

WRHS Foundation Awards Scholarships



February, 2008 - Batesville, Ark. - White River Health System Foundation (WRHSF) awards scholarships each year for Licensed Practical Nurses studying to become Registered Nurses. The goal of these scholarships is to relieve the financial burden of students seeking career advancement and encourage education among men and women who devote their careers to saving lives and improving the lives of others through nursing.

Joshua McIntosh was awarded the Bonnie J. Bernard Scholarship established by the late Bonnie J. Bernard and WRHSF President, Dick Bernard. Josh works in the White River Medical Center (WRMC) Emergency Department.

According to Josh, “There are many jobs where I could get paid well, but there are not many jobs where I have the chance to save lives and touch the hearts of people around me.” Josh plans to continue his education and become an Advanced Practice Nurse or study medicine.

Matt Swaim is the recipient of the Bonnie J. Bernard Memorial Scholarship established by family and friends of the late Bonnie J. Bernard, RN. Matt’s passion for nursing is evident in the way he cares for patients. He works in the WRMC Progressive Care Unit (PCU) and is interested in working in the Intensive Care Unit.

In his application essay “What Nursing Means to Me”, Matt stated, “I can sum up what nursing means to me by using one word and I believe this word sums up what kind of nurse I am – Happiness!”

Allison Parker, April Rice and Malinda Sharp received WRHSF Scholarship awards.

Allison works on all nursing units as needed and in the WRMC Pain Medicine Clinic. Allison wishes to continue her education by obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing (BSN) and a Master’s Degree to become an Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

According to Allison, “A simple thank you or smile from your patient is all you need to feel you have made a difference.”

April learned about nursing through personal experience. April’s premature twins and third child were cared for in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). This experience inspired her to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse.

April stated, “I strive to be a nurse that touches patients in a positive light bringing them understanding, hope, peace at times and a shoulder to lean on.”

Since becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse in 1992, Malinda Sharp has worked in several different medical settings including medical missions to Brazil and New Orleans. Her helping hands and caring heart have remained constant. Malinda wishes to obtain a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing.

She stated, “Nursing has shaped my life and made me a better person.”

Jyl Basinger received the 2008 Madelyn Pierce LPN to RN Memorial Scholarship funded by generous gifts from family and friends of the late Madelyn Pierce, LPN. Jyl works in the WRMC Progressive Care Unit and also plans to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing.

Jyl believes, "The ability to care for others is truly an art."

"Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients and best wishes for future success," said Dick Bernard, WRHSF President. "Well-trained and qualified nurses are so important to meet the healthcare needs of our aging population. The Scholarship Program is an important part of the Foundation's work."

Since 1995, the White River Health System Foundation Scholarship Program has helped deserving students pursue a nursing education. The Foundation gratefully acknowledges our donors whose contributions make the Scholarship Program possible. Gifts to White River Health System Foundation benefit clinical programs, scholarships and capital projects dedicated to improving patient care services to residents of North Central Arkansas. For more information about giving programs, contact Rachael Fisher, Foundation Coordinator at 870-262-1225 or by email at rfisher@wrmc.com.