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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Foundation Celebrates Nursing Students

(July 20, 2023, Barberton, Ohio) -- Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Foundation (TPHWF) awarded \$35,000 to 10 nursing students on Thursday, July 20, 2023. Members of the Foundation's board of governors, and donors joined the students and their families for a celebratory scholarship luncheon at LaLa's in the Lakes.

Board member Dave Stephens thanked everyone for attending and shared his best wishes for the students on behalf of Tuscora Park. "You all have such a bright future ahead of you," he said. "More than anything else you may experience in this industry, when you work as a nurse, your true payment is helping another person when they're vulnerable and making that human connection. Congratulations to each of you on your awards. They are well deserved."

Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Foundation is proud to introduce the 2023 scholarship recipients:

- Todd Besse, a senior attending The University of Akron, received a Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Nursing Scholarship.
- Adison Billheimer, a senior attending The University of Akron, received a Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Nursing Scholarship.
- Molly Cunningham, a junior attending Kent State University at Stark, received the Kovalchin Memorial Scholarship and the Christine Elaine Weigand RN Memorial Scholarship.
- Julia Daveport, a sophomore at The University of Akron Wayne Campus, received a Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Nursing Scholarship.
- Hayden Graffice a junior at the University of Mount Union; received a Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Nursing Scholarship.
- Alea Griffith, a senior at Niagara University, received a Kovalchin Memorial Scholarship.
- Lilly Johnston, a sophomore at Kent State University, received a Kovalchin Memorial Scholarship.
- Pearl Kissi, a senior at The University of Akron, received the Scholarship in Memory of Emma Rist, RN.

- Christina Maldonado, a junior attending Kent State University, received a Kovalchin Memorial Scholarship and a Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Nursing Scholarship.
- Hannah Storm, a senior attending Kent State University, received a Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Nursing Scholarship.

About the scholarships:

The Bernadine H. Kovalchin, R.N. Scholarship Fund honors Kovalchin, who was an RN at Barberton Citizens Hospital with 13 years' service, leaving in 1971 as Assistant Coordinator of Nursing Education. She was a longtime local high school instructor of Vocational Medical Careers Training and worked as a school nurse.

The committee annually recognizes another commendable nurse, Emma Rist, R.N., who was a catalyst for the creation of a Coronary Care Unit and then head nurse of the CCU at Barberton Citizens Hospital. Rist was very dedicated to the nursing profession and a visionary for advancements in nursing.

The Carol A. Storad Nursing Excellence Award recognizes an exemplary woman who began as a staff nurse and retired as Chief Nursing Officer at Barberton Citizens Hospital, serving for 43-years total. After retiring she taught high school students interested in pursuing a nursing career as part of a four-city compact program and was affiliated with the University of Akron.

The Christine Elaine Weigand RN Memorial Scholarship is meant to help future nurses overcome obstacles and to achieve their dreams. She was an extraordinary clinician who spent 30 years as an RN, working as a charge nurse, as a preceptor for new RN employees, and as a care manager on the 5100 unit and in the emergency room at Akron General Medical Center (now Cleveland Clinic Akron General). She was active in NAON (National Association of Orthopedic Nurses) and was honored with an Excellence in Nursing award during Nurses Week in 2002.

About TPHWF

Founded in 1997, the Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Foundation is proud to invest in the education of future nurses and in projects that promote health and wellness in our community.

Mission statement: the Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Foundation promotes wellness and helps extend health care, medical and educational services and opportunities to the residents of Summit County and contiguous counties.

Learn more about Tuscora Park Health and Wellness Foundation by visiting www.barbertoncf.org/tuscora-park/

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