



## Pages of generosity: Wilson's literary legacy



In 2020 Lauren, a recent widow, was at home in Madison, Wisconsin reflecting on her lifetime together with her husband Wilson and the time and resources they had dedicated to nonprofits in the region. Wilson, an avid collector of 20th-century books, had cherished the literary treasures lining his shelves and had also wanted to leave a lasting legacy for his family and community.

But when Wilson passed away the shelves of his home, adorned with thousands of carefully curated books, including a first edition Hemingway, became both a testament to his intellectual pursuits and a challenge for Lauren. The vast collection, a reflection of Wilson's profound love for literature, left her feeling overwhelmed and uncertain about how to manage this literary legacy.

That led to Lauren and her family creating a donor-advised fund (DAF) through the gift of Wilson's extensive collection, valued at \$1.7 million, which was then sold at auction. Through this innovative approach, Lauren and her family not only honored Wilson's dual passions for literature and philanthropy but also ensured that his spirit of giving continued to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those touched by their charitable endeavors.

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