UNIVERSITY OF St.Thomas



An Economic and Community Engine for Saint Paul

The University of St. Thomas is not only an educational institution—it is a significant economic and community partner for the City of Saint Paul.

The contributions listed below illustrate the breadth of St. Thomas' partnership with Saint Paul: nearly $500 million in annual economic activity, millions of dollars in tax revenue and community service, thousands of volunteer hours, partnerships with hundreds of organizations, investments in Saint Paul's children and families, and an ongoing commitment to sustainable development and strong neighborhoods.

~$500M
in annual economic activity

$24.2M
in state and local tax revenue (FY2023)

~$13.5M
in charitable giving and volunteer service annually

3,525
jobs supported in Saint Paul

112
Saint Paul nonprofits supported (FY2023)

Fees to the City

Like all nonprofits, St. Thomas is exempt from property taxes. However, St. Thomas contributes in a variety of other ways, including the following fees paid directly to the City of Saint Paul:

- **$95,000** per year in sales taxes from the sale of parking, books, apparel, accessories, tickets, etc. This has increased because of the sales at the Lee and Penny Anderson arena.
- **$109,000** per year for a "storm sewer" tax/fee.
- Thousands of dollars per year to the Saint Paul Police department for extra security on campus for events.
  - In 2025, St. Thomas paid more than **$400,000** for extra security and traffic monitoring at major events and for extra neighborhood patrols.

- St. Thomas regularly repairs and maintains city property adjacent to campus, including sidewalks on city property that are heaving, curb and gutter, etc. The estimated annual costs are **$10,000 - $20,000**.
- With each construction project, St. Thomas pays for upgrades on city property. With the construction of the Lee and Penny Anderson arena, St. Thomas paid a total of **$565,000** for improvements at the intersections of Summit and Cretin and Grand and Cretin. These improvements included:
  - $146,000 for the traffic signal improvements,
  - $60,000 for the traffic signal design and traffic response programming,
  - $309,000 for the reconstruction at Grand/Cretin, and
  - $50,000 for the pedestrian improvements at Goodrich and Cretin.
- Just this fall, the City of Saint Paul increased the Xcel Energy franchise fee assessed to St. Thomas, which will likely result in about a $180,000 increase for St. Thomas with a total amount to pay of $360,000. The increase will result in lower fees on lower-income households.

In addition to these fees to the City of Saint Paul, St. Thomas also pays $100,000 per year to Metro Transit to **support students, staff and faculty with public transportation.**

Driving Saint Paul's Economy

A 2024 economic impact study found that St. Thomas generates **$498.8 million in annual economic impact in Saint Paul**, including $124.7 million directly in our surrounding Saint Paul neighborhoods. In Saint Paul, **3,525 jobs are supported and sustained** by St. Thomas.

In Fiscal Year 2023, for example, economic activity generated by university operations and spending by St. Thomas students, faculty, staff and visitors produced **$24.2 million in state and local tax revenue** in Saint Paul.

Hundreds of faculty and staff live in the City of Saint Paul – and hundreds more alumni stay in the city after graduating from St. Thomas.

The university invests in its campus, creates jobs, attracts students and visitors, supports local businesses and contributes to the city's vitality without relying on the municipal development subsidies frequently used to support private development.

SUPPORTING SAINT PAUL'S CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

Through the Tutor Mentor Program, St. Thomas partners with K-12 schools to help close the opportunity gap, with particular attention to schools where students score average or below average in reading and math. In 2022-23, 114 Tommies volunteered weekly with Saint Paul youth, contributing 1,390 hours and reaching more than 400 young people.

Our Collaborative Learning School at Maxfield Elementary in the Rondo neighborhood provides an entire school environment where future teachers can train on-site while helping cultivate a student-centered learning environment in the heart of Saint Paul.

ADDRESSING HUNGER AND HOUSING INSECURITY

St. Thomas operates Tommie Shelf in partnership with Keystone Community Services, providing food and meals to both students and neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Last academic year, Tommie Shelf served an average of 60 households, representing 71 individuals, each month.

Through our Shelter Crew Program, St. Thomas partners with Catholic Charities. More than 200 volunteers annually serve in shelters, dining halls and kitchens supporting people experiencing housing insecurity.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Service is also integrated directly into a St. Thomas education. Through community-engaged courses, students provide expertise and capacity to nonprofit and public-sector organizations through projects involving data analysis, project management, law clinics, student teaching and social work practicums.

St. Thomas also promotes civic participation through the Civic Engagement, Voter Education, and Advocacy (CEVEA) Task Force. The university hosts elected officials, partners with the League of Women Voters, sponsors voter education and registration efforts, and collaborates with Ramsey County on civic education programs.

INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE SAINT PAUL

St. Thomas shares the vision of Saint Paul's 2040 Comprehensive Plan for a resilient and sustainable city. Campus development is approached thoughtfully, with attention to both long-term university needs and the surrounding neighborhood.

Our development practices emphasize sustainability, including improved water drainage, additional green space and LEED-certified buildings. Our Office of Sustainability works with the neighborhood to promote sustainability through water and pollinator path projects.

COMMITTED TO THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS

St. Thomas is deeply invested in the neighborhoods surrounding our campus. Neighbors participate in university activities, enjoy our campus and green spaces, and engage regularly with university leaders.

We dedicate staff to community partnerships and positive neighborhood relationships and work closely with our District Councils and community organizations.

Our Department of Public Safety provides an additional layer of security for the campus and surrounding community.

Serving Saint Paul

Our contribution to Saint Paul extends well beyond our economic impact. St. Thomas students, faculty and staff work with hundreds of nonprofit partners across the Twin Cities.

Together, the St. Thomas community generates an estimated $13.5 million annually in charitable giving and volunteer service, including $9.8 million in volunteer-service value and $3.7 million in charitable giving.

IN FY2023 ALONE:

- St. Thomas volunteers worked with **112** Saint Paul nonprofits, schools, faith-based organizations and government agencies.
- **1,152** students volunteered with Saint Paul organizations.
- They contributed **22,221** hours of service, representing an estimated **$765,957** in impact to Saint Paul organizations.

Financial Aid to Saint Paul Graduates



College Scholarships for Graduates of Saint Paul High Schools

Every year, more than $28 million is allocated as scholarships and tuition discounts for students who graduated from Saint Paul high schools.



Community Service Student Employees

We also partner with Saint Paul nonprofits to allow student workers to serve in the community with their work study dollars.

AID YEAR	NUMBER OF COMMUNITY SERVICE STUDENTS IN SAINT PAUL	FEDERAL WORK STUDY EARNINGS
2023-2024	8	$ 35,944
2024-2025	36	$144,398
2025-2026	46	$186,667

A Cultural Hub for Saint Paul

St. Thomas serves as a gathering place for the intellectual, artistic and cultural life of Saint Paul. The university opens its doors to neighbors and the broader public for lectures, performances, exhibitions, athletic events, community conversations and other programs that bring people together to learn, exchange ideas and experience the arts. St. Thomas faculty also contribute beyond campus, sharing their expertise as speakers, scholars and civic participants throughout the community. Our campus hosts events for outside organizations (including for Saint Paul high school graduations), provides space for community gatherings, and serves as a public polling place for Saint Paul voters. In these ways, St. Thomas is more than a campus—it is a community resource and a place where neighbors can gather, engage with new ideas, experience arts and culture, and participate in the civic life of Saint Paul.