



A Case for Support

Celebrating and supporting nurses who work in the long-term and post-acute care (LTPAC) setting could not be timelier. This year more than ever, the nursing profession has faced unbelievable challenges and endured unimaginable heartbreak. Nurses working in skilled-nursing facilities have been at the forefront of this global health crisis, often risking their own health to care for residents. These nurses are more than just healthcare providers to their residents; many are the only lifeline they have to the outside world. **These are the true heroes. They are nurse heroes!**

While LTPAC nurses make up much of the workforce, they also lead in the staffing shortfall. Providing support through educational scholarships will help strengthen the profession and boost staff retention, which ultimately will result in enhanced resident-centered care.

Founded in 2014, the AAPACN Education Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing (AAPACN). The AAPACN Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization (tax ID 47-1713648) with the mission of advancing the LTPAC nursing profession through scholarships for higher education and evidence-based academic research grants.

The Gift of Education

Your support can make a real, lasting impact in the professional lives of nurses working in long-term and post-acute care. Each tax-deductible donation will help fund scholarships for these nurses and nursing students to achieve their higher education goals and work towards improving care for our aging loved ones.



The AAPACN Education Foundation offers several donor recognition levels:

Recognition Includes:	Present the Scholarship	Name Included on Scholarship	Recognition at AAPACN Conference	Donor Badge for Your Website	Giving Mosaic	AAPACN Website Recognition
 <p>Crown Jewel</p> <p>AAPACN Education Foundation</p> <p>\$5,000</p>						
 <p>Emerald</p> <p>AAPACN Education Foundation</p> <p>\$3,000</p>						
 <p>Sapphire</p> <p>AAPACN Education Foundation</p> <p>\$1,000</p>						
 <p>Ruby</p> <p>AAPACN Education Foundation</p> <p>\$500</p>						
 <p>Pearl</p> <p>AAPACN Education Foundation</p> <p>\$250</p>						
 <p>Under \$250</p> <p>AAPACN Education Foundation</p> <p><\$250</p>						

Our Passion

AAPACN Education Foundation board members share why they are passionate about helping the next generation of LTPAC nurse achieve their educational goals.



Linda Shell, DNP, MA, BSN, RN, DNS-CT,
Owner and Chief Learning Officer, Lindashell.com

"I began my career in long-term care as a nurse in 1991. It was not my original intention to work in a nursing home, but there were no other jobs available at the time. I quickly came to love taking care of the residents and getting to know them. I recognized that long-term care was where I would pursue my passion and love for nursing."

"One of my other passions was learning. I wanted to pursue my BSN. The only way I knew to do that was to look for a job outside of long-term care. After becoming the director of nursing, I shared with my administrator that I wanted to pursue my BSN and was concerned that I would need to get a job in acute care to help pay for it. The next day she came into my office and told me she had a big surprise for me. She had spoken to our corporate office and they were willing to help fund my BSN. They thought I was a good investment in the future of long-term care. I was elated and enrolled the very next day in a BSN program. I have since gone on to pursue both a masters and doctorate in nursing practice. I remain in long-term care to this day and invest my time in aging research and leadership development of other nurse leaders in the field. I am forever grateful to that nursing home administrator and her investment in me!"





Joel VanEaton, BSN, RN, RAC-CT, RAC-CTA, MT,
Executive Vice President of Compliance and Regulatory Affairs, Broad River Rehab

“My mom was a nurse aide and I always admired her for her caring and concern for the elderly. She helped me from a young age to have a caring heart for those who are unable to care for themselves. I began my career in healthcare as a psychiatric technician. In those days, there was no license or certification required for that job, in part, because it was a job no one else wanted to do. I was a kid who knew nothing about healthcare, but it was in that position that several nurses I worked with took me under their wing and at one point, gave me the opportunity to learn phlebotomy. It was that step, from just doing the mundane task to being trusted with the responsibility to do something more technical, that gave me the first seeds of a real desire to become a nurse.”

“Through the encouragement of those nurses and a tuition assistance program at the organization where I worked, I made the leap to go to nursing school. While in school, I worked as a CNA in the acute-care setting. On night shifts, the team of nurses I worked with helped me learn more than I ever could in my clinical rotations alone. They helped me grow in the confidence I needed to graduate Magna Cum Laude.”

“After transitioning into long-term care, my first administrator saw something in me that led her to believe I would be a good MDS nurse. She challenged me and helped me grow. While in that position, I met Mary Marshall, a well-known Medicare and reimbursement consultant in the Southeast. Even after I transitioned into corporate leadership roles in reimbursement and RAI, Mary continued to mentor me until one day the student became the instructor. It was her influence that positioned me for the opportunities I currently experience. I would not be where I am without this long line of gracious people who lifted me up to help me love this career path and to find ways to pass their legacy onto others.”



Meet the 2020 Scholarship Winners



Cheryl M. Thomas Scholarship - \$5,000 for BSN or Higher

2020 Winner: Alexis Albrecht, RN, RAC-CT | MSN Student

"My goal is to use my knowledge base and passion to encourage more nurses to become board certified in geriatrics. Education is something that cannot be taken from anyone. Education is invaluable. I hope to be an inspiration to my co-workers to continue in their education and know that long-term care has possibilities for furthering careers, just like other areas of nursing. My residents will be impacted by this scholarship and degree by being on the receiving end of nurses specialized in their population."



Lighting the Way for Nursing Scholarship – \$5,000 for BSN or Higher

2020 Winner: Shaina Benson, LPN | BSN Student

"I want to continue to contribute to the long-term care field throughout the rest of my career as a nurse. Nursing is constantly changing. However, one thing remains the same. The residents deserve a "home" that actually feels like home. Nursing is beyond a career path; it is embedded in who you are as a person. I strive always to be that role model for those around me, and I truly feel it is my life's purpose to be a nurse."



Elevating Healthcare Scholarship - \$3,000 for BSN or Higher

2020 Winner: Beth Brown, RN, CRNA, RAC-CT | BSN Student

"I have witnessed many years of change in healthcare. I foresee being part of the solutions to new challenges that are vital to the provision of optimal care for our elders. I plan to encourage and embrace change through my voice to impact legislation as an advocate for our elder population. There is no end in caring for the elderly. This special population needs a voice in healthcare organizations to impact greater regulatory change to improve processes and enhance care."



Sparkling the Future Scholarship in Healthcare Scholarship

- \$4,000 to CNA for RN, BSN or higher

2020 Winner: Elizabeth Walker, CNA | BSN Student

"I decided I wanted to work in long-term care because I have always enjoyed working with the elderly. I gain so much wisdom on every shift while working with my residents, talking to them, and listening to their stories. Being able to make a difference in people's lives means so much to me. I feel honored that I am able to take care of people in their final days, offering a smile, hug, or my time in order to make them feel better. Being in this aspect of healthcare can be hard, as most of my residents won't ever get better, but it is worth all of the sadness in order to make these people feel valued and loved."

To learn more, visit AAPACN.org/Foundation

Donations should be made payable to the AAPACN Education Foundation, 400 S. Colorado Blvd., Ste. 600, Denver, CO 80246. For questions regarding donations, please contact Domitilla Pontes at dsandusky@AAPACN.org.