



Hopedale Medical Foundation Scholarships

\$3,000 Allen-McCabe Healthcare Field Scholarship

The Allen-McCabe Healthcare Field Scholarship is given in memory of Brian & Pam Allen and in honor of the McCabe Family. Brian and Pam both had a passion for healthcare throughout their life, and each worked in the field. Brian retired as a Vice President at Memorial Medical Center, and Pam worked as a Nurse and Nurse Administrator for over 30 years.

Lisa McCabe, daughter of Brian and Pam along with her husband James, and son Jamey live in the Mackinaw area. Jamey is a graduate of Olympia High School and has worked in the Grove Street Café since 2018. It is because of their generous donation that we are able to provide this \$3,000 healthcare field scholarship to our local area students.

\$1,000 David Eckhardt Scholarship

This \$1,000 scholarship is given in memory of David Eckhardt, a former HMC employee, who unexpectedly passed away in 1974 in an auto accident. David is remembered as a hardworker and a dedicated employee.

\$1,000 Mary Sue Post, RN Nursing Scholarship

The Mary Sue Post, RN Nursing Scholarship is given in honor of Ms. Post to assist those who are pursuing a nursing career. In 1959, Mary started her journey at HMC in the hospital, and as she continued her career at HMC, she also spent time in Medical Arts and the Satellite Offices. Her last position at HMC was the Director of Nursing of Long Term Care from 9/1974 to 8/1984.

\$5,000 Michelle Anne Rossi Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Established by the Dr's Tom and Janice Rossi Charity Fund, the Michelle Anne Rossi Memorial Nursing Scholarship is given in honor of Michelle Anne Rossi, who passed on July 10, 2017.

Michelle was valedictorian of her graduating class in Morton, IL, and graduated at the top of her class in the nursing program at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana in 2013. She was known as a very caring person who had a passion for helping others in any way that she could.



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\$4,000 Thelma Alford Nursing Scholarship

For over 40 years, Thelma Alford, RN, was a fixture on the floors of Hopedale Medical Complex.

Arriving soon after Hopedale Hospital opened, Thelma lived in the nurses' house until meeting and marrying her husband, Neil in 1959. Throughout most of her career, Thelma worked nights covering multiple areas throughout her shift including the hospital, ER, nursing home, and Hopedale House while making it home in time to take care of her children. Thelma was known for her compassionate care, quick wit, and her love of the community she lived and worked in.

After her retirement in 1999, Thelma still spent time volunteering on campus at the Candy Striper Gift Shop providing a caring ear and some memorable stories from her time here at HMC.

\$1,000 Phyllis Martin Nursing Scholarship

A Hopedale native and long-time nurse at Hopedale Medical Complex, Phyllis completed her nursing degree at The Mennonite College of Nursing. Throughout her career, Phyllis walked the halls of HMC caring for those within our community.

\$3,000 Founder's (Healthcare) Scholarship

On May 8, 1955, Dr. Lawrence J. Rossi, Sr. opened Hopedale Hospital with the help of dozens of hardworking area farmers, generous local citizens, and volunteers.

Over a half-century later, Dr. Rossi's dream lives on. Hopedale Hospital, which began with only 20 beds, has blossomed into a complex that includes the Hopedale Wellness Center, Hopedale Commons, Hopedale Nursing Home along with Hopedale Hospital.

\$1,000 Orville Augsburger/Dorene Oehler Memorial Scholarship

Orville Augusberuger was a founding Board Member and also chairman for Hopedale Hospital which later became the Hopedale Medical Foundation.

Mr. Augsburger was from Hopedale, IL and owned and operated Augsburger Hardware. He was passionate about growing the community of Hopedale and providing healthcare services in rural communities.

Dorene Oehler was known for her community volunteerism and played a major role in supporting community projects. Dorene was a native of Minier, IL and was a proud supporter of Hopedale Hospital.



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\$4,500 Candice Blackert Nursing Scholarships

Candice “Candy” Blackert was born on June 17, 1954 in Prophestown, IL to a farming family. A life long learner, she received her LPN and Associates Nursing Degrees from Black Hawk College, a Bachelor’s in Nursing degree from University of Illinois Springfield and a Masters of Science Nursing degree from University of Illinois Chicago.

Candy spent most of her career at OSF in Peoria, IL, working in six different departments and teaching courses at Bradley University and OSF College of Nursing.

With her husband Virgil, Candice raised two sons; Nicholas and Christopher.

\$2,000 Donna Bitner Springer Nursing Scholarship

A graduate of Illinois Wesleyan, Donna worked in several area doctors offices, as a private duty nurse and served as the first Director of Nurses at Hopedale Hospital.

Donna was a devote member of the Hopedale Mennonite Church where she taught sunday school, was a youth group leader and served as church secretary.

\$1,000 Neil Alford, Jr. Agricultural Scholarship

Noted as a cornerstone of his community, Neil Alford, Jr. was passionate about Hopedale, and the individuals that were a part of it.

Serving as Mayor of Hopedale for close to 12 years, Neil understood the importance of rural communities and the need to foster important relationships to assist in the growth and preservation of small communities like Hopedale.

Neil led with a servant’s heart, sharing his time with his church community, helping youth build skills as their Scout Master, and also spending time on the Hopedale Medical Foundation Governing Board. In a newspaper article written about him, he summed it up best when he shared that “he was proud to live in Hopedale and raise his children here.”

\$2,000 John Rossi Memorial Nursing Scholarship

A 2014 graduate of the Mennonite College of Nursing program, John was a compassionate nurse to those he served. He worked in a fast-paced environment as an emergency room nurse, but always found time for his friends and family. He was passionate about the outdoors and enjoyed cycling