

Donald E. Pizzini Memorial Nurse Scholarship Program

Scholarship Program Overview

MHCA Scholarship Foundation

The Montana Health Care Association (MHCA) Scholarship Foundation, incorporated for educational and charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, was created for the purpose of providing a perpetual scholarship fund through donations and investment income and to award scholarships.

Mission Statement

The MHCA Scholarship Foundation exists to create a perpetual source of financial support for education to sustain a compassionate and skilled nursing work force to meet the current and future demands of the long-term care industry.

Scholarship Program Details

No matter what shape health care takes in the future, there will always be a need for people who provide skilled and compassionate nursing care, especially in long term care. Pursuing a career in nursing will undeniably have its challenges. What shouldn't be a challenge is finding the financial resources to help achieve career goals. To this end, the MHCA Scholarship Foundation has established the Donald E. Pizzini Memorial Nurse Scholarship Program.

This program will provide annual scholarships to individuals interested in pursuing a career in nursing or advancing their nursing career. It will help the students and health care workers of today become the caring nursing professionals of tomorrow and facilitate the development of a nursing workforce to meet Montana's current and future needs.

Each year, one or more scholarships of up to \$2,000 are awarded to college students, as well as professionals already working in the long-term care field, who are interested in pursuing a career in long term care nursing or in advancing their nursing career in a long-term care facility.

This program memorializes Don Pizzini, a former MHCA President. During his many years as administrator of the Cascade County Convalescent Center in Great Falls, and in his work with MHCA, he had a passionate commitment to long term care and the elderly, and to the dedicated caregivers who worked to give residents the quality of life they deserve. These scholarships are awarded in his honor as a dedicated, innovative leader.

Eligibility Criteria

All applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must pursue study on a full-time or part-time basis in a nursing program relevant to the long-term care field.
- Applicants shall have maintained a 3.0 GPA or better in their previous studies (high school GPA shall be considered for first year students). The scholarship committee may waive this requirement at their discretion in consideration of work experience and performance records as qualifying criteria for current long term care professionals.
- Attend a college with an accredited nursing program to which the scholarship is granted.
- Pursue a nursing program designed to lead to an appropriate degree or certification, including advance practice nursing if applicable.
- Must be a U.S. citizen or possess a Permanent Resident Visa.
- Must reside in Montana, and plan to work or remain working in long term care nursing in Montana.
- Must be available for a qualifying interview.

Application Requirements

All applicants must submit the following items. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- An original scholarship application. Mail the signed original or email an electronic copy (including signature).
 - If you have already received a Donald E. Pizzini Memorial Scholarship, please complete the renewal application.
- Official transcripts from the attended educational institutions (high school and college, if applicable) listed on your application.
- Proof of acceptance into or proof of enrollment in (whichever applies) an accredited college nursing program.
- Two recommendations from individuals familiar with the applicant (such as teachers, mentors, employers) who can discuss the applicant's scholastic potential, personal qualities, and enthusiasm or passion for the long-term care nursing profession. Recommendations from family members will not be accepted.

Letters of recommendation are not required for renewal applications.

Scholarship Provisions

- The maximum scholarship award shall be \$2,000 and shall be determined by the Scholarship Foundation Board.
- The application deadline is the last day of February of each year for the scholarship is offered, with scholarships being awarded once each year.
- Applicants shall receive a response to their application no more than 60 days following the application deadline.
- Preference shall be given to those individuals currently working in or demonstrating an interest in pursuing a nursing career in long term care. Preference will also be given to those individuals who are working or have worked in an MHCA member facility.
- Scholarship disbursements may only be used by students to pay for tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment.
- Scholarships awarded in April of each year may only be used for the summer session or during the next school year.
- Scholarships shall be paid directly to the educational institution.
- Proof of enrollment into an accredited or approved nursing program must be provided by a scholarship recipient prior to funds being disbursed.
- Disbursements may be divided in equal sums payable during two or more logical educational divisions (such as quarters, semesters, modules). A scholarship recipient must submit proof of continued participation in their original nursing program, or another nursing program as approved by the scholarship committee, prior to receiving subsequent disbursements after the first. The scholarship committee may withhold or cancel any disbursements after the first for a failure to maintain a 3.0 GPA or better in previous studies.
- Scholarship recipients may reapply for further consideration after their original scholarship has expired. Use the renewal application form to reapply.
- Acceptance of the scholarship constitutes permission for the MHCA Scholarship Foundation to use the recipients' names, biographical information, and pictures for publicity purposes.

For more information, contact:

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