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New Memorial Scholarship Supports Caregivers in the Rogue Valley

Endowment helps address financial barriers for caregivers pursuing nursing degrees

ASHLAND — Ashland Community Health Foundation (ACHF) is proud to announce the Colton Allen Memorial Scholarship, created to support Rogue Valley nursing students who have experience as caregivers.

The scholarship was endowed with a \$100,000 gift to ACHF by the Allen family to honor Colton Allen, who battled Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) for 15 years. Colton was an active hockey player and construction company owner, who later found passion in photography after his diagnosis in 2008. He and his family cared greatly for his caregivers during that time who “became like family” and “made his day,” recalls Colton’s wife, Tiffany.

As a three-time recipient of the William G. and Ruth T. Evans Endowed Nursing Scholarship awarded through ACHF, Tiffany herself experienced firsthand how financial assistance can transform educational opportunities.

“I’m so grateful to have benefited from the Evans Nursing Scholarship, and to be in a position to pay it forward,” she says. “For those who want to go on to get a nursing degree, the cost of education is astronomical. This scholarship is designed to recognize people who are caregiving, sometimes with little or no compensation for the time and talents they give.”

The Allen family chose to establish the endowment with ACHF to directly address the barriers caregivers face when pursuing their dreams of getting a nursing degree. The scholarship is for nursing students who have provided paid or unpaid caregiving for family members or for others, and who are in programs at Rogue Community College (RCC) or Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) - Ashland Campus.

This year, two students were selected to receive the scholarship, for a total investment of \$5,000. Each student demonstrated their experience and commitment to caregiving, and dedication to the nursing profession.

2025 Colton Allen Memorial Scholarship Recipients:

Misty Dizon, OHSU 3-Year Program

Jeremiah McGuffee, RCC 2-Year Program

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Founded in 1977, Ashland Community Health Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) leading philanthropic efforts to advance innovative and equitable approaches to community health and wellness. Contributions to the foundation, including the Colton Allen Memorial Scholarship, may be tax-deductible and can be given securely through our website at achfoundation.org or mailed to our office at 123 Clear Creek Drive, Suite 101, Ashland, OR 97520. For additional information about funds at ACHF, contact Executive Director, Stephanie Roland, at 541-482-0367 x2.