



Benefis Health System Foundation Named Endowment Family Scholarship

Benefis Health System Foundation's *Named Endowment Family Scholarship* is a medical education scholarship designed to assist with Benefis Health System's recruitment and retention efforts to ensure that compassionate, quality care is extended to all patients. The scholarship is supported by endowments created and supported by four local families – Dr. Bill and Lynn Bloemendaal, M. Kathy Rice, Neil and Evie Ugrin, and Jim and Fran Wylder – who recognize the special needs of individuals who desire to change careers, further their education or complete their degree. Scholarships are offered to eligible students that want to obtain and/or advance healthcare education or certification and are willing to sign a Work Commitment Agreement with Benefis Health System.

GOALS

- ◆ To improve recruitment and retention of direct patient care providers to better serve our patients and their families.
- ◆ To provide access to educational programs that will provide specific skill sets.
- ◆ To provide financial assistance to college level students pursuing healthcare careers at Benefis Health System.

SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

Dr. Bill and Lynn Bloemendaal created the Bloemendaal Family Scholarship Endowment in 2002 to provide funds for Benefis Health System Foundation's Healthcare Scholarship Program. "Dr. B" is a long-time orthopedic surgeon, founding member of the Benefis Health System Foundation Board of Directors and current member of the Benefis Health System Board of Directors.

Kathy Rice created the Rice Family Scholarship Endowment in 2003, also to support the Healthcare Scholarship Program. Kathy is a founding member of the Foundation Board of Directors and has given generously of her time and monetary resources to support the Foundation's mission of improving and enhancing healthcare services. She is a former teacher and business owner and is dedicated to helping students pursuing careers as healthcare providers.

Neil and Evie Ugrin established the Ed and Ethel Ugrin Memorial Scholarship Endowment in 2003 in memory of Neil's parents, Ed and Ethel. Evie is a founding member of the Benefis Health System Foundation Board of Directors, and she continues to build this endowment. Her late husband Neil served as legal counsel for Benefis Health System from the time of the merger of Montana Deaconess Medical Center and Columbus Hospital in 1996 until he passed away in 2007. Neil was a principle partner in the local law firm Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins and very highly respected throughout the legal community in Montana.

The Francis M. Wylder Scholarship Endowment was established in 2003 by Jim and Fran Wylder. Fran, a founding director of Benefis Health System Foundation, and her husband are committed to education and

generously support this scholarship endowment. Their son, Tim Wylder, also served on the Foundation Board of Directors.

Together, these four endowments produce funds for the students who are awarded the Named Endowment Family Scholarship, which provides a scholarship opportunity for current Benefis Health System employees and college students with the desire to obtain or advance in healthcare education or certification. This scholarship provides up to \$2,500 *per semester* for recipients that meet eligibility requirements. Awardees are chosen based on eligibility requirements through a Scholarship Selection Committee. Scholarships are administered by Benefis Health System Foundation and provide for books and tuition only. A Work Commitment to Benefis Health System is required from recipients of this scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must have been accepted into an accredited nursing program or other approved allied healthcare program and be pursuing a degree or certification in a specific skill set.
- Applicant must be in good academic standing with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.75 or higher, if study occurred within the last five (5) years.
- Applicant must maintain a 2.75 Grade Point Average.
- Applicant must take a minimum of nine (9) credits per semester.
- Applicant must be eligible for employment at Benefis Health System and agree to sign a Work Commitment Agreement.
- Applicant may be requested to participate in a personal interview with the Scholarship Selection Committee.
- Applicants employed at Benefis Health System must have Department Manager's approval to submit application and if applicant is taking a leave of absence, he/she must have appropriate documents signed with Benefis Health System Human Resource Department.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Availability of scholarship(s) is determined by Benefis Health System Foundation. Applications are available through **Benefis Health System Foundation**. Direct all questions regarding the application process to Benefis Health System Foundation, Scholarship Program at 455-5840 or you may access the website at www.benefisfoundation.org. Completed applications must be submitted by either mailing to **Benefis Health System Foundation, PO Box 7008, Great Falls, MT 59406-7008** or delivering to 1101 26th St S, South Tower, Benefis Health System Foundation office, Great Falls, MT.

Application Deadline: June 1 for fall and spring semesters

Applicants must submit the following criteria:

- ❑ Completed application form by designated deadline.
- ❑ A copy of the letter of acceptance into a certified healthcare program or college.
- ❑ Copy of transcripts reflecting a GPA of 2.75 from the last two years of academic study, if study occurred within the last five (5) years.
- ❑ Two letters of recommendation (see application.)
- ❑ A letter stating reasons for choosing the area of healthcare you are interested in as your field of study.
- ❑ A written statement of financial need.
- ❑ Completed Consent and Disclosure form.

Review the Work Commitment Agreement as applicable to Benefis Health System. This agreement depicts the grid for work commitment to Benefis Health System per dollars allocated. (It is not necessary to sign this form until you have been notified that you have been selected as a scholarship recipient.)

Scholarship funding is renewable. A renewal application must be completed and submitted along with grade documentation by June 1 for fall and spring renewals.