



APSU PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR-

DOUG AND LINDA DOWNEY

Doug Downey, a former baseball player and College of Business graduate, and his wife, alumna Linda Downey, have become key supporters of Austin Peay's athletics department. The couple met as students on campus, with Linda sitting on the archaic steps behind the baseball field's backstop to cheer on Doug and the other Goves.

Linda, born and raised in Clarksville, worked for her family business, Moore's Office Supply, and Jackson Oil, prior to her and Doug moving to Springfield, where she was a small business entrepreneur and a dedicated volunteer in the Springfield Robertson County area. Linda is now a proud grandmother and helps run a thriving catering business. Doug came to Clarksville as a right-handed pitcher from the Cincinnati area, and he immediately made an impact as a back-end staple for the Governor's bullpen. After his time at APSU, Doug went into banking, later taking on his current role for HCA as the Vice President of Treasury Services.

The Downeys have shown great generosity and leadership to the University through their support of the entire athletics department. On a fall afternoon in 2014, Doug Downey returned home and told his wife, Linda, that he needed to ask her an important question. Throughout their 39 years of marriage, the couple has supported several causes that are important to both of them. But that afternoon, Downey asked Linda if they could scale back the number of charities they gave money to.

"I asked if she would support us, together, focusing our philanthropy so we could make a more significant contribution to Austin Peay State University baseball," he said. "And Linda could pick a single charity to support also."

The Downeys are now providing major financial assistance to the baseball program through several generous donations. Their support will help the team grow as it builds upon its history of success.

The Downeys have given a transformational gift to the baseball program, while also supporting Austin Peay's newly funded Victory Fund. They went on to contribute the lead gift for the entire athletics department during Austin Peay's GovesGive campaign. Doug also serves as the chair for APSU Foundation's athletics subcommittee, and he has helped steer and encourage the committee to continue to improving the University's athletics program.