

Investing in Our Students, Nurses and Trainees

In recognition of the vital role that nurses play in patients' hospital experiences and health outcomes, the Northwestern Medicine health system recently established new nursing scholarships, all of which will help our dedicated nurses to further their educations and to continue to make powerful, lasting differences in the lives of countless patients.



Carol Block

Remembering and Honoring Carol Block, an Exceptional Nurse, Educator and Leader

As a nurse at Centegra Health System for 60 years, Carol Block influenced colleagues by encouraging their professional and personal growth. When she passed away on November 4, 2018, at the age of 82, Ms. Block left a lasting legacy of education and compassion through a special scholarship created in her honor. The Carol Block Scholarship, which is administered by the Centegra Health System Foundation, provides financial assistance to nurses who seek additional education.

Over the course of her storied career with Centegra Health System, Ms. Block served in a variety of roles, including staff nurse, patient advocate, clinical instructor, director of Nursing and coordinator of Performance Improvement and Patient Satisfaction. Embodying a commitment to the needs and well-being of others, Ms. Block touched and inspired countless people—colleagues, patients and community members alike.

Catie Schmit, MSN, RN, CEN, NE-BC, vice president and chief nurse executive at Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital, notes that Ms. Block's character and service bring to mind thoughts of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing: "The reason I think of Florence Nightingale is because Carol Block possessed many of the same qualities. [She was] ahead of her time, a steadfast, scholarly nursing advocate and a quiet servant leader."

Such admirable qualities and values are central to the purpose and the design of the nursing scholarship that bears Ms. Block's name. Always a champion of education and professional development, Ms. Block strived to ensure that her fellow nurses would have meaningful opportunities to further hone their nursing skills and to achieve significant personal milestones in their careers. By making contributions to the Carol Block Scholarship, benefactors will help to ensure that Ms. Block's vision and goals become reality, and that nurses at Centegra Health System receive much-needed, greatly deserved support as they pursue additional education.



Demonstrating a Commitment to Nursing Excellence and Professional Development at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals

As Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals embark on a "Journey to Magnet Excellence" and strive to earn Magnet status—considered the "gold standard" for nursing quality and achievement—from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, they recognize the importance of providing their nurses with opportunities to advance their educations and to deepen their nursing knowledge and skills. Magnet status emphasizes quality outcomes, nursing engagement, innovation in care delivery, leading-edge research, evidence-based practice and opportunities for continued learning. Equally noteworthy, a significant body of research indicates that care providers with advanced degrees and certifications demonstrably improve patient care outcomes.

In view of these realities, and with the goal of supporting nurses in their efforts to further develop their educations and careers, both Kishwaukee and Valley West recently introduced new nursing scholarships.

In 2019, Kishwaukee Hospital will offer four scholarships, each in the amount of \$3,000, to current members of the nursing staff who are pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, while Valley West Hospital will offer two of the same scholarships. Aided by the support of generous donors, these scholarship programs will grow and thrive for years to come, and will help to further establish Kishwaukee and Valley West as trusted sites for superior nursing care.

Reflecting on the need for and the significance of these scholarships, Sue McCoy, DNP, vice president and Chief Nurse Executive at Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals, remarks, "Currently, 55 percent of Kishwaukee's nurses, and 54 percent of Valley West's nurses, have acquired Bachelor's-level education. Yet, because the cost of a Bachelor's-level nursing program is typically \$26,000 or more, many talented, dedicated nurses are not financially able to pursue a BSN. Through these new nursing scholarships, thoughtful philanthropy has the ability to open new doors for many nurses at Kishwaukee and Valley West. We are so grateful for donor support of our efforts to help our nurses forge career paths filled with personal and professional meaning."

Deepening a Legacy of Philanthropy . . . Making a Difference in Many Lives

Throughout their lives, Michael Carbon, MD, a talented nephrologist and a longtime member of the medical staff at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital (CDH), and his wife, Dorothy, have been guided by their generosity, their commitment to service and their dedication to others. Caring friends and community members, as well as true philanthropists, the Carbons have offered significant support, over the course of more than two decades, to a variety of initiatives at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage and Delnor Hospitals. These initiatives include the Douglas L. Johnson Endowed Chair in Neuroscience at Central DuPage Hospital and the Orthopaedic Institute at Central DuPage and Delnor Hospitals—worthy causes that reflect the Carbons' belief in education, research and training as vital underpinnings of exceptional health care.

Recently, the Carbons deepened their legacy of philanthropy by making a significant gift in support of the Professional Learning Institute (PLI) at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital, a part of Northwestern Medicine. With this commitment, the Carbons are helping to ensure that the PLI grows and thrives, and serves as a source of valuable education, for years to come, for many physicians, physical therapists and other healthcare professionals at Marianjoy.

"Other than being with my family and being at home, CDH is the place where I spent most of my time for a good share of my life. I loved working at a hospital with a commitment to exemplary patient care, and I feel nothing but pride to have been part of the hospital's growth—as medical staff president and as a member of various boards—over the years," said Dr. Carbon. "Now that CDH is part of the Northwestern Medicine health system, Dorothy and I want to expand our support; we want to contribute to different areas of Northwestern Medicine, so that we can reach out to more communities and, we hope, make a difference for more people—people like the extraordinary care providers and patients at Marianjoy."

As a teaching hospital and a nationally recognized leader in the field of rehabilitation medicine, Marianjoy places a premium on providing its staff members with meaningful opportunities for continuing education and professional development. Within the PLI, physicians and other care providers are able to: (1) learn about the latest advancements in their fields, (2) expand their knowledge base and (3) consistently hone



their skills, so that they always provide the most personalized, most contemporary and most effective care to their patients. The PLI incorporates hands-on learning and expert presentations into a collegial, supportive atmosphere.

"All of us at Marianjoy, and across the Northwestern Medicine health system, are so grateful for Dr. and Mrs. Carbon's caring natures, open hearts and inspiring generosity," said Suzanne Skala, director of Philanthropy at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital. "With this most recent gift to the Professional Learning Institute at Marianjoy, the Carbons are adding yet another dimension to their philanthropy, and, in doing so, they are demonstrating such support and advocacy for the care providers and patients at Marianjoy. They are truly touching many lives in such a positive and lasting way."

Professional Learning Institute Offers:

- Courses taught by regional, national and international experts
- Diverse educational events for continuing education credit
- Interactive, evidence-based courses that highlight best practices
- Practical tools and strategies to inform everyday practice
- Opportunities to meet, and to network with, peers and other healthcare professionals

