

Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center Foundation

# 2023 Nursing Scholarship Recipients



# The Nursing Scholarship Program at LHAAMC

The Nursing Scholarship Program was originally established in 1990 in memory of Marlene Reiter, RN, a staff nurse at Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center. Over the last 33 years, LHAAMC has been able to award over 250 scholarships to educate, grow and empower nurses of all backgrounds across all areas of our hospital.

Thanks to the incredible support of our donors, thousands of lives have been impacted across our community, due to the dedication, compassion, and skill of our incredible nursing teams.

This year, we are so proud to award 20 scholarships to the following amazing recipients. Please take a moment to learn more them.

# Jennifer King

**Scholarship:** Balfe Clifford Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 21 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Clinical Educator/Post-Anesthesia Care Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** Doctorate of Nursing Practice in Nursing Leadership

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

“Receiving a terminal degree in nursing has always been a professional goal. Last fall seemed like the right time to pursue this degree.”

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

“The cost of pursuing a doctoral degree is expensive. Despite choosing a school within the state of Maryland, tuition costs exceed the tuition assistance and Project Advance dollars generously provided by the organization. Without this support, I would not have even considered returning to school. I still have student loan debt from my undergraduate and graduate degrees, as I did not have any type of savings for college, and I was the first person in my family to attend college. Additionally, I am saving for my son’s education, as I do not want him to have large amounts of college debt as I did.

While the monies offered through LHAAMC greatly reduce my out-of-pocket expense for school, it does not cover the cost for tuition if I follow my recommended course plan. I would greatly like to stay on track for completion of my degree.

I am extremely grateful for this opportunity.”

# Jessica Riffe

**Scholarship:** Izzo and Patane Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 7 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** RN, BSN, VA-BC – Vascular Access Team

**Degree/program working towards:** Master's of Science - Nursing / Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN-FNP)

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"Becoming a nurse practitioner has been a desired goal since becoming a nurse, and after 10 years of experience, the timing and experience to pursue this next goal has presented itself."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"This nursing scholarship will assist in decreasing the amount of student loans to be reimbursed and will assist in a more fulfilling and stable career in the future."

# Antoinette Andrews

**Scholarship:** Gus & Marjorie Berlitz Charitable Trust for Nursing Advancement & Excellence

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 18 months

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Case Manager, RN Oncology Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** Master's Degree in Nursing Education

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"I enjoy teaching others and want to give new nurses a strong foundation."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"This scholarship will allow me to focus more on schoolwork and worry less on how I will have to pay student loans. I can be more efficient and effective in my job as a case manager without having to worry about student loans and working extra shifts."

# Rachel Stein

**Scholarship:** Gus and Marjorie Berlitz Trust for Nursing Advancement and Excellence

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** Previous employee for about 5 years, and after becoming an RN, I came back in 2021.

**Current role at LHAAMC:** RN/Short Stay Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** DNP, FNP at University of Maryland School of Nursing

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"My personal battle with Crohn's Disease, ileostomy placement, and sepsis, has made me the nurse I am today. Becoming a nurse is the best decision I have ever made, and becoming a Nurse Practitioner will only further my ability to help patients overcome illness like I have."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"This scholarship will help me so much, as I am only able to work part-time with my clinical load through school. I am so appreciative of the support and generosity."

# Damarkis Pinedo Ozoria

**Scholarship:** Heritage Harbour Women's Club

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 7 years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** PCT at Mother/Baby Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"Working with my patients and seeing how simple kindness goes a long way."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"Receiving a nursing scholarship has been a tremendous blessing in my life. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a nurse without having to worry about the financial burden of paying for school. The scholarship has not only helped me achieve my academic goals but has also given me the motivation and encouragement to continue working hard towards my future.

First and foremost, this scholarship has made a significant impact on my financial situation. The cost of tuition, books, and other expenses associated with pursuing a nursing degree can be overwhelming. But with the scholarship, I will be able to focus solely on my studies without the added stress of how to pay for my education. This has allowed me to immerse myself in my courses and clinical experiences, fully embracing the education that will ultimately shape my career.

Moreover, receiving this scholarship has been a significant boost to my confidence. It is encouraging to know that there are individuals and organizations that believe in my abilities and want to invest in my future. Knowing that I have the support of the scholarship committee has made me more determined to succeed. I am motivated to work harder, study longer, and perform better in clinical settings because I want to prove that their investment in me was worth it."

# Yeyin Chen

**Scholarship:** Bo's Effort

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 1 year

**Current role at LHAAMC:** McNew Psychiatric Inpatient Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** DNP-PMHNP

## **What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"I have a strong passion to help those who are inflicted with mental illnesses, acute and chronic. Working with this population has given me new perspectives and has helped me empathize with the struggles that are unique to each individual. Seeing how people can be resilient and improve, I have found motivation to help those, especially considering the stigma that plagues mental health. At my previous job, I helped those who were uninsured or had no insurance at all and who struggled with finding providers. Seeing the underserved and the shortage of providers motivates me to become an advanced nurse provider."

## **How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"As a full-time employee attending DNP classes with two young boys and a husband who also does shift work, life can often be the biggest obstacle to getting my work done. Additionally, low funds translate to lower opportunities to make arrangements for when life gets messy. Rarely do any of us have control over our lives, but I try to juggle the life I live as a nurse, a mother, and as a wife as best as I can. That being said, the scholarship would definitely help me pay for my schooling and the resources I need to use. This would benefit me academically and psychologically."



# Charlaine Lasse

**Scholarship:** Angela M. Ferrogine Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 3 years 5 months

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Registered Nurse, Vascular Access Unit, Previously NICU

**Degree/program working towards:** MSN in Nursing Education

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"Originally, it was a requirement for a leadership position and I only needed a BSN. However, it rekindled my love of learning and I now am pursuing my Masters in Nursing Education."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"I feel that I am and will be empowered to affect change. I have knowledge that not only has helped me grow professionally and personally, but knowledge that I freely disseminate to all I meet. I feel that I can and have been a role model for a wide range of individuals. I look forward to becoming a role model and educator in an academic setting as I help the next generation of nurses. These words reflect how I truly feel and are not just hearsay."

# Lynn Poknis

**Scholarship:** LHAMC Medical Staff Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 7 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Short Stay Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** Master of Nursing in Leadership Education

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"The joy of working with and teaching nurses and nurse graduates."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"The scholarship assists in paying for courses in the degree tract which will eliminate the need for other financial assistance."



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# Ann Holland

**Scholarship:** LHAAMC Medical Staff Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 15 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Clinical Education Specialist/Clinical Education and Professional Development

**Degree/program working towards:** Post Masters Certificate in Adult-Geriatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"It's been a lifelong goal."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"It will give me additional financial resources needed to cover expenses like a new lap top and other equipment needed for my clinical rotations."

# Jordan Robertson

**Scholarship:** Al and Mary Vittek Nursing Advancement Fund

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 6 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** RN or Flex Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** Masters Degree in Nursing Leadership

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

“Continuing to educate myself in my role and advance in my career as a registered nurse.”

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

“It allowed me to continue my masters program while on maternity leave.”

# Taylor Dickel

**Scholarship:** Shirley A. Wheeler Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 4.75 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** BSN, RN, CMSRN, Clinical Supervisor, General Surgical Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** Master's in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"I wanted to gain more expertise in the field of advanced nursing practice. I truly enjoy learning new things and enjoy getting to provide care to patients. I wanted to ensure that I was able to understand disease processes, treatment regimens, and educational perspectives at an advanced level."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"This scholarship will help to support me and my family financially while I finish the final few semesters of my nurse practitioner program."

# Kara Groseclose

**Scholarship:** George and Patricia Benson Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** Almost 2 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Registered Nurse, Procedural Care Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"I want to be able to get into care / case management."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"This scholarship will allow me to save some of the money I was going to use out of pocket for school for the house we want to buy and building our family."

# Jamie Sminkey

**Scholarship:** Blanche Taylor Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 3.5 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Registered Nurse, Mother-Baby Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"I would love to be able to precept Practicum students, as well as work towards my goal of one day being a Charge Nurse (both require my bachelors degree)."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"I am now able to take more classes per semester, which will help me complete my degree faster. It is a huge financial relief for me getting this award, as I am also a single mother supporting my two children (Camden - age 9, Charleigh - age 6)."



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# Pamela Schwartz

**Scholarship:** Gordon and Jean Wells Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 28 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Registered Nurse, Pediatric ED/IP Unit

**Degree/program working towards:** BSN

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"I started at LHAAMC in Medical Records, became a Patient Care Tech in Pediatrics. I learned so much as a tech and wanted to advance my career as a registered nurse. After completion of my Associates Degree in Nursing, I decided to obtain my BSN in order to teach new nursing students."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"The nursing scholarship will allow me to complete my goal of an advanced degree and relieve some financial burden of furthering my education."



# Joshua Harriman

**Scholarship:** Grow A Nurse Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** Over 3 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Medical Surgical Unit (MSU) staff RN

**Degree/program working towards:** MSN Specializing in Nursing Education at Walden University

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

“Wanting to pass on the knowledge I have learned to the next generation of nurses.”

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

“It will improve my bedside practice and improve patient outcomes and satisfaction.”



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# Naomi Lightbringer

**Scholarship:** Shelly Alion and Robert Welch Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** 2.5 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Staff Nurse – Registered Nurse/Observation

**Degree/program working towards:** Doctor of Nursing Practice - Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

“It was always a dream of mine to reach for a doctorate degree.”

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

“My son is in college, my husband is out of work on workman’s compensation, and rent keeps going up. We need to buy a house. So money is very tight and any help financially would benefit my family.”

# Ghislain Nzanguquim

**Scholarship:** John W. Gosselin Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** Almost 2 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC:** Staff Nurse – Registered Nurse in Mental Health Unit 9

**Degree/program working towards:** Bachelor of Science in Nursing

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"I come from a family with multiple healthcare providers, who inspired me a lot. Additionally, nursing has always been my passion."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"This Scholarship will help me first accomplish my BSN, which afterwards will lead me to enroll into a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program."



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# Rekha Bhandari

**Scholarship:** Sheehy Nursing Scholarship

**Member of the LHAAMC team:** Almost 3.5 Years

**Current role at LHAAMC: Staff Nurse** – Registered Nurse

**Degree/program working towards:** Master's degree in community and public health

**What inspired you to work towards this degree or certification?**

"Love for learning something new and use the knowledge to inspire others for greater community good."

**How will this nursing scholarship affect your life and career?**

"I am very humbled to receive this scholarship which will help me grow both personally and professionally. Knowledge is power, but when that is shared it has ripple effects in many people lives. I believe and practice preventative medicine and want to inspire others in the community to do the same."

# Guinnevere Hughes

**Scholarship:** Gus and Marjorie Berlitz Charitable Trust for Nursing Advancement and Excellence Scholarship

**Current Role at LHAAMC:** Staff RN, Cardiac Cath Lab

**Thank you for your support of  
the Nursing Scholarship  
Program at LHAAMC!**