



# A Case for Support

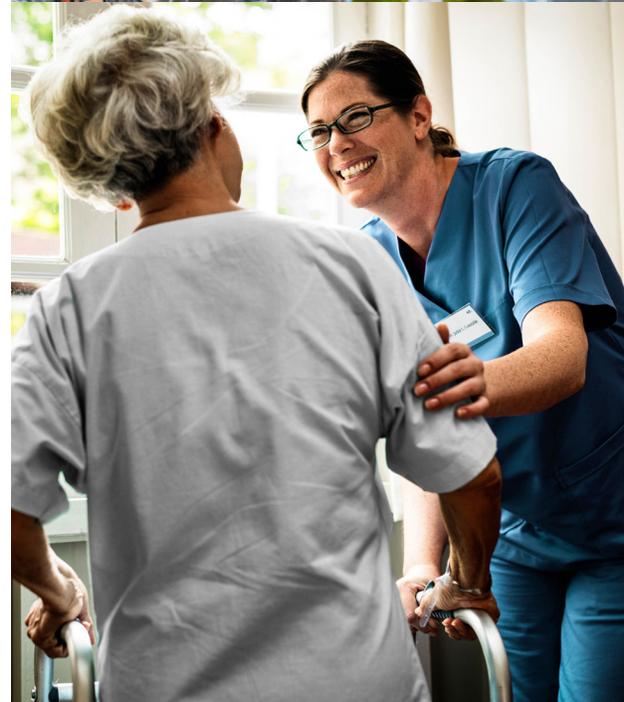
Celebrating and supporting nurses who work in the long-term and post-acute care (LTPAC) setting could not be timelier. In the past two years, the nursing profession has faced unbelievable challenges and endured unimaginable heartbreak. Nurses working in skilled-nursing facilities have been at the forefront of the 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 AAPACN Education Foundation \$5,000</p>						
 <p>Emerald AAPACN Education Foundation \$3,000</p>						
 <p>Sapphire AAPACN Education Foundation \$1,000</p>						
 <p>Ruby AAPACN Education Foundation \$500</p>						
 <p>Pearl AAPACN Education Foundation \$250</p>						
 <p>Under \$250 AAPACN Education Foundation &lt;\$250</p>						

## Our Passion

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

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**Linda Shell, DNP, MA, BSN, RN, DNS-CT,**  
Owner and Chief Learning Officer, [Lindashell.com](http://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 2022 Scholarship Winners



### Advancing Nurse Leadership in Post-Acute Care Scholarship - \$5,000 for BSN or higher

2022 Winner: **Lily Ann Lopez, BSN, RN | Master of Science in Nursing Leadership and Administration**

*"I've been working as a nurse for 16 years. I started as a cardiovascular ICU nurse and eventually became a UR/case manager. I was working as an MDS coordinator when I was offered an MDS managerial position. I decided to accept the challenge, and I'm now continuously learning to be more competent with the MDS process. I'm looking forward to learning more leadership, communications, and strategies for decision-making. Through this scholarship program, I will positively affect our team's performance and ability to meet organizational goals, drive collaboration, and lead within the team."*



### Lighting the Way for Post-Acute Care Nursing Scholarship - \$5,000 for BSN or higher

2022 Winner: **Nicole Arey, LPN | BSN Program**

*"During the pandemic, our facility was hit hard and early. I have participated hands on, behind the scenes, and on the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic. I have managed to maintain outstanding academic achievement while raising three children and working many hours. My hope is to move higher up the ladder in reimbursement. I have the skills necessary to bring assets to our facility and the clinical experience to jump in and be hands on at any time."*



### Elevating Post-Acute Care Nursing Scholarship - \$3,000 for BSN or Higher

2022 Winner: **Brandy Schwartz, RN, RAC-CT | BSN Program**

*"I have been one of the front-line workers during COVID. I have worked to ensure my residents have been taken care of. I am one of those nurses who will work any job position to make sure my residents are taken care of. I have held the hands of dying patients and comforted their families. I love working in long-term care, and as I further my education, I hope to move up the management chain. Once I obtain my BSN, I am hoping to get a job as a Director of Nursing. Obtaining my BSN will make me a stronger nurse and will give me the knowledge to make better and more educated decisions. I will be a better leader. This scholarship would allow me to cut back on my overtime at work to pay for my classes and to focus on my studies."*



### Frontline Heroes in Post-Acute Care Scholarship - \$4,000 to CNA for RN, BSN, or higher

2022 Winner: **Grace Ellis, CNA | BSN Program**

*"I want to be a nurse, so that I can speak the language of healing. To see and touch and love. Every human deserves dignity, care, and compassion, and as a nurse, I will joyfully provide. There is nothing more satisfying than healing and caring for another person, and seeing them grow, or comforting them until the end. I would like to help shape the future of geriatric long-term care as a nurse manager. Long-term care is starved for staff, and they need all the help they can get – I am ready to invest in long-term care as a nurse."*

**To learn more, visit [AAPACN.org/Foundation](https://AAPACN.org/Foundation)**

Donations should be made payable to the AAPACN Education Foundation, 400 S. Colorado Blvd., Ste. 500, Denver, CO 80246. For questions regarding donations, please contact Domitilla Pontes at [dsandusky@AAPACN.org](mailto:dsandusky@AAPACN.org).