hispanic; 17 who are Native American; and 45 who designated other ethnicity/race. The group included 95 females, 49 males, and two students who identify as gender non-conforming. Nine of the students identified as LGBTQ+. They represented 20 counties and 17 universities.

"This has been a really special opportunity," said Natasha Mickel, Ph.D., Director of Multicultural Engagement for the OU College of Medicine. "Many minorities want to make it to medical school, but they don't have the resources. This program helps them get to the point where they can apply to medical school."

In particular, the program prepared them to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), which is a significant factor in medical school admission. MCAT prep courses are available, and statistics show that they improve scores, but they cost thousands of dollars, Mickel said. Many underrepresented minorities can't afford the price tag, and their MCAT scores often aren't high enough to land them an interview for medical school.

The OU College of Medicine



Natasha Mickel, Ph.D., is Director of Multicultural Engagement for the OU College of Medicine.

partnered with Kaplan, a leading MCAT prep company, to negotiate a price per student, Mickel said. The students took part in the program for free, meeting twice a week for three hours each time, to prepare for the exam and take practice tests. This spring, many of the participants took the MCAT, which has four major sections and takes over seven hours to complete.

In addition to the MCAT prep, participants received extensive one-on-one mentoring. Nearly 100 current OU College of Medicine students mentored each participant on steps to take as they prepare to apply to medical school. During twice-monthly guided mentoring sessions, faculty members



Nasya Cooper, of Jenks, a student at Langston University, is pictured with Robert Salinas, M.D., Assistant Dean for Diversity for the OU College of Medicine. Nasya recently completed the college's new medical school readiness program.

and residents talked to students about topics that ranged from creating a medical school portfolio to problem-solving skills to time management. Mickel led the mentoring sessions and guided students throughout the process.

By state law, at least 75% of each new OU College of Medicine class must be comprised of Oklahoma residents, heightening the need to train students who represent the diversity of the state. Underrepresented minorities who train at the OU College of Medicine are more likely to return to their communities to practice medicine, providing an important link to healthcare. In addition, studies show that health outcomes improve overall when the healthcare workforce is more diverse, Mickel said.

Nasya Cooper of Jenks, who is a biology major at Langston University, took part in the program as preparation for her goal of taking the MCAT in 2023, just before she graduates from college in 2024. Not only did the free program ease what would have been a very expensive process, but it provided materials and strategies that Cooper will continue to use over the next few years.

Cooper's parents work in healthcare

and have inspired her to enter the field as a means of improving the lives of others. "I want to be a physician because we need more physicians in the medical field, but more importantly, we need more Black physicians," she said. "Race-related health disparities attracted me to become a physician. The maternal and infant mortality rate within the Black community compared to other communities is incredibly alarming, and that is why I want to be an OB-GYN physician. As I matriculate through medical school and residency, I will do my best to embody the advocacy aspect of a physician because it is what every patient deserves."

OU Med REV UP! was funded by a grant from the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), which awarded \$4.7 million to the OU College of Medicine in 2019, followed by a \$2.8 million supplement in 2020. The grant's aim is to recruit, retain and admit students from rural, tribal and medically underserved areas. OU Med REV UP! will be offered again for the 2021-2022 academic year. For more information, visit the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement at [medicine.ouhsc.edu](http://medicine.ouhsc.edu).



# Stephenson Cancer Center Joins Other Top U.S. Cancer Centers in Urging HPV Vaccinations

OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center has partnered with its peers at other National Cancer Institute-designated cancer centers across the United States to issue a joint statement urging physicians, parents and young adults to get the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination back on track. Dramatic drops in annual well visits and immunizations during the COVID-19 pandemic have caused a significant vaccination gap and lag in vital preventive services among U.S. children and adolescents — especially for the HPV vaccine.

Nearly 80 million Americans – 1 out of every 4 people – are infected with HPV, a virus that causes several types of cancers. Of those millions, more than 31,000 will be diagnosed with an HPV-related cancer this year. Despite those staggering figures and the availability of a vaccine to prevent HPV infections, HPV vaccination rates remain significantly lower than other recommended adolescent vaccines in the United States. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, HPV vaccination rates lagged far behind other vaccines and other countries' HPV vaccination rates. According to 2017 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fewer than half (49%) of adolescents were up to date on the HPV vaccine.

"Stephenson Cancer Center is uniting with other NCI-designated cancer centers across the United States in urging adolescent vaccinations for HPV so that we can protect them from cancer caused by the virus," said Robert Mannel, M.D., director of Stephenson Cancer Center. "Having a vaccine that will prevent the infection that may lead to certain cancers is a remarkable advancement in medicine. It is crucial that we close the HPV vaccination gap and get back on track as a nation."

The United States has recommended routine HPV vaccination for females since 2006



Robert Mannel, M.D., director of Stephenson Cancer Center.

and for males since 2011. Current recommendations are for routine vaccination at ages 11 or 12 or starting at age 9. Catch-up HPV vaccination is recommended through age 26.

NCI cancer centers strongly encourage parents to vaccinate their adolescents as soon as possible. The CDC recently authorized COVID-19 vaccination for 12-15-year-old children, allowing for missed doses of routinely recommended vaccines, including HPV, to be administered at the same time. NCI cancer centers strongly urge action by healthcare systems and healthcare providers to identify and contact adolescents due for vaccinations and to use every opportunity to encourage and complete vaccination.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted delivery of key preventive services like the HPV vaccination," Mannel said. "We must now take action to increase the HPV vaccination rate in order to prevent future cancers."

## SITUATION UPDATE: COVID-19

COVID-19 Cases	453,890
New Cases	94
New Cases 7 day Average	99
Active Cases	984
CDC/NCHS Provisional Deaths	8,498
Acute Care OSDH Licensed Facilities/Location*	Recent 3 day Ave. Hospitalizations
	Cases (ICU)
Region 1 (NW)	1 (0)
Region 2 (NE)	12(2)
Region 3 (SW)	11 (1)
Region 4 (EC)	8 (2)
Region 5 (SE)	1 (1)
Region 6 (Central)	6 (2)
Region 7 (Tulsa)	47 (21)
Region 8 (OKC)	41 (10)
Total	127 (39)
Other Types of Facilities	
Focus Facilities	5 (0)
Rehabilitation Facilities	0 (0)
Tribal Facilities	4 (1)
Other Facilities Total	9 (1)

Focus, Rehabilitation and Tribal Facilities numbers are not assigned to a specific region as their patient populations reside across the state. Information provided through survey of Oklahoma hospitals as reported to HHS as of the time of this report. Response rate affects data. Facilities may update previously reported information as necessary.

Data Source: Acute Disease Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health. \*As of 2021-06-07 at 7:00 a.m.





# PREPARE TO BE SURPRISED.

Meet the Maddox family. Their thirteen-year-old daughter, SaNiyah, has cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair. SaNiyah's entire life – her happiness, her health, her every need – all depends on her family and help from the team at Special Care. But they also have two adorable young sons, demanding jobs and – on top of everything else – they foster an infant who needed a home, too. It's more than most of us could handle.

But here's the big surprise. The Maddoxes not only receive help from United Way agencies, they find room in a budget stretched to its limit and they give to the United Way. **Can you?**

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