The number is great. The success that the number represents is even greater. And those who helped achieve the number are “the greatest.”

The University of Hartford’s Campaign of Commitment ended successfully on June 30, having surpassed the $175 million fundraising mark.

The effects of the campaign already are evident on campus, which has undergone a remarkable transformation in the past decade.

The Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center opened for dance and theatre classes for collegiate and Community Division students of The Hartt School this fall (see story page 18). This world-class performing arts facility is also expected to serve a public purpose by spurring a revival in the Hartford neighborhood where it is located.

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The Handel Center is one of several projects the campaign made possible. In 1998 the Hartford Hawks’ basketball court was named the Chase Family Arena in recognition of the Chases’ gifts and contributions. In 2004 the western portion of the Sports Center was renamed the Reich Family Pavilion in honor of Suzy and Tom Reich’s support of the campaign. Since March 2006, following 20 years of having no home field for the Hawks baseball team, “Play ball!” has been heard at our on-campus baseball field. The soccer and lacrosse teams now play on the refurbished all-turf Al-Marzook Field, and fans enjoy permanent grandstands and a new, state-of-the-art scoreboard at Alumni Stadium. A new softball field completes the dream many have had that on a warm spring day we could watch our lacrosse, softball, and baseball teams all practice on their own home fields.

The Integrated Science, Engineering, and Technology complex has been open since 2005 and is fulfilling its objective of collaboration between schools and interdisciplinary learning through academic programs like the University’s acoustics and music program.

The Renée Samuels Center opened in the spring of 2007. The two-story addition to the Hartford Art School provides new studios for media arts and photography as well as renovated studios for painting, drawing, printmaking, and foundation studies. The facility encourages exploration of cross-disciplinary studies.

Alumni Plaza, which runs between University Commons and Hawk Hall, the new freshman residence, was dedicated in fall...
2007 and has become an exciting center for student life on campus, thanks to generous gifts from alumni and other donors.

The changes on campus are much more than physical. The campaign also raised endowment monies to support teaching, research, and financial aid, which has helped attract and retain impressive students, faculty, and staff. The University now has over 325 endowed scholarships, such as those that the Carney Scholarship Foundation established in 1998 and the National Honors Scholars program created in 2006. These scholarships address students’ financial need and help attract the very brightest students to our campus.

The single largest gift to the campaign was the $18.6 million Mary Primrose Fuller bequest to support core programs of The Hartt School, including scholarships and two endowed professorships. The Feltman Professorship, a second endowed professorship for the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, brought to campus an expert to teach about the modern State of Israel, the Holocaust, and American Judaism. Since 2001, the Greenberg Junior Faculty Research Grant Program has provided funds to support high-quality research, scholarship, and artistic activity by faculty members who are just beginning their careers. Thanks to the generosity of Jean-Pierre van Rooy and his wife, Marie-Claire, the van Rooy Center for Complexity and Conflict Analysis will allow faculty and students to learn about complexity theory and use it to analyze many aspects of the world around them. The entire community benefits from hearing the major speakers brought to campus, thanks to other gifts such as the Helen Rogow Distinguished Visiting Lecturer Program and the Cardin Reading Series.

Over the past decade, applications and enrollment have gone steadily up. The students we are attracting and enrolling at the University are more talented and better prepared than ever before to take advantage of the rigorous and challenging education we offer. Undergraduate applications have increased 121 percent since 1998; full-time undergraduate enrollment has increased 15 percent; and the number of degrees awarded has increased 23 percent.

Now that the Campaign of Commitment has drawn to a close, it is more than the dollars raised that counts. The expressions of support from alumni, students, parents, friends, faculty, and staff who made gifts count immensely. The gifts and the support ensure a bright future for the University and its students. Together, we have achieved great success. Success counts.