



It's a Wonderful Life

19 December 2019

James Hansen

Denison, Iowa, where I grew up, is known for Donnabelle Mullenger, who changed her name to Donna Reed, when she went to Hollywood. Although she won an Oscar for her performance in *From Here to Eternity*, and starred in the *Donna Reed Show* on television, she is most famous for her role in *It's a Wonderful Life*, the 1946 Frank Capra Christmas movie classic in which she co-stars with Jimmy Stewart.

If you have never seen this film, George (Jimmy Stewart), after misplacing a large bank deposit for his Building and Loan company, is rescued from ruin by generous townspeople donations.

The response to my 09 December Communication ([Fire on Planet Earth](#)) was no less miraculous. The university has never seen anything like it – approximately 100 donations directed to Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions (CSAS), and matching support from the Grantham Foundation. The result is that the appointments of my team members (Pushker Kharecha, Makiko Sato and Eunbi Jeong) have been extended to 30 June 2020. We also can continue to work with our post-doc (Craig Rye) who will be supported by MIT and the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), working at GISS.

Eunbi printed out one page thank you letters, which form a pile about 1½ inches high. I will simply sign these – no extra notes of thanks – but you can be sure of our gratitude. Instead I need to use the coming months to finally finish *Sophie's Planet* and prepare a proposal with the aim of obtaining philanthropic base funding support for CSAS.

We thank all of you and hope that you also will have joyous holidays and a good new year.